

## Common Declaration

On the occasion of their official meeting in Budapest on 16 June 2009, the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, Micheline Calmy-Rey, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Péter Balázs, announced their intention to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the field of foreign relations and to create a reference framework for this purpose. The two Parties also expressed their intention to highlight the historical links between Hungary and Switzerland, in particular in the human dimension. For the above-mentioned reasons, the present Common Declaration has been agreed by both Ministers of Foreign Affairs, identifying the following areas of mutual interest:

### *Swiss Contribution to the Enlarged European Union*

The Parties reaffirm their cooperation in the context of Switzerland's contribution to the enlarged European Union as set out in the Framework Agreement signed in Bern on 20 December 2007. Over the period of ten years, Switzerland has agreed to make a non-reimbursable grant of up to CHF 130,738 million to Hungary. The bilateral cooperation builds upon the long-lasting successful cooperation between the two countries and aims to promote further social and economic development in Hungary.

### *Trilateral Development Cooperation*

The two sides agree to review the possibility of trilateral development cooperation together with common third partners. The review will take place with particular attention given to the thematic and geographical focus of the two countries, and will take into account both the shared need for such partnerships from the perspective of the joint strategic partners and the requirement to add value to existing bilateral programs. It will incorporate the general implementation criteria of public development assistance which are in harmony with the principles of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

### *Human Rights*

Both Parties agree to reinforce their cooperation within international organizations (Human Rights Council, Council of Europe, OSCE) in the promotion and defense of human rights. In this respect the parties are interested in developing a common understanding regarding the Hungarian initiative on the establishment in Budapest of an independent International Centre for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (ICPG). They welcome the initiative of a conference in Interlaken (Switzerland) on the future functioning of the European Court of Human Rights to be held in February of 2010, during the Swiss chair of the Council of Europe.

### *European Cooperation*

The two Parties reaffirm their intention to continue to hold regular talks on questions of European integration and on relations between Switzerland and the EU. With a

view to the complete association of Switzerland with the Schengen acquis, consultations will focus on topics in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

### *Multilateral Cooperation*

The two Parties reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to the Millennium Development Goals, and to the fundamental principles of international law. They reiterate their strong commitment to respect and to promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Furthermore, the two Parties express their support for efforts to strengthen international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development. Both Parties reiterate their commitment to foster their cooperation in multilateral bodies such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as well as the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Partnership for Peace of NATO.

### *Dialogue on Specific Geographical Areas*

On the basis of their respective geographical situations in the heart of Europe and their respective foreign policy priorities, the two Parties intend to continue and further deepen their dialogue on developments in Eastern Europe and in the Western Balkans on topics such as the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and energy security.

### *Strengthening Cultural Relations*

Both Parties reaffirm their attachment to the UNESCO objectives and to respect for the principles of cultural dialogue and the protection and promotion of cultural diversity. They intend to support the development of links within the cultural and artistic fields as well as direct contacts between public and private cultural institutions, collective institutions and artists.

### *Sustainable Development and Education*

The two countries reaffirm their commitment to the protection of the environment and to the principles of sustainable development. In this spirit both countries attach high importance to education for sustainable development. They expressed this through, among other things, their adoption of the ministers' declaration at the 6th "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, which took place in Belgrade from 10-12 October 2007. In the declaration, they highlighted their determination to give greater emphasis to education in the future as a driving force for promoting ways of thinking and acting to achieve sustainable social development.

### *Review and Amendments*

The two Parties shall monitor the execution of this declaration and, should the need arise, review and amend it accordingly. The procedure thereof shall be the same as it has been in the case of the present declaration.

The Parties express their hope that this declaration will provide the impetus for civilian actors to increase their activities to further develop Swiss-Hungarian cooperation at nongovernmental levels.

Budapest, 16 June 2009