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

13 November 2008

Regarding the report by Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr. Chairman,

The annual report of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator provides a comprehensive and informative basis for evaluating her activities and the implementation of OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings. We should like to thank Ms. Biaudet most sincerely for her excellent report and, in particular, for the work she has performed.

Ms. Biaudet's report gives the participating States an idea of the extent to which the institutional machinery for combating human trafficking in our countries exists and where there is still need for improvement. We therefore welcome the recommendations listed in the report — they are helpful for us, too, in terms of setting priorities.

Switzerland supports in particular the recommendation that national rapporteurs and national co-ordinators involved in combating trafficking in human beings should exchange more information on experience gained in their countries. In this way, they will contribute towards the dissemination of good practices, which can play an important role in international co-operation when setting standards.

We likewise support the recommendation that national instruments to combat trafficking in human beings be employed in a way that takes into account human rights aspects, strengthening children's rights and the victim-centred approach. Ms. Biaudet also emphasized this point yesterday in Bern at a conference on the links between prostitution, migration and trafficking in human beings, where she delivered the introductory address.

Switzerland notes with interest that the Special Representative intends in the coming year to further explore, in co-operation with the participating States, the subject of the exploitation of labour in the context of trafficking in human beings. There is still much work to be done here in terms of capacity building at a national and international level. We wish Ms. Biaudet every success in this endeavour and assure her of our complete support in her important activities in the future.

Thank you for your attention.