

PC.DEL/803/09  
16 October 2009

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

Delegation of Switzerland

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

15 October 2009

**Regarding diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey**

Madam Chairperson,

Switzerland would like to pay tribute to the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey for the courage, perseverance and willingness to reach an agreement that they have displayed throughout this process in spite of all the difficulties encountered.

The significance of what happened in Zurich last Saturday should not be underestimated. The signing of the two protocols is clearly a huge step forward for the two countries. The meeting of the two Presidents yesterday in Bursa illustrated once again, and at the highest level, this common determination to overcome stumbling blocks together in dialogue and co-operation, and this is something we welcome.

There is, however, still a long way to go. The next step will be ratification by the two Parliaments, which will make it possible to implement the provisions contained in the protocols. It is important that the process should continue at its own pace, within a reasonable time-frame.

Switzerland is grateful to Armenia and Turkey for the confidence they have placed in it, and is happy to have been able to contribute to this historic breakthrough.

Switzerland will continue – in co-operation with other international partners – to support these very important efforts aimed at peace, development and reconciliation.

Madam Chairperson, thank you for your attention.