

PC.DEL/1082/10
15 November 2010

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

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

15 November 2010

**In response to the statement by Mr. Kanat Saudabayev,
Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE, to this meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his informative and timely message.

With a little over two weeks left until the Summit, we find ourselves at a critical moment that will decide whether this Summit Meeting will really place the OSCE on a path towards becoming the kind of effective regional organization that approaches in a credible way the vision of a security community.

We are close to achieving this. The important ideas are on the negotiating table. What is needed now is the political will to incorporate these ideas in a substantive Summit document and, particularly, in an action plan. This does not involve adopting far-reaching decisions in the next two weeks but merely assigning meaningful tasks. These tasks, however, must set a clear direction, for otherwise we are in danger of going around in circles until the next Ministerial Council meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

As you mentioned in your statement, one of our goals is to strengthen the arms control regime and confidence- and security-building measures. The latter should result in the course of 2011 in an updating of the Vienna Document.

Further, there must be a strengthening of the OSCE in the areas of conflict prevention and conflict management. Specific tools must be made available, which draw on the strengths of the OSCE executive structures, institutions and field missions. In this connection, particular attention should be placed on developing relevant mediation capacities and on anchoring them firmly within the structure of the OSCE.

Like yourself, Mr. Chairperson, Switzerland expects a reaffirmation of the commitments in the human dimension and their complete implementation in close co-operation with those OSCE institutions that have expertise in the areas concerned.

We are convinced that the OSCE needs a legal personality of its own as soon as possible, and we expect that the necessary steps to that end will be taken at the Summit. At the same time, we are prepared to take part in discussions on a possible legal statute for our Organization.

My last point has nothing to do with the Summit document but with how the OSCE will be perceived at the Summit. The OSCE should support the Kyrgyz authorities in their efforts to protect human rights and, in particular, should ensure that proper measures to support the Kyrgyz police are implemented in close co-ordination with the host country. If in two and half weeks' time we are able to say in Astana that the OSCE has succeeded in adapting its support to the new realities, this will mark an achievement. Let us therefore act in a flexible manner in order to achieve the desired effect on the ground as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish everyone a successful Summit and expect that our negotiations over the coming days will be pursued constructively and in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.