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Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE  
908th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 April 2012

**Regarding the release from detention of Andrei Sannikov and  
Dmitry Bondarenko**

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland too welcomes the release of the two political prisoners, Andrei Sannikov and Dmitry Bondarenko. We view the release of these persons as a sign of an opening up on the part of the government.

We appeal to Belarus to see to the rehabilitation of these released prisoners in order that they and their families may live their lives in dignity and freedom.

We hope that on the basis of this positive development it will soon be possible to again initiate a structured dialogue between Belarus, on the one hand, and the OSCE and its institutions, on the other.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.