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

20 May 2010

**In response to the statement by Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro,
OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking
in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland and Liechtenstein would like to warmly congratulate you, Ms. Giammarinaro, on your post as Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and, at the same time, to assure you that you can count on our full support in your endeavours to further strengthen the OSCE's efforts to combat human trafficking.

Our two countries greatly appreciated the efforts of your Austrian and Finnish predecessors, both of whom made an essential contribution to ensuring that the fight against trafficking in human beings was a central theme within the OSCE and that it was waged successfully. We are convinced that you, Ms. Giammarinaro, will continue this important work with the same determination and commitment.

Over the last ten years, the OSCE has played an important pioneering role in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Developments that we refer to today as best practices and that many States have incorporated into their strategy for combating trafficking in human beings were shaped by our Organization in Vienna. One such example is the concept of the referral mechanism. Switzerland and Liechtenstein too have profited a great deal from the OSCE's anti-trafficking know-how.

When you addressed the Human Dimension Committee on 15 April you rightly pointed out, however, that our work is far from over, even if today, thanks to diverse efforts, trafficking in human beings is outlawed worldwide as a violation of human rights and a serious crime. The number of victims is still alarming, and trafficking in human beings remains a profitable business for criminal networks all over the world, in our countries as well. In the coming decade we will be confronted with a multitude of old and new challenges at both the international and national level. In our view, we should focus on the following three points:

1. Systematic evaluation and application of the lessons learned in recent years – the best practices – with a view to combating trafficking in human beings more effectively;
2. Dissemination and application of a comprehensive understanding of trafficking in human beings so as to cover all forms of exploitation, especially the exploitation of labour;
3. Increased attention to the links between trafficking in human beings and other forms of organized crime.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to go into the second point in some detail from a Swiss perspective: a comprehensive understanding of trafficking in human beings is imperative if all forms of this serious crime are to be combated effectively. Over the last few years Switzerland has developed effective strategies for combating trafficking in human beings and has achieved some good results in the process. The work of the authorities is concentrated on the so-called classic form of trafficking in human beings – the exploitation of women in prostitution. The exploitation of labour in agriculture, private households or the construction industry has so far received less attention. Last year a group of experts under the auspices of the Swiss Co-ordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and Smuggling of Migrants compiled a handbook on combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. The authorities responsible for monitoring working conditions are also receiving training in this respect and are increasingly being involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Mr. Chairperson, we thank you for your attention and wish Ms. Giammarinaro every success in her important work.