



Permanent Council of 24 October 2013

Any other business: Joint Statement by Serbia and Switzerland on the Model OSCE 2014

The upcoming Swiss and Serbian consecutive chairmanships aim to strengthen the role of young people within the OSCE. Youth is indeed one of the topics mentioned in the Joint Workplan which guides the cooperation of our two countries and which foresees the creation of an OSCE Youth Action Plan. By enhancing young people's involvement within the OSCE, we are pursuing two specific objectives: to give young people a voice in the OSCE and to give them the opportunity to get familiar with OSCE structures and themes. To this end, a project was launched involving young people from all the 57 participating States. The project is designed to produce the following expected outcomes:

- The young participants will develop their Youth Action Plan in two simulated OSCE bodies, the Permanent Council and the Ministerial Council.
- The Youth Action Plan developed by the participants will serve as an inspiration for the development of an OSCE Youth Action Plan as stated in the Joint Workplan.

The first event is planned to take place in January 2014 in Vienna to coincide with the opening of the Swiss chairmanship before the OSCE Permanent Council. During this event, the young participants will simulate the Permanent Council and begin the negotiations to their Youth Action Plan. The second simulation is planned to take place in Belgrade later during the year. The participants will take the role of foreign ministers to conduct a simulation of the Ministerial Council, in which they will bring their negotiations to a close and take a decision on their Youth Action Plan.

The recruitment process started four weeks ago. We are pleased to announce that the project has attracted a considerable amount of interest. Further information on the project can be found on the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/recent/dossie/osce.html>