

PC.DEL/69/10  
5 February 2010

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

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

4 February 2010

### **On Protocol No. 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights**

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Russian delegation for its statement in the Permanent Council last week on the European Convention on Human Rights and should like to make the following comments.

Switzerland currently chairs the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and in this capacity has set itself the task of helping to improve the efficiency of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The Swiss delegation therefore welcomes the fact that the Russian Parliament has now also approved the ratification by the Russian Federation of Protocol No. 14 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This Protocol, which improves the Convention's supervisory mechanism, will no doubt increase the efficiency of the Court of Human Rights and hence promote protection of fundamental rights in the territory of the member States of the Council of Europe.

However, the measures provided for in Protocol No. 14 will not be sufficient to overcome the difficulties faced by the Court resulting from the very large number of pending and anticipated new complaints. We must therefore develop a more long-term strategy that will guarantee greater efficiency and sustainability in the activities of the Court to protect human rights throughout the European continent.

With this in mind, the Swiss Chairmanship invites the member States of the Council of Europe to a ministerial conference in Interlaken on 18 and 19 February 2010 to discuss the future of the European Court of Human Rights. It is hoped that a statement will be adopted at this conference establishing a basis for a further intensification of reform efforts in the future.

Switzerland is counting not only on the co-operation and commitment of the 47 OSCE participating States that are also members of the Council of Europe. We are also hoping that success in achieving reforms in the protection of human rights – the core business of the Court in Strasbourg – will trigger or foster similar progress in the OSCE, not least as the human dimension remains an integral component of our common, co-operative and comprehensive security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention.