

PC.DEL/727/03
26 June 2003

ENGLISH only

SWISS DELEGATION
TO THE OSCE

1. Annual Security Review Conference

Swiss Intervention

Working Group A – Preventing and combating terrorism

Mr. Co-ordinator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to thank the two keynote speakers for their stimulating contributions and suggestions on how the OSCE might contribute further to the fight against terrorism. Like previous speakers, Switzerland is convinced that the OSCE has an important role to play in the fight against the evils of terrorism. Let me take up some of the issues raised.

The importance of developing common standards in the fight against terrorism and of reinforcing national legislation has been clearly set out in the Bucarest and Bishkek Plan of Action and the Porto Charter. In this regard, we are glad to announce that the Swiss Parliament has recently approved the adherence to the last two UN Conventions in the field of terrorism that Switzerland had not yet ratified (namely the Convention for the suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Convention for the suppression of the Financing of Terrorism).

The implementation of international anti-terrorist agreements and the consolidation of national legislation comprise many aspects (role of the military and police forces, national security doctrine, budgetary allocations, administrative structures). These issues are fairly complex and the provision of assistance by the OSCE may be crucial in many cases. The Office of Democratic Institutions and

Human Rights (ODIHR) has a key role to play in this domain, together with the Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU). This role should be both consolidated and expanded.

In this regard, ODIHR has also a key role to assume in helping and monitoring that humanitarian and human right norms are fully incorporated in the various national anti-terrorism legislations. It has been proposed that ODIHR should, among other things, develop guidelines on the integration of human right norms (proportionality, derogations...) in anti-terrorism legislation and raise awareness about this issue. We think that this is a good idea, which merits our attention. Indeed, human rights and the campaign to combat terrorism are complementary, not competitive. Reinforcing the rule of law and the respect for human rights are central elements of a comprehensive strategy seeking to eliminate the threat of terrorism.

Commitments towards fighting the financing of terrorism are particularly important. A leading financial centre, Switzerland has developed a wide range of effective instruments to combat money laundering and organised crime, mechanisms that are as pertinent to fight terrorism as to fight other types of criminality. Switzerland wishes to put its technical know-how and expertise at the disposal of states willing to develop an adequate national legal framework and supervisory structures. We intend to organise a seminar to this effect towards the end of this year and we will also invite the OSCE to participate in this project and to ensure its success.

Comment: auch den separaten Kommentar von Roman Busch beachten. Ich habe mit ihm letzte Woche kurz dazu telefoniert. Seine Reaktion war eher verhalten. Der Miteinbezug der OSZE in das Seminar könnte die ganze Organisation des Workshops eher noch erschweren. Wir müssen die Sache sicher noch mals miteinander besprechen, für den Moment bin ich aber der Meinung, dass es zu früh ist, davon zu sprechen, da wir ja bei weitem nicht sicher sind, ob die OSZE bei der Übung miteinbezogen wird.

As Ambassador Black stressed, the question of border control has also become a central issue in the fight against terrorism. Our aim must be to enhance border security so as to effectively counter terrorism and trafficking while facilitating legitimate border travel and commerce. This requires a transfer of the control of borders from the military to the civilian authorities, within the framework of a larger reform process of the Security Sector. Such a process and the development of necessary regional standards require close co-operation among the different intergovernmental actors. The Ohrid regional Conference on border security management was a case in point. For its part, Switzerland intends to play an active role in the follow-on process to further the acquis from Ohrid.

Full use must also be made of the acquis developed in the politico-military dimension of the OSCE. Two instruments stand out in this domain: the Small Arms and Light Weapons Document and

the Code of Conduct on the Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Switzerland is convinced that there is still substantial work to accomplish in order to take full advantage of the possibilities that these two instruments offer in the fight against the threat of terrorism.

Reinforcing internal co-ordination and promoting co-operation with other organisations are also key elements. The Anti-Terrorism Unit of the OSCE must receive the necessary support, both in staff and financial terms if it is to implement its working plan. The question of the use of the Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) in providing Participating States with counter-terrorist experts has also been raised. The aim of the REACT is to enable the OSCE to rapidly deploy civilian experts to assist in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The activities of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism, and its added value, are in our view not to be found in the implementation of emergency counter-terrorist measures, but mainly in the area of prevention. Accordingly, whether REACT is a mechanism that is really suited and that can be adapted to the activities of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism remains to be determined.

Co-operation should be consolidated with a series of organisations, such as the UN-CTC, the Council of Europe, and the Counter-Terrorism Action Group established by the G8 in Evian. Switzerland is also convinced that the OSCE and the EAPC/PfP are complementary institutions in the fight against terrorism, as in many other domains as well. Indeed, the Ohrid conference on border security and management has once again confirmed the potential benefit of drawing on the comparative advantages of both the OSCE and the EAPC/PfP. Switzerland is convinced that co-operation between these two structures could be further expanded, and that they could benefit from an upgrading of their contacts.

Thank you, Mr Co-ordinator.