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Delegation of Luxembourg

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LUXEMBOURG
AT THE REINFORCED MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 November 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I associate myself, of course, with all the observations made by the French delegation on behalf of the European Union. There is therefore no need for me to discuss in detail the draft decisions before us in the various dimensions, and I can be quite brief, concentrating on two points that are particularly important for us.

I will not take these points up without first thanking the Finnish Chairmanship for the magnificent work that it is doing in preparation for the Helsinki Ministerial Council meeting.

I should like to thank the Chairmanship in particular — and this is my first point — for the excellent ideas that it has put forward as the basis for a future-oriented political declaration. It can be confident of our full support. In my delegation's view, it is essential that we confirm in this text that the existing principles, values and commitments are valid also for our times and for today's world. On the basis of these principles and values, we are naturally ready for a constructive, in-depth discussion of the security situation in Europe; such a discussion could usefully begin in Helsinki — for example, during the Ministers' business lunch. It goes without saying that the question of frozen conflicts is an integral part of the subject to be discussed. At this stage, however, before the process has even begun, it would seem to me premature to take a position on what the results of the discussion might be, and in particular on whether or not a new treaty on security in Europe should be adopted.

The second matter that I should like to take up concerns the legal status of our organization. In Brussels, two years ago, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg urged the participating States to start negotiations with a view to the drafting of a convention on the legal personality of the OSCE. At Madrid, less than a year ago, he welcomed the proposals made and advocated the adoption of the convention. We would be well advised to overcome the last remaining differences in order to be able to adopt this convention as soon as possible. In Helsinki, we should at least take the necessary steps to see that the text of the convention on the OSCE's legal personality does not get lost along the path which may lead us, at a date still to be decided, to an OSCE summit.

Thank you for your attention.