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Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND
AT THE 932nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 November 2012

In response to the address by His Excellency Gilbert Saboya i Sunyé

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra to the Permanent Council in his capacity as chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Switzerland is gratified to note that the Principality of Andorra sees its chairmanship as part of an ongoing process. We welcome the joint priorities outlined by it with Armenia and Austria, who will hold the chairmanship in the future. We note in particular the appeal for closer co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. This priority was already one of the priorities of the Swiss chairmanship three years ago. It must be noted that the potential for co-operation between the two organizations remains extremely under-exploited, as we stressed during the visit by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, on 29 March.

The reference made by the chairperson of the Committee of Ministers to the reports by Professor Ulfstein and Ambassador Lundin is particularly welcome. These reports clearly demonstrate the comparative advantages of the two organizations and the synergies that greater co-operation could produce.

Switzerland echoes the wish expressed by Andorra that the subject of co-operation between international organizations be taken into account in the work leading to the Ministerial Council in Dublin. It also fully shares the hope expressed by Andorra regarding regular participation by the Council of Europe representative in Vienna in the meetings of the Permanent Council.

It goes without saying that co-operation between international organizations will also figure on the agenda of the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2014. We firmly believe that this topic will be of growing importance since international organizations are consulted with increasing frequency and have more than limited means at their disposal. This double imperative of effectiveness and economy cannot be well reconciled with overlapping mandates and competition for funding from donors. There is a need to identify synergies, and I reiterate my appeal for the OSCE to take concrete steps to strengthen its co-operation with the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

In conclusion, I should like to wish the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra every success in his work at the head of the Council of Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.