

Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE
916th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 June 2012

**Joint reply to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Albania, H.E. Edmond Haxhinasto**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

We thank Foreign Minister Haxhinasto for the information on Albania's priorities during its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and on the co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. We share the view that the co-operation between the two organizations should be expanded and deepened. At present, the potential for this is far from being fully exploited.

In his statement, Foreign Minister Haxhinasto referred to important tasks facing both the OSCE and the Council of Europe. These include the activities of the two organizations in the OSCE region, particularly in areas of tension and conflict. Similar challenges are emerging owing to the political developments south of the OSCE area, which is of major importance for European security.

Both organizations have tried and tested instruments at their disposal for supporting the transition processes that are under way. These focus on the security and well-being of people. They are also suitable for defusing dangerous tensions between the States concerned, thus enabling urgently needed trust to be built up and security created. We believe that close co-ordination between the two organizations is crucial. It enables synergies to be used and overlaps avoided, which also helps to enhance the credibility of the two organizations and their members or participating States with the partner States.

On many occasions, our countries have emphasized the importance of closer co-operation between international and regional organizations in general and between the OSCE and the Council of Europe in particular. We continue to support this matter emphatically. In particular, we should like to call on all the participating States once again to allow the Council of Europe systematic access to the meetings of the Permanent Council and its committees.

We wish Albania every success during its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and trust that the co-operation with the OSCE will also continue to grow in quality and intensity.

Thank you.