

Delegation of Switzerland

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE 844th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

16 December 2010

Conclusions regarding and follow-up to the OSCE Summit in Astana

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Kazakh Chairmanship for its dedication in the organization of the 2010 OSCE Summit. Our thanks refer not only to the trouble-free logistics and the impressive hospitality. In particular, the efforts made to ensure a meaningful outcome to the meeting also merit particular recognition. We have come to appreciate the Kazakh Chairmanship as a builder of bridges between different worlds and would encourage Kazakhstan to continue to play that role. We are convinced that this would also be of very great value in supporting the future work of this Organization.

Switzerland in very large measure agrees with the interpretation we have heard of the Summit results. The Summit Declaration is significant. It is far more significant than the media have implied and than the governments in some capitals have perceived. In terms of content, the strength of this document lies above all in the balance between the dimensions. On the one hand, it contains a strong commitment to the obligations in the human dimension; on the other hand, it sets operational tasks for the politico-military dimension in the areas of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.

Today we can say that the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana was a success. Whether in the future it will actually be possible to declare it a *historic* success will depend on the answers to the following questions:

1. Was this Summit able to strengthen the mutual trust of the participating States and in this sense are we ready to implement in a pragmatic and constructive manner the tasks set by the Summit? A brief incidental remark. How we now go about straightening out the 2011 budget is a small but not altogether insignificant indicator of this.
2. Will we be able under the guidance of the Lithuanian Chairmanship in 2011 to transform the many substantial elements of the Action Plan, on which consensus was almost reached, namely as set out in revision five of the Summit Document, into concrete, balanced and meaningful working plans in the individual dimensions, i.e., in the individual committees, and to adopt the relevant decisions?

3. Will the Organization be able in the near future to take small pragmatic steps with respect to unresolved conflicts, for example through the re-establishment of an appropriate OSCE presence in Georgia?

If in six to twelve months' time we can give a positive answer to these questions then we can with full justification claim that the Astana Summit was a historic success, in that it introduced an enduring change in direction for the OSCE. We are therefore now all called upon to provide evidence that this "spirit of Astana" actually exists.

Switzerland once again thanks Kazakhstan for the careful leadership role it has played in 2010 and assures the Lithuanian Chairmanship in 2011 of its full support in dealing with the challenges of the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.