

PC.DEL/338/09

14 May 2009

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

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

14 May 2009

**Regarding the draft decision on the OSCE Office in Tbilisi and the
deployment of OSCE monitors (PC.DD/11/09/Rev.1)**

Madam Chairperson,

The Swiss delegation notes with great regret that it has not been possible to reach a consensus on the proposal by the Greek Chairmanship providing for the establishment of an OSCE office in Tbilisi and the deployment of civilian and military OSCE monitors on both sides of the administrative border. We should like to express our particular gratitude at this point to the Greek Chairmanship for its efforts in this extremely important matter for the OSCE.

Madam Chairperson,

The number of security-related incidents near the administrative border has increased over the last few months, with a constant risk for the civilian population in particular. We consider an OSCE presence on both sides of the administrative divide to be more important than ever under these circumstances. Now that the withdrawal of the OSCE's military monitoring officers is almost unavoidable, a stabilizing element in a region characterized by so many uncertainties is being lost.

The OSCE's potential in post-conflict management is being considerably reduced because of the lack of political will. In view of the present accumulation of military capabilities in the region, it is more important than ever for the OSCE to be assigned a significant role in conflict management and, in particular, early warning so that a rekindling of conflicts can be averted. The continuing humanitarian plight of many inhabitants of the region also demands a presence on the part of our Organization.

We are convinced that the Greek proposal with its status-neutral wording offers a realistic chance for the necessary compromise, a chance that has now possibly been wasted. We very much hope that the credibility of the OSCE and its values will not suffer too much damage as a result of the current development. Without a greater ability to reach a

compromise in an organization based on strict consensus, it is difficult to see how the OSCE is going to be able to retain its capacity to act at all.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.