



## ***Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) 2010***

### **Statement by the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE**

Working Session III: *“The role and perspectives of arms control  
and confidence- and security-building regimes  
in building trust in the evolving security environment”*

Madame Chairperson,

Let me right at the outset underline the importance Switzerland attaches to arms control and CSBMs as important pillars of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture, complementary to and reinforcing international collective security arrangements and arms control regimes at the global level.

The Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) have in the past made a tremendous contribution to increasing mutual trust and confidence and thereby strengthening stability and security in the OSCE region. They do indeed have a great potential to continue this very positive impact also in the future, at least if their mechanisms are adapted to the changes of the European security environment in recent years.

A great part of the OSCE instruments on arms control and CSBMs were elaborated in the 1980s and 1990s. If their goals are to remain valid, they will need to be brought up to date. However, while recognizing the efforts to optimise our instruments on arms control and CSBMs, we should not forget to uphold the acquis and insist on the full and timely implementation of the existing norms, principles and obligations in the whole area of application.

A clear mandate has been given to us by the ministerial decision MC.DEC/16/09 which calls for exploring ways to strengthen the OSCE politico-military toolbox, with particular attention to strengthen current arms control and CSBM instruments, including strengthening the Vienna Document.

The implementation of MC.DEC/16/09 should be an effort by all participating States and should not be linked or weakened by existing challenges met in other fora or instruments such as the CFE Treaty.

For our further deliberations, a useful approach would in our view be based on, inter alia:

- maintaining a culture not only of co-operation and openness among OSCE participating states, but also further increasing transparency and predictability of military capabilities and developments;
- making full use of existing mechanisms as well as mechanism to be developed for early warning and transparency in a regional and sub-regional context such as information about and observation of military activities;

- optimising mechanisms of risk reduction and cooperation (VD Chapter III)
- developing complementary CSBMs in order to provide an appropriate tool to address regional challenges.

While engaging in the Corfu Process, it is nevertheless important to maintain and continue deliberations within the Joint FSC-PC and within the FSC in order to best benefit from the existing expertise. The FSC remains a vital forum in the politico-military dimension.

Switzerland welcomes in general the efforts striving for the updating of the Vienna Document 99. It should be amended where it is necessary; new CSBMs could be envisaged. The way forward would be to proceed with a targeted work on chapters which need to be updated in the context of the geopolitical and technological developments and to maintain provisions that still work effectively.

Efforts to tackle the destabilizing effects of accumulated and insufficiently guarded small arms and light weapons and ammunition should be pursued in order to complement and reinforce the existing set of CSBMs in the OSCE area. In this context, Switzerland is pleased to announce a sustained support in terms of in-kind and financial contribution to the OSCE Comprehensive Programme on SALW and Conventional Ammunition in Moldova.

Finally, the Code of Conduct constitutes a normative document that addresses the domestic as well as the interstate politico-military dimension and applies internationally agreed principles of the democratic control of armed forces. Switzerland's supportive stance in favour of recalling all the agreed and valid principles of the Code of Conduct in the framework of arms control and CSBMs general and of its dissemination as well as its implementation is undiminished. Switzerland is therefore looking forward to the next workshop on the OSCE Code of Conduct taking place from 21 to 23 September 2010 in Minsk in co-operation with Austria and Belarus, as well as the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.

Up to now the process of Corfu has confirmed 4 key guiding principles with regard to arms control and CSBMs to which Switzerland fully subscribes, namely:

1. to maintain the acquis of CSBMs in terms of credibility and effectiveness;
2. to fully implement existing CSBMs;
3. to improve and optimise current arms control regimes and CSBMs as appropriate;
4. to base the development of CSBMs on the existing ones.

Now for almost one year a new impetus has been given by the Corfu process. Switzerland is convinced that efforts have to be continued to consolidate and expand existing arms control and CSBMs. Concrete results in these areas will eventually reinforce trust and confidence among OSCE participating States.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson