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Delegation of Switzerland

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

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Regarding the death penalty in Belarus

We have already spoken on this subject on 1 December 2011 when Dmitry Konovalov and Vladislav Kovalev were sentenced to death for their alleged role in the explosions that occurred in the Minsk metro in April 2011. On Sunday, 18 March, Belarusian national television announced their executions after President Lukashenko refused their appeal for clemency.

Switzerland condemns these executions. The investigation was never able to prove conclusively that these two young men were responsible. While this attack represents a tragedy and it is legitimate to punish the persons found guilty, independent reports indicate that the condemned men did not have a fair trial.

Switzerland reaffirms its opposition to the application of capital punishment regardless of the motives and circumstances and calls on Belarus to declare a moratorium on capital punishment with a view to its abolition.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.