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Delegation of Switzerland

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

31 January 2008

**Regarding the report by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo,
Ambassador Tim Guldemann**

Mr. Chairman,

The Swiss delegation wishes to thank the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK), Mr. Guldemann, for his remarks.

The delegation would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Guldemann and all the staff of OMiK for their commitment to all the inhabitants of Kosovo, regardless of which community they belong to. We are convinced that the people of Kosovo can only continue to benefit from the presence of the Mission in Kosovo.

We have studied the written report by Ambassador Guldemann with the greatest of interest. We wish to express our satisfaction and appreciation following the successful organization of the recent elections, which were arranged in an unusually short time. Especially given the current setting, it was essential that these elections took place in complete conformity with international standards — and this was indeed the case.

We should also like to stress how important the Mission's monitoring activities are in our view. It is by defining the criteria for success, by evaluating the results transparently and precisely and by rigorously analysing their activities and performance that the Mission and others active in the field will be best able to ensure that Kosovo continues and intensifies its democratic development in the interests of all its inhabitants.

We are all aware how crucial and delicate the current period is. We therefore need to remain particularly vigilant so that our joint efforts continue to be aimed at ensuring both stability and security for the people of Kosovo while allowing the indispensable reforms to be carried out.

In the light of these challenges, Switzerland remains convinced that the OSCE will continue to play an important role in Kosovo, alongside the means to be deployed by the European Union. During the coming months, our Organization, whose presence in the field is

greatly appreciated, will continue to provide important points of reference. We should not underestimate the importance of this element of continuity.

All of us — the OSCE and its participating States, other organizations involved in this area, the rulers and political leaders in the region — must remain committed to ensuring that stability and security are preserved in such a way that Kosovo and the region as a whole are able to continue their rapprochement with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. We should therefore like to express our great confidence in the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your attention.