

The Swiss Confederation a brief guide 2010



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

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Cover picture:

Built between 1894 and 1902, a hundred years later it underwent a thorough renovation so that it could shine in its former glory: the Parliament Building in Bern, usually referred to as the Federal Palace.

The Swiss Confederation a brief guide

Dear reader,

Last year was severely impacted by the financial crisis, and this crisis will continue to leave its mark in 2010. Recovery on the employment front is therefore likely to be slow and cost-cutting programmes will continue to be in effect in many places. I nonetheless believe that we can look to the future with confidence.

One issue that did the rounds in Bern last year, and which will no doubt sooner or later give rise to debate elsewhere, is language. The linguistic composition of the Federal Council was the subject of intense debate during the Federal Council elections in September 2009. Didier Burkhalter of Neuchâtel won the seat vacated by Pascal Couchepin from the French-speaking part of Valais. The linguistic composition of the Federal Council with five representatives from the German-speaking part of Switzerland and two from the French-speaking part has consequently remained unchanged. However, the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland has not been represented in the Federal Council for over a decade.

Why is it so important for the various language regions to be appropriately represented in the federal government? Because it is a matter no less than our country's cohesion, it is about living together and not just alongside one another; in short, it is about our identity. For it is the will to continue on our chosen path together, in spite of linguistic and cultural differences, that is the defining feature of Switzerland. That is why we have to hold on to our country's multilingualism.

But solidarity is not only needed with our linguis-



tic minorities, it has to be applied in all situations. It should not be the case that those less privileged feel forgotten by those better off, that the needs of peripheral regions be ignored, that the younger generation doesn't care about the older generation or that senior citizens don't take the concerns of young people seriously. Solidarity is particularly important in economically difficult times. Personal responsibility is of course crucial, but it is only united that we are strong. It is therefore essential that we stand together and jointly search for solutions to achieve our objectives.

That applies not only to politics, but also to sport. We are therefore rooting for our national team in the forthcoming World Cup in the knowledge that optimal teamwork is the key to success.

I hope you enjoy reading this brochure, which provides an insight into Switzerland's political workings and the federal authorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corina Casanova".

Federal Chancellor: Corina Casanova

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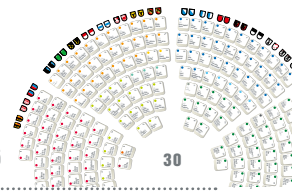


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The Swiss Confederation a brief guide online

The site provides additional material in the form of documents, charts, photos and videos and you can even test your civic knowledge using our interactive quiz. Why not try it out at <http://www.ch.ch/ebuku>.



We need to reassure the public

For Switzerland 2010 is set to be dominated by canton Aargau – given that both the presidents of the National Council and of the Swiss Confederation hail from there. What does canton Aargau have to offer Switzerland?

Clearly a high quality of life, otherwise people from Zurich wouldn't choose to live in Aargau in such great numbers! But Aargau has a great deal more to offer: art, culture and cuisine. The Kunsthau in Aarau is home to one of the largest collections of contemporary Swiss art. We also have a thriving cultural scene and culinary specialties, not to mention the varied countryside with castles, the hills of the Jura and wetlands. The people of Aargau are discreet, and unassuming, but are good for a surprise, and they also possess a healthy dose of independence and self-confidence. The people of Aargau have realised that they can look their fellow Swiss in the eye. And many projects are under way to create a strong region in north western Switzerland.

2010 is also a year for women, with Pascale Bruderer and Erika Forster as presidents of the National Council and the Council of States, and you as President of the Swiss Confederation. That's something to talk about...

I'm delighted to be part of this trio. It's an historic event, which hopefully will soon become thoroughly normal. The number of women in leadership posi-

tions is on the rise and I'm very glad. It's a reward for the hard work of a great many pioneering women.

The government has faced a lot of criticism recently. Has collaboration in the Federal Council deteriorated, have the problems become more complex, or are we witnessing a trend towards an intellectual fast-food society where one scandal is followed by the next?

The government generally works well and efficiently – during highs and lows. That has always been the case. But today with the Internet and globalisation, we live in an interconnected and diverse world and therefore have to deal with complex political issues and processes. That's where our system can occasionally find itself somewhat overstretched. That's why we are also considering the question of governmental reform. The pace of events has also picked up and the media are clearly torn between factual reporting and entertainment, between informing and succumbing to tabloid journalism. Quality journalism of course has its price.

The Federal Council has complex issues to resolve. It has to maintain Switzerland's international position and then ensure that the population has employment and a good standard of living. How do you intend to chair the cabinet so that these high expectations can be fulfilled?

In particular I would like to make sure that there is an open atmosphere for discussion in the Federal Council meetings. Strengthening the collegial nature of the Federal Council and how it is perceived by the public is important to me, as is good cooperation with parliament and the cantons. The Federal Council is expected to tackle the big challenges. But that's only possible if everyone works together across all departments, and if we allow ourselves the time to deal with complex issues. That strengthens confidence in the Federal Council as an institution and strengthens the confidence of the Federal Council itself.

The global economic crisis, armed conflicts, harsher, personalised debates – as president, the population expects you to intervene, provide answers and solutions. How do you expect to convey optimism to the people in our country under such circumstances?

By taking people's concerns seriously. We need to develop sensible and transparent solutions to the major challenges ahead and reassure people by communicating coherently, openly and honestly. Our country has a great history and a unique form of democracy – both of which are values worth protecting. It is important to position Switzerland correctly in the context of global competition and this will be a significant task in 2010.

Competition around the world is becoming more intense. Switzerland is under pressure as a location for research, finance, work and business. How can we assert our position as a small country?

We are already asserting ourselves very well. We are the most competitive location in the world, we are the most innovative country in Europe and the cities of Zurich, Bern and Geneva rank among the top ten in terms of quality of life. The entire European market can be accessed easily from Switzerland. This is a great advantage especially in terms of research and development. Switzerland is an ideal location for company headquarters. We offer the highest standards of education, infrastructure, services and quality of life. Despite the global economic crisis we still have a functioning job market. "Small but select" is the motto that holds true for Switzerland.

The world is changing rapidly. Are our slow, bottom-up, decision-making channels and federalist structures reaching their limits?

Federalism and the cohesion of the Confederation and the cantons are what hold Switzerland together. The people's vote at the ballot box is what counts. On the other hand, we really do need to rethink certain structures. Is it necessary to have building regulations and education systems that vary from commune to commune, from canton to canton? Does each legislative process have to go through the mills of the various consultation procedures? Sometimes, I wish things were able to proceed more speedily.

Legal, social and financial policy stability is likely to be one of the key factors of success. How do you rate our chances in this respect?

We have the best possible starting position. As a country with four national languages, we have learned to accept minorities. Our excellent record on integration has not been altered by the decision on the minaret initiative. We have put in place a legal and socio-political basis which makes Switzerland attractive to people of various backgrounds and to researchers and entrepreneurs alike.

The major challenges of the coming decade include climate change, the scarcity of

resources and the increase in population. Wouldn't you say that Switzerland is unlikely to play a leading role in these matters?

The people's vote is what counts

On the contrary! Switzerland has a very strong base in the field of Cleantech. We have been collecting glass and treating our waste water for decades. Many things we have internalised. We possess technologies that now have to be developed further in the interest of sustainability. Without pursuing an industrial policy as such, we attribute great importance to the field of Cleantech and are supporting the sector accordingly. We have increased funding for the Innovation Promotion Agency (CTI), for example. There are initiatives by the Federal Institutes of Technology and OSEC, Business Network Switzerland. It is now up to businesses to make use of these opportunities.

The fact that we are not part of any larger coalitions will also constitute a challenge. Are we increasingly being criticised for standing alone and being successful?

I often encounter a great deal of sympathy for Switzerland when I'm abroad. In actual fact, however, the interest of



larger players, among which I count the EU, is limited. If we want to make our voice heard here, we need to become even more active and raise our profile by putting forward our own suggestions on international issues. We are respected in Europe, but whether we can count on preferential treatment of our wishes in the medium term is a different matter. In my opinion, the Federal Council needs to give greater and more regular attention to foreign policy issues.

Is joining the EU the answer to this dilemma?

For the moment, I don't think so. Our experiences with the bilateral agreements have been good, as much for our citizens as for our export businesses.

But that path is getting increasingly time-consuming and difficult. The EU is currently pursuing cross-border harmonisation across many areas of life and the economy. I, on the other hand, am in favour of greater competition, also among EU members.

Can Switzerland, which was recognised in the past for its good offices, still make itself heard?

I am convinced that we will continue to play a vital role in conflict situations.

It is important to uphold these values

We are rightly regarded as an independent partner. Our neutrality, our rule of law, our humanitarian commitment and our openness are hallmarks, but they have suffered. It is important, therefore, to uphold these values.

As Swiss president you will often be required to travel abroad; at the same time, the Swiss people expect a high profile at home. How do you intend to bridge this gap?

I can't split myself in two, but I will do the one without giving up the other. I will always chair the sessions of the Federal Council, as is expected of the President of the Swiss Confederation. On the other hand, I intend to make use of the opportunity offered by the presidency to open doors and, where necessary, reduce obstacles.

The presidential year will place high demands on you. Which people, which structures can you fall back on for support?

There are 2500 people working in my department. And I can assure you that they are extremely dedicated. The level of professionalism and attention to detail in the work carried out by the administration is quite remarkable. I can therefore rely on an experienced team. In ad-

dition, I will also be able to rely on the support of other departments and the Federal Chancellery to a greater extent during my presidential year.

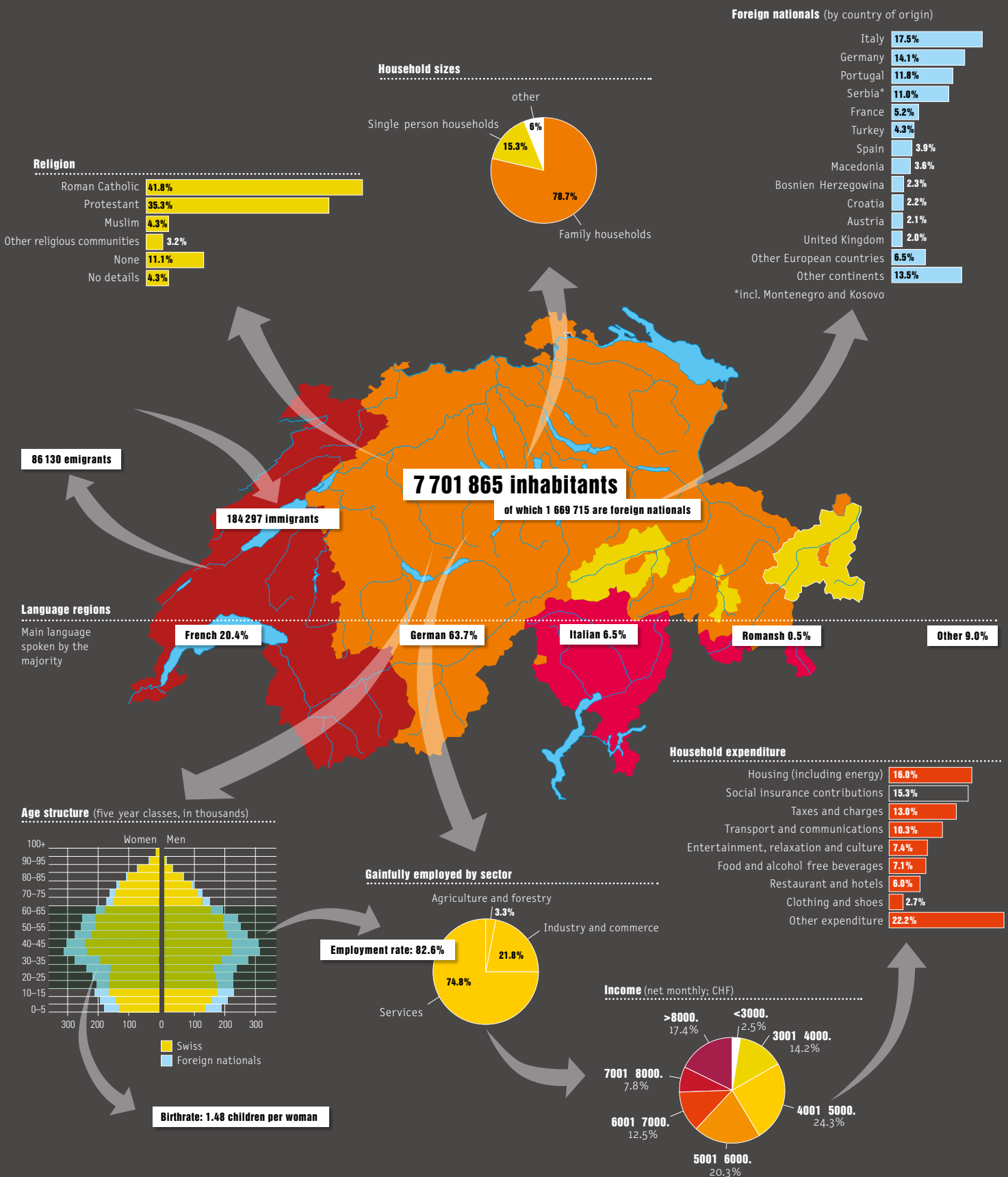
Do you turn to chocolate to give you a morale boost in hectic times? Or do you take to your bike?

One doesn't exclude the other! But to be honest, there won't be much time for bike tours. So this year I'm probably more likely to turn to chocolate for that energy boost in hectic times. The fact that I'm supporting a well-respected branch of Swiss industry along the way is a welcome side-effect.

President Doris Leuthard was interviewed by Samuel Schmid, Federal Councillor from 2001–2008.

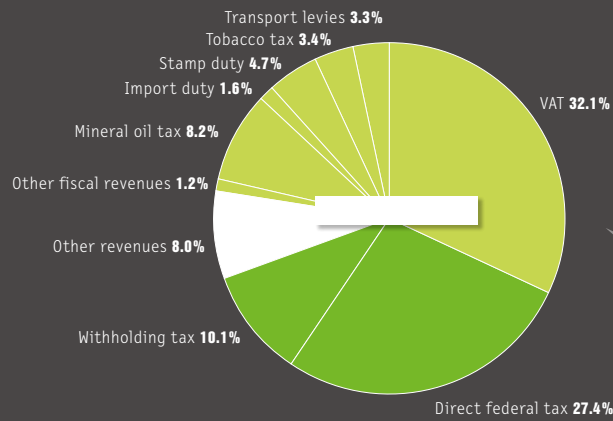


Population

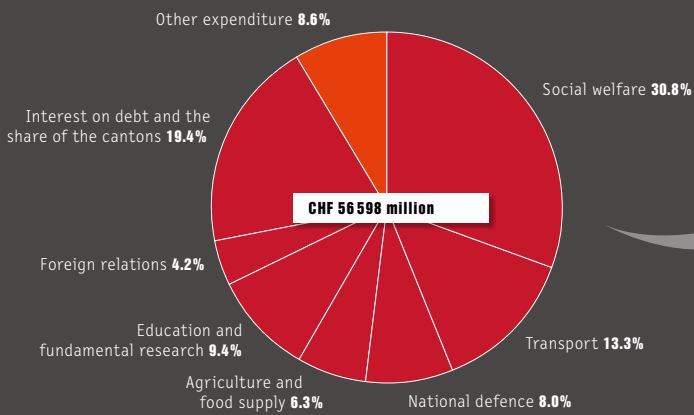


Finances

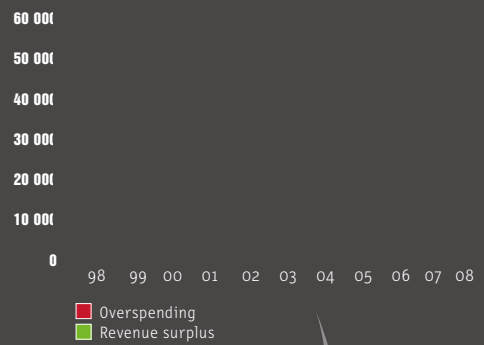
Federal revenue 2008



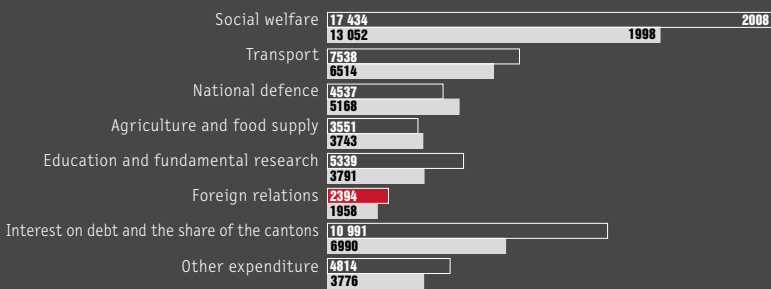
Federal expenditure 2008



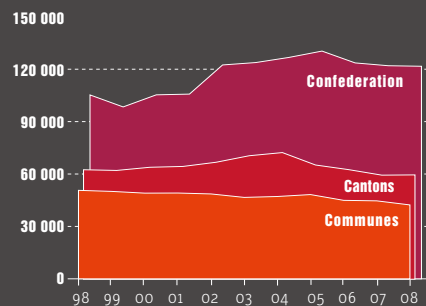
Developments in revenue (CHF million)



Developments in expenditure (CHF million)



Developments in debt (CHF million)



How long has there been a Switzerland?

1291 According to tradition, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden renew their alliance to defend their property and rights against foreign attack on the Rütli meadow on 1 August.

Additional urban and rural areas join or are conquered by this “Confederation” in the course of the following decades and centuries.

The Swiss defend their loose federation’s growing power and freedom for two hundred years against a variety of opponents until they obtain true independence from the German empire after the Swabian War in **1499**.

The abolition of mass and the introduction of communion in Zurich by Zwingli in **1525** lead to the religious division of Switzerland into Catholic and Protestant regions that live separately and time and again go to war with one another.

The Peace of Westphalia of **1648** formally recognised Switzerland’s independence.

“Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”: the tenets of the French Revolution of **1789** spread to Switzerland, leading to disturbances in several areas.

A French army under Napoleon Bonaparte conquers Switzerland in **1798**. The old Confederation collapses and makes way for the Helvetic Republic, with a single centralist constitution dictated by the French.

In **1803** the former subject territories emerge as new cantons with equal rights.

After France’s defeat by the monarchistic European superpowers, the Confederation is again “restored” in **1815**. It again becomes a loose federation of states and its cantons are again governed by the aristocracy just as before the downfall of **1798**.

During the period known as the “regeneration” after **1830**, the pressures of economic development cause around half of the cantons to adopt liberal constitutions that guarantee their citizens economic and political freedom. This leads to conflicts between liberal and conservative cantons.

Tensions between the liberal Protestant and the Catholic cantons lead to the civil war in **1847** (the “Sonderbundskrieg”). After a brief military campaign with federal troops, the Catholics, who had founded a separatist federation, surrender.

1848 The modern Swiss federal state is founded in 1848. Its constitution centralises and harmonises numerous areas which were previously the responsibility of the cantons, such as military service, customs, and postal services and coinage. This leads to the creation of a cohesive territory ripe for economic development.

The general right to vote and to participate in elections, but for men only, is introduced in 1848, but is ultimately regarded by many as insufficient. Swiss citizens campaign for direct democratic rights, introducing the right to call for a referendum in the revised Federal Constitution of **1874**, and the popular initiative in **1891**.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the various political movements organise themselves as parties. The Social Democratic Party is founded in **1888**, the Free Radical Party and the Catholic-Conservative People’s Party, which is today’s CVP, in **1894**.

Switzerland is spared from the First World War from 1914 to 1918, but the difficult social conditions in many sections of the population caused by the war lead to a general strike in **1918**. The strikers are unsuccessful in pushing through many of their demands, such as the 48-hour working week and the introduction of old-age insurance. In that same year, however, the National Council is elected by proportional representation for the first time and now includes workers representatives. This brings the dominance of the Free Radical Party to an end.

In **1920** Switzerland accedes to the League of Nations founded the previous year, on condition that it strictly preserves its neutrality and that it is not required to participate in any military campaigns.

The global economic crisis of 1929 leads to increased unemployment and, in **1936**, to the devaluation of the Swiss franc.

The agreement in the machine and metalworking industry of **1937** to ensure industrial peace, the recognition of Romansh as the fourth national language in **1938**, the development of the Alps in **1940** into the Swiss military redoubt, and ultimately the first Social Democratic member of the Federal Council in 1943 contributed to Swiss cohesion in difficult times. This also allows Switzerland to remain neutral in the Second World War from 1939 to 1945.

The federal Old Age and Survivors’ Insurance (AHV) is introduced in **1947**.

Although it had acceded to the League of Nations a quarter of a century earlier, Switzerland does not initially accede to the United Nations (UN) when it is created in **1948** on the grounds of its neutrality.

In **1959** with the election of a second Social Democrat to the Federal Council, the composition of the government is for the first time largely proportional to the parties' shares of the popular vote. This is the origin of what is known as the "magic formula", which ensures a fair representation of the most important political parties in the Federal Council.

After an unsuccessful attempt in 1959, the people and the cantons grant women the right to vote and to participate in elections at federal level in **1971**, by 621 403 "yes" to 325 596 "no" votes. In a number of cantons, women have already had equal political rights for quite some time.

Following a series of popular votes, in Canton Bern and in particular in the Bernese French-speaking districts as well as ultimately at federal level, Canton Jura is created in **1978**. It separates from Bern, and becomes the 26th state of Switzerland.

In **1984**, Switzerland elects a woman to the Federal Council for the first time in its history by appointing Elisabeth Kopp (FDP).

In **1989**, voters reject the popular initiative to eliminate the armed forces.

In **1992**, voters reject membership of the European Economic Area.

In **1999**, the people and the cantons approve the totally revised Federal Constitution, which enters into force in **2000**.

After being involved in many UN sub-organisations, in some cases for several decades, and as the result of a popular initiative, Switzerland becomes a full member of the United Nations in **2002**.

In the same year, the first bilateral agreements with the European Union enter into force.

In December **2003**, for the first time since 1854 and 1872, a member of the Federal Council is not re-elected. CVP Federal Councillor Ruth Metzler has to relinquish her seat to the SVP representative Christoph Blocher.

Four years later, Christoph Blocher experiences a similar turn of events during the **2007** winter session when the United Federal Assembly elects his party colleague Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf to the Federal Council.

She and the Graubünden cantonal party to which she belongs are subsequently excluded from the national SVP in **2008**. She joins the newly-formed BDP. It is the first time that such a small grouping has been represented in government.

Pascal Couchepin, who stepped down from the Federal Council in **2009**, was succeeded by his party colleague from Neuchâtel, Didier Burkhalter.



The United Nations, founded in 1945, is the successor organisation to the League of Nations of which Switzerland had been a member since 1920; the globe in front of the Geneva headquarters of the UN is dedicated to its initiator, President Woodrow Wilson.



A UNIQUE POLITICAL SYSTEM OR

Swiss democracy



It's better to start young: The "school fieldtrip to Bern" project provided five secondary school classes from various parts of the country the opportunity to experience civic education firsthand during a week of the session in parliament.

To prepare for the experience, students dealt with a number of topics beforehand in their class-

es such as the federal structure of Switzerland, political rights and the workings of direct democracy and drafted their own popular initiatives.

The one hundred or so students then proceeded to develop their proposals – from collecting signatures to holding debates in three national languages in the National Council chamber. They stepped

into the shoes of a party representative or committee member during a four-hour meeting presenting arguments and debating their concerns.

During the session, some students tried their hand as journalists, interviewed a number of National Councillors and produced a daily web newspaper.

2596 plus 26 equals 1

Switzerland is a nation of consensus, composed of several ethnic groups with a variety of languages and religions. It has been a federal state since 1848. There are 23 federal states worldwide; Switzerland is the second oldest after the United States of America. Switzerland is a federal state and is organised in three political levels: the communes, the cantons and the Confederation.



2596 communes Communes are the smallest political units in Switzerland. There are currently 2596 communes, but their number is in decline as smaller communes are tending to merge together in order to carry out their tasks more efficiently. Roughly one fifth of the communes have their own parliament, especially the communes that are towns or cities. Four fifths of the communes, however, still make direct democratic decisions at the communal assembly, where all inhabitants who are entitled to vote may participate. In other words, the People are not represented by councillors, but make decisions themselves and elect the communal parliament.

In addition to the tasks that are allocated to them by the Confederation and their canton, such as managing the registry of residents or organising civil defence, the communes also have their own responsibilities, including those relating to schools, social services, energy supplies, road construction, local planning, taxes, etc. The communes regulate these matters to a large extent independently.

The communes' level of autonomy is determined by the individual cantons, and can therefore vary considerably from place to place.



One of Bern's ● local radio stations may call itself Capital FM, but strictly speaking this grand name is not entirely justified. While Bern – with its population of around 130 000, the fourth largest town in Switzerland – may be the seat of government and home to the Federal Assembly, it was never officially named as the capital city.

This compromise was agreed by the Federal Assembly in 1848 following heated debate after Bern was chosen as the seat of government over the co-candidates of Zurich and Lucerne. As a consolation, the Federal Institute of Technology was established in Zurich and Lucerne became the seat of the Federal Insurance Court.



26 cantons The next largest political units are the states, which are known as cantons. They are the states that originally united in 1848 to form the Confederation, each relinquishing part of their sovereignty to the Confederation. Canton Jura is an exception. It is the only canton that was created in the 20th century. On 1 January 1979, it separated from Canton Bern to become a canton in its own right.

Under the Federal Constitution, all cantons have equal rights, and in comparison with the situation in other countries, they have a high degree of independence. Health care, education and culture are among the policy areas where they enjoy a large degree of latitude.

Each canton has its own constitution, and its own parliament, government and courts.

The size of the parliament varies between 58 and 180 members, who are all elected by the people, in most cantons by a system of proportional representation.

The 5 or 6-member governments are also all elected by the people; in 24 cantons by a simple majority system, while in Zug and Ticino the cantonal council is elected by proportional representation.

Direct democracy in the form of a People's Assembly still exists only in Appenzell Innerrhoden and Glarus. In all the other cantons, the people vote exclusively at the ballot box.



Basel ● is the third largest town in Switzerland after Zurich and Geneva. Together with the communes of Riehen and Bettingen, its territory, home to roughly 190 000 people, is the smallest (22.75km²) and most densely-populated (8350 inhabitants per km²) of Switzerland's cantons: Basel-Stadt.

This came about because in 1833, the communes on the left bank of the Rhine ceded from the centuries-long rule of the town and founded their own canton, Basel-Landschaft.



1 Confederation is the name given to the Swiss state. CH is the abbreviation of Switzerland’s official Latin name “Confoederatio Helvetica”. *Confoederatio* means “confederation” and *Helvetica* refers to the Helvetii, an ancient Celtic people who settled in the region of present-day Switzerland roughly 2000 years ago.

Switzerland has evolved over the course of more than seven hundred years from the alliance of the original three cantons, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, to today’s federal state that unites the various interests of the individual cantons with the collective interests of the country.

The Confederation has responsibilities in those areas where it is granted powers by the Constitution – for example in foreign and security policy, in customs and financial matters, in enacting legislation that applies throughout the country and in defence.

Tasks that are not expressly designated federal matters are the responsibility of the next highest political unit, i.e. the cantons.



It was only following the signing of the Federal Treaty in 1815 that the cross became Switzerland’s official coat of arms, although the old Swiss Confederates also used it as a battle standard – the earliest recorded occasion being at the Battle of Laupen in 1339. After that it was regularly sighted at battles as this illustration from Diebold Schilling’s Lucerne Chronicle shows. At the Battle of Nancy in 1477, crosses appeared on the standards of the individual states – today’s cantons – and were also sewn onto the soldiers’ clothes so that they could identify each other in the midst of fighting and distinguish themselves from the enemies of Burgundy.

The separation of powers

In Switzerland, the legislature, the executive and the judiciary are separate in terms of their personnel, but are only divided in terms of their function. This means that no-one may belong to more than one of the three federal authorities (parliament, government and the Supreme Court) at the same time; however, for practical purposes, each of the three authorities also carries out duties which, strictly speaking, fall within the competence of another power.

Who elects who?

In Switzerland, the People are the supreme political authority

Under the Federal Constitution, the people are the supreme political authority. The People comprises all adult men and women who hold Swiss citizenship, some 4.9 million citizens, and corresponds to almost two thirds of the resident population. People under the age of 18 and foreign nationals have no political rights at federal level.

The people elect the parliament: the legislature

The Swiss parliament, which is the legislative branch of the state, has two chambers: The National Council represents the Swiss population as a whole and the Council of States represents the 26 cantons; together, they constitute the United Federal Assembly.

> pages 22–39

Parliament elects the government: the executive

The Swiss government comprises the seven members of the Federal Council as well as the Federal Chancellor, who are each elected by the United Federal Assembly for a four-year term of office.

> pages 40–75

Parliament also elects the Supreme Court: the judiciary

The supreme judicial authorities are the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne and in Lucerne, together with its two courts of first instance: the Federal Criminal Court in Bellinzona and the Federal Administrative Court in Bern.

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One People, many rights

Switzerland is virtually the only country in the world where the people have such extensive decision-making powers. The longstanding democratic tradition, but also the comparatively small size of the population and the country, as well as a high literacy rate and sophisticated media services are crucial to the operation of this particular system of government. Swiss nationals have the following political rights at federal level:

Elections or *accumulating votes, vote splitting and crossing out votes* Every four years, the People elect the 200 members of the National Council. All Swiss citizens over the age of 18 may take part in elections, both actively and passively. In other words, they may cast their votes and stand for election themselves. Federal civil servants are required to choose between their profession and elected office should they be elected.

In the cantons with more than one seat in the National Council, eligible voters have a number of options to appoint their favourite candidates:

They may indicate the names of their preferred candidates in a *blank list*.

They may use a *preprinted list* of candidates provided by a specific party, with or without making any changes to the list.

The lists may be changed in three different ways, which may be combined:

Firstly, names can be *struck off the list*. Secondly, votes can be *split*, which means that votes are cast for members of different parties; in other words, a voter can take a name from one list and enter it on another list.

Thirdly, candidates may be *accumulated*, in other words, they can be entered twice on a list. Parties may also specify candidates twice (but no more than twice), thus accumulating votes in advance to enhance their election prospects.

The elections to the Council of States are not regulated at federal level, but all the cantons have settled for popular elections, so that all 246 federal members of parliament are elected directly by Swiss citizens.

Voting or *if you feel strongly about something* Those who are entitled to take part in parliamentary elections may also cast their vote in popular ballots, i.e. all Swiss citizens who have turned 18 and are not incapacitated on grounds of mental illness or mental debility.

Eligible voters are generally called on four times a year to vote on federal proposals. On average these votes involve three to four proposals that may be adopted or rejected; although in exceptional cases, there may be more than twice that many. Votes are held on people's initiatives and referendums:

The *mandatory referendum* applies to all amendments to the Constitution and proposals for membership of specific international organisations. This means that a popular vote *must* be held. The acceptance of such proposals needs what is known as the *double majority* – the proposal must be accepted firstly by the popular majority, i.e. the majority of the valid votes cast in the whole country, and secondly by the cantonal majority, i.e. voters must accept the proposal in a majority of the cantons.

Amendments to the constitution

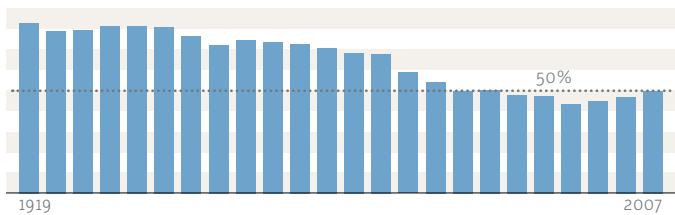
- > **mandatory referendum**

Amendments to legislation

- > **optional referendum**

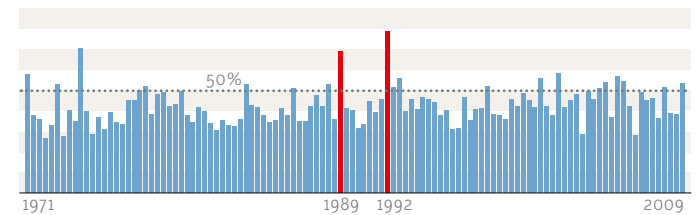
New laws and amendments to existing laws and similar parliamentary decisions, along with certain international treaties are only put to the vote if required by an *optional referendum*. A popular majority is sufficient for such a proposal to be accepted.

Voter turnout in National Council elections since 1919



Voter turnout has fallen significantly since the first National Council elections using the system of proportional representation were held in 1919. The two main reasons for the comparatively low voter turnout in Switzerland are firstly that voters have frequent opportunities to express their views at the ballot box, not only in elections, but also in votes at communal, cantonal and federal levels. Secondly, elections are not that decisive in this country because power-sharing understandings between the main parties preclude any change of government. Since the introduction of postal voting in 1994, there has been a slight increase in voter participation.

Voter turnout in federal votes since 1971



Voter turnout in recent years has averaged slightly over 40 per cent. Some proposals have drawn far more voters to the polling stations, such as the people's initiative for Switzerland without an Army (1989), which brought a 69% turnout and membership of the European Economic Area EEA (1992), which saw 78% of the electorate vote. Because Swiss citizens regularly have the opportunity to take part in decision making on political matters and other important issues, votes are more important in Switzerland than elections. Parliament in Switzerland has less influence than parliaments in countries that do not have direct democratic instruments.

Petition

Everyone – not just those eligible to vote – is entitled to address written requests, suggestions and complaints to the authorities.

The authorities in turn are required to take due note of such petitions, and although there is no law to say a response must be given, in practice every petition is considered and does receive a reply. The petition may relate to any activity of the State.

Popular initiatives or **Making law the Swiss way** Citizens may request that the People decide on an amendment they want to make to the Constitution. At federal level, unlike at cantonal level, it is impossible to request a new law or a new amendment.

For such an initiative to be accepted, the signatures of 100 000 voters who support the proposal must be collected within 18 months.

A popular initiative may be formulated as a general proposal or – much more often – be presented as a precisely formulated text whose wording can no longer be altered by parliament or the government.

Initiative:
Maximum time for collecting signatures
> 18 months
Required number of signatures:
> 100 000

The authorities sometimes respond to an initiative with a direct *counter-proposal* (generally less far-reaching) in the hope that the people and cantons will support that instead. Since 1987, the possibility of a *double “yes”* vote has existed in ballots on popular initiatives: voters may approve both the initiative and the counter-proposal. A deciding question determines which of the two texts will enter into force if both secure a popular majority and a majority of the cantons.

Popular initiatives do not originate from parliament or government, but from the People. They are regarded as the *driving force* behind direct democracy.

Referendums or **Voicing disagreement** The People are entitled to pronounce on parliamentary decisions after the event.

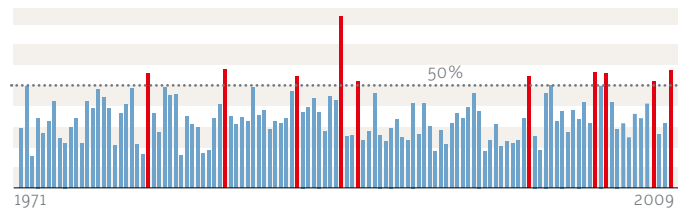
Federal legislation, decisions of parliament and certain international treaties are subject to an *optional referendum*: in this case, a popular ballot is held if 50 000 citizens so request. The signatures must be collected within 100 days of publication of the new legislation. The referendum is similar to a veto

and has the effect of delaying and safeguarding the political process by blocking amendments adopted by parliament or the government or delaying their effect – the referendum is therefore often described as a *brake* applied by the People.

Referendums also contribute to *political agreement* because they prompt parliament to include as many interested parties as possible in the debate on new laws or legislative amendments and thereby allow a compromise to be reached that is supported by a majority, and which is unlikely to fall victim to an optional referendum later on.

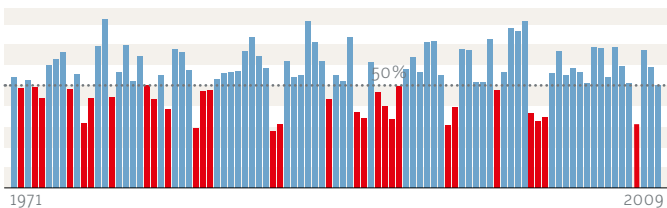
Referendum:
Maximum amount of time for collecting signatures
> 100 days
Required number of signatures:
> 50 000

Popular initiatives adopted and rejected since 1971



Of a total of 118 popular initiatives that were voted on over the past 30–40 years, only ten saw a large turnout at the ballot box – i.e. not even one out of ten. The vast majority of initiatives achieved less than 50% votes in favour and were rejected. Most of these initiatives are not, however, entirely ineffective. The concerns they address often give rise to broad debate and are eventually translated, at least partially, into new laws.

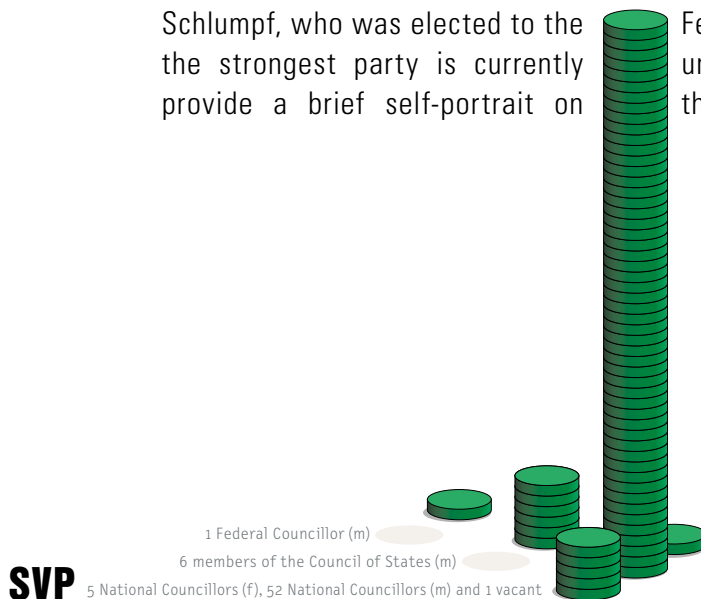
Optional referendums since 1971



Since 1971, referendum committees have been successful on 93 occasions. They have forced popular ballots on federal acts and decrees approved by parliament that they did not agree with, and have won the day 29 times at the ballot box, which amounts to an almost one in three level of success. The chart shows the percentage in favour at each of the different votes: less than 50% implies that the disputed legislation was rejected.

The four strongest political parties...

Political parties are groupings of like-minded people that have their own philosophies of life – in other words, particular views on political, social and economic issues, etc. They act as a link between the people and the institutions of the state and are essential for the functioning of a democracy. The party landscape in Switzerland is as varied as the country. Normally speaking the four strongest parties together constitute the government. However, because a grouping broke away from the SVP (Swiss People's Party) in 2008 to form the Conservative Democratic Party BDP and Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, who was elected to the Federal Council as an SVP member, joined the new party, the strongest party is currently underrepresented in the Federal Council. All twelve parties provide a brief self-portrait on the following pages.



SVP
Swiss People's Party

Party President: National Councillor **Toni Brunner**
 85 000 members
 Founded in 1917
www.svp.ch

The party was formed in 1971 from the union of the Swiss Farmers, Trade and Citizen's Party (BGB) and the Democratic Parties of the Cantons of Glarus and Graubünden and, with a 29% share of the vote, is Switzerland's strongest party. The SVP result in the parliamentary elections in 2007 was the best that any single party has ever achieved.

With the election of Ueli Maurer to the Federal Council on 10 December 2008, the SVP once again became part of the national government. However, given its support among the electorate, the party is underrepresented with only one Federal Councillor.

Our election promise – a “contract with the people”

The SVP is firmly committed to the concerns of its voters. The party stands for an independent, neutral Switzerland, a streamlined state, low taxes, a strong location for business with secure jobs and effective prevention of crime and of abuse of asylum and the social security system. The main points of the SVP's agenda for the current legislature were set out at a party conference in its “Contract with the people”:

- We do not wish to join the European Union
- We want to deport criminal foreign nationals
- We want to lower taxes for all

With this clear policy based on conservative values, the SVP wants to ensure prosperity for our country, jobs and a secure future in a free society.



SP
Swiss Social Democratic Party

Party President: National Councillor **Christian Levrat**
 35 000 members
 Founded in 1888
www.spschweiz.ch

The SP promotes social security and the fair distribution of wealth. All children deserve the same opportunities and prospects. Purchasing power for employees, families and people with low and middle incomes must be increased. The SP is a force that wants bring Switzerland forward and shape its future together with its representatives in government and a large number of committed people throughout Switzerland.

The SP focuses on three main areas:

- **Social justice – security and prospects for the future.** The SP advocates secure pensions. Anyone who is unable to make ends meet due to a turn of fate deserves support. For that reason, the SP is therefore committed to the provision of adequate unemployment and invalidity benefits. We firmly believe in creating equal opportunities for all through all day school provision, the promotion of early learning, apprenticeships and grants as well as places measures to achieve a good work-life balance.
- **Purchasing power – higher wages, lower prices.** The SP is committed to an increase in purchasing power. Our mission is to have sufficient wages, pensions and child allowances to ensure a decent living coupled with affordable health insurance and lower rents.
- **Energy supplies – promoting renewable energies.** CO₂ emissions have to be reduced by 30% by 2020. There is enormous potential for innovations and sustainable technologies which could create thousands of new jobs. The SP will oppose plans for new nuclear power stations.

FDP

FDP.The Liberals

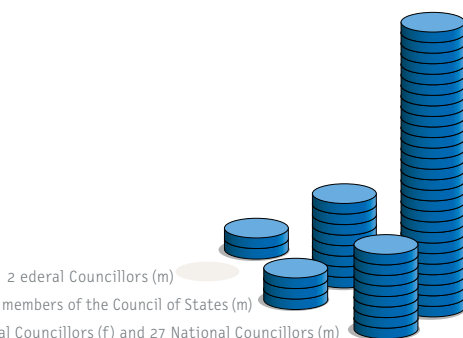


Party President: National Councillor **Fulvio Pelli** 130 000 members
 Founded in 1894 www.fdp.ch

In 2009 the Radical Free Democratic Party FDP Switzerland and the Swiss Liberal Party joined forces to become the FDP. The Liberals, thereby creating the youngest party in Switzerland with the longest tradition. FDP.The Liberals stands for freedom of choice and achievement in an open society of opportunity. All individuals should be able to shape their lives through personal initiative, personal responsibility, freedom and competition. The State provides the appropriate framework in the form of excellent educational institutions and infrastructure.

We want:

- *more and better jobs.* Instead of stimulus packages, we call for reforms to create 200 000 jobs by 2015: Europe's lowest rate of VAT of 5.5%, tax deductions for childcare (CHF 24 000 per year), individual taxation and a radical simplification of taxes.
- *national cohesion and solid social services.* Lessons must be learnt from the deficits of the invalidity Insurance fund. There is urgent need for the 6th revision of invalidity insurance, unemployment insurance should also be corrected without greatly increasing the cost of labour, the 11th revision of Old Age and Survivors' insurance should ensure its long-term safeguarding.
- *a streamlined, open state.* Today's debt is tomorrow's taxes. The debt brake should be extended to the social insurances. The State should focus on its core activities, such as education and security. Those should be its strengths.



CVP

Christian Democrat People's Party

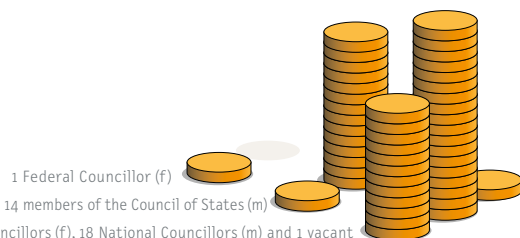


Party President: National Councillor **Christophe Darbellay** 100 000 members
 Founded in 1912 www.cvp.ch

The CVP is a business-oriented party. As a liberal and social force it strives to create a balance between individuals and society and between personal responsibility and solidarity. Our approach to coexistence is based on a Christian view of humankind and society. The CVP advocates the internal and external security of our country. These values are represented in the Federal Council by Doris Leuthard, the minister of economic affairs.

The CVP focuses on four main areas:

- It promotes Switzerland as a business location and financial centre with attractive levels of tax, excellent infrastructure and a high standard of education. We create and safeguard jobs and prosperity through Innovation.
- It strengthens families as a basis for our community. We are committed to creating better general conditions such as balance between working and family life, lower taxes and greater purchasing power for all families.
- It ensures the long-term safeguarding of the social security system: We consider its sustainable financing as the main challenge for the next 20 years. This can only be accomplished through targeted reforms and by avoiding unrealistic expansion or cutbacks.
- It pursues a sustainable climate and environmental policy. We are committed to preserving a habitable environment for future generations.



...as well as the eight other political parties in parliament

GPS

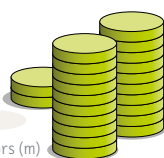
Swiss Green Party



Party President: 6500 members
National Councillor **Ueli Leuenberger** Founded in 1983 www.gruene.ch

The Swiss Green Party is the largest party that does not have a seat in the Federal Council. It is represented in almost every canton. Green Parties are represented in the governments of seven cantons and over 20 towns. The GPS is committed to preserving the environment, to a sustainable economy, social justice and international solidarity. Our goals for this legislature are: efficient climate protection and the abandonment of the use of nuclear power, the reorganisation of the economy along more environmental lines, the strengthening of social institutions and an active peace policy.

2 members of the Council of States (m)
10 National Councillors (f) and 10 National Councillors (m)



GLP

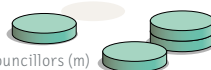
Swiss Green Liberal Party



Party President: 2000 members
National Councillor **Martin Bäümle** Founded in 2004 www.grunliberale.ch

A well-preserved environment is the very basis for our existence. We want to leave a thriving world behind without contaminated land so that future generations can also enjoy life. This includes healthy state finances and social institutions. The State should not accumulate debt and concentrate on its core activities. Sensible conditions allow the market to function effectively. Personal initiative, entrepreneurship, a sense of responsibility and solidarity are the cornerstones of a liberal society and should be supported, as should a high quality education system.

1 member of the Council of States (f)
1 National Councillor (f) and 2 National Councillors (m)



BDP

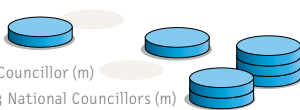
Conservative Democratic Party



Party President: 5500 members
National Councillor **Hans Grunder** Founded in 2008 www.bdp.tv

Founded on 1 November 2008, the BDP is the youngest Federal Council party. By March 2009, it had already gained enough members to achieve parliamentary group status in the Federal Assembly. The BDP advocates conservative policies where any subject can be discussed freely, where there is no personality cult and seeks an un-blinkered, solution-oriented approach. The BDP supports the bilateral path with the EU, a credible security policy and an economic policy compatible with environmental considerations. The party is represented in the Federal Council by Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf.

1 Federal Councillor (f)
1 National Councillor (m)
2 National Councillors (f) and 3 National Councillors (m)



EVP

Swiss Evangelical People's Party



Party President: 4800 members
Heiner Studer Founded in 1919 www.evppew.ch

Better support for families: the EVP aims to relieve the financial burden on families and where necessary to support them. The EVP therefore favours a child allowance that would replace all other payments or deductions and be financed by taxes.

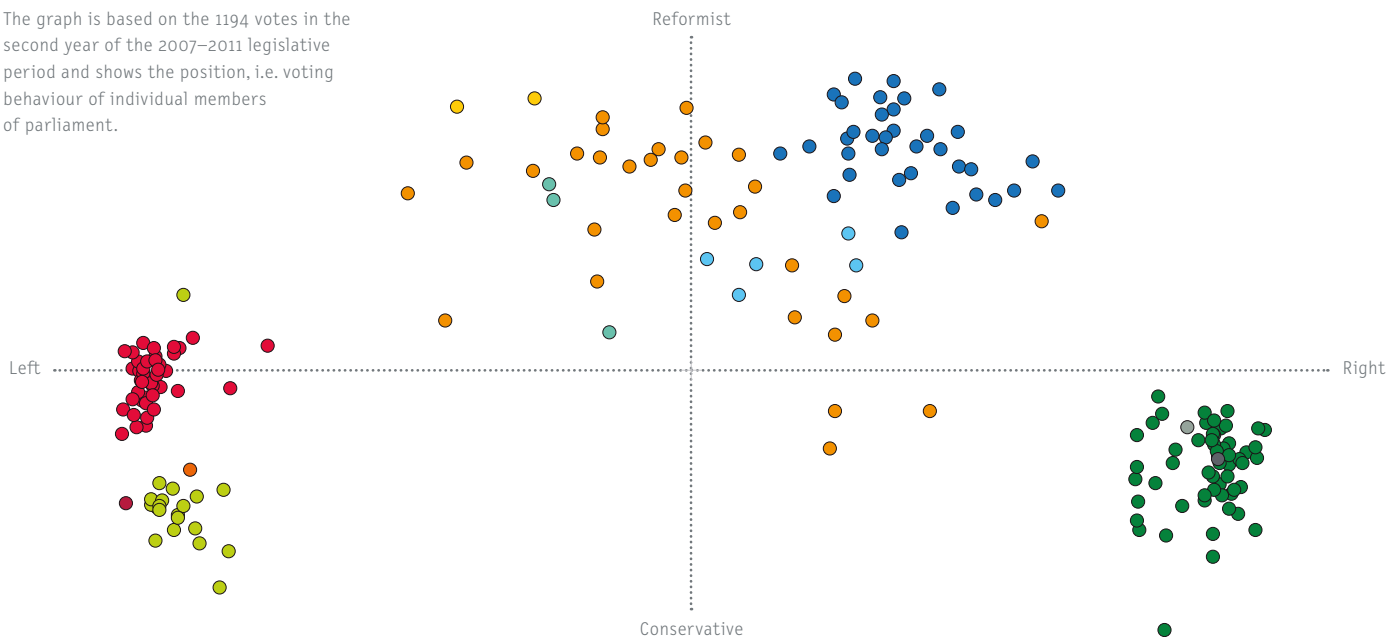
A fair economy: in other words, debt reduction, fair minimum and maximum wages, a simple tax system without loopholes and fair trade.

A healthy environment: the EVP intends to quickly reduce Switzerland's dependence on non-renewable energy sources. It therefore promotes the introduction of environmentally-friendly tax reforms and a CO₂ charge on fuels.

2 National Councillors (m)



The graph is based on the 1194 votes in the second year of the 2007–2011 legislative period and shows the position, i.e. voting behaviour of individual members of parliament.



CSP Christian Social Party

1 National Councillor (f)



Party President: **Monika Bloch Süss** 1500 members
Founded in 1997 www.csp-pcs.ch

Our policy is primarily aimed at safe and dignified lives for everyone. Our work focuses on sustainable activities for a well preserved environment, good educational opportunities, secure jobs and pensions. We feel ourselves responsible, along with others, for what happens at home and in the world at large. Our party is synonymous with solidarity and tolerance.

In a nutshell, this means: promotion of a sustainable energy policy (for example, no new nuclear power stations), a socially responsible economy, good schools and traineeships, jobs for all, solid social institutions and an active peace policy.

EDU Federal Democratic Union

1 National Councillor (m)



Party President: **Hans Moser** 2800 members
Founded in 1975 www.edu-schweiz.ch

True values and plain talking! The EDU seeks sustainable solutions and in its commitment to God, it promotes a free and constitutional Switzerland. The EDU does not follow the zeitgeist or the mainstream, but adheres to fundamental values, the word of God and the creation of the world and of mankind according to the Bible. The EDU encourages people to assume responsibility for their actions. The focal points of our policy include protection of human life at every stage of its existence as well as the environment and the private sphere, traditional marriage and family values, education and the labour market in Switzerland, balanced finances and debt reduction.

Lega Ticino League

1 vacant



Party President: **Giuliano Bignasca** 1500 members
Founded in 1991 www.legaticinesi.ch

Independence: economic and political globalisation is weakening Switzerland. Switzerland can however hold its own in a fragmented Europe if it safeguards its independence and its freedom.

Public services: the federal government must maintain its public services and ensure equal conditions for all people throughout the country. Privatisations should be avoided whenever possible.

Mobility: Ticino needs better connections to the rest of the country. The Gotthard route is stretched to capacity. Natural hazards and structural problems are jeopardising unlimited use of this route.

PdA Workers' Party

1 National Councillor (m)



Party President: **Nelly Buntschu** 2000 members
Founded in 1944 www.pda.ch

The PdA intends to work with all forces who oppose capitalism to free humankind from exploitation and oppression. It supports all people and movements that believe that a better world is possible and that are working towards achieving that goal. The PdA's commitment knows no frontiers, because its fight against injustice is worldwide.

PdA activists are present at all levels of Swiss politics and share a common goal, which is to make proposals to create a solidarity-based society, to promote personal development for all people and to protect the environment – in short, to create a genuinely socialist society.



THE LEGISLATURE: NATIONAL COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF STATES OR

The Swiss parliament



The two chambers of the Federal Assembly are not divided into parties but into parliamentary groups (see page 36). The SVP, which is the largest parliamentary group with its 70 members, meets in the most spacious conference room of the Federal Palace. This conference room is located on the top floor, directly above the chamber of the Council of States.

Membership of a parliamentary group is important. It is a prerequisite for membership of a committee. Members are paid an annual allowance from the federal budget and they are entitled to take the floor in parliamentary proceedings, while those who do not belong to a parliamentary group are not entitled to have their say in most debates.

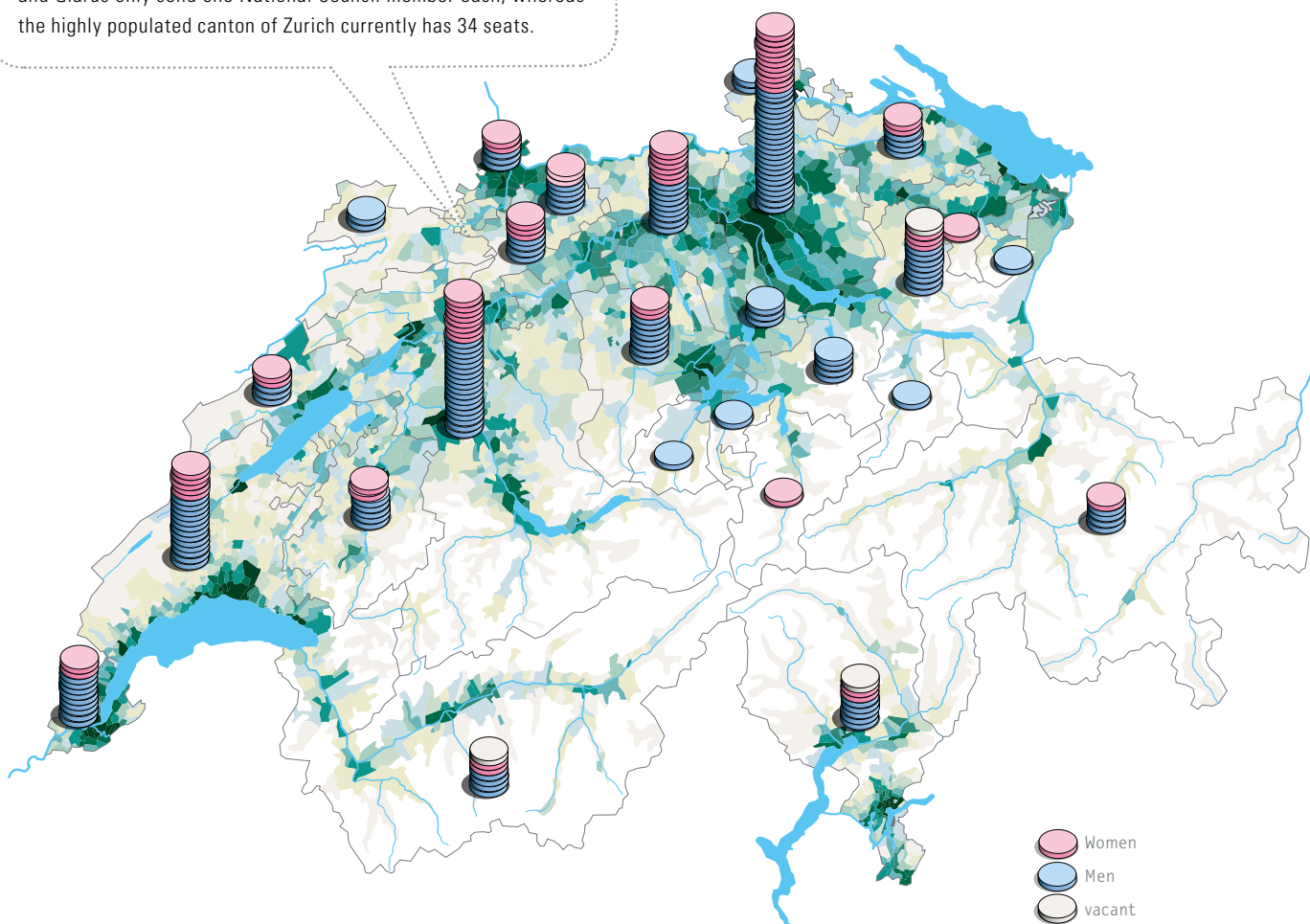
Parliamentary groups make it possible for their members to harmonise to the greatest extent possible their views on political matters and specifically on Council business, such as elections and votes, and to agree on a line that they can follow in parliament and in their dealings with the media and the public.

The two ways into parliament

Switzerland has a bicameral parliament: the Federal Chambers, which together constitute the United Federal Assembly. The National Council represents the overall population and the Council of States, the member states of the Confederation, i.e. the cantons. This system reflects the two principles on which the structure of the State is founded: the democratic principle, according to which every vote carries the same weight and the federalist principle, by which all cantons are treated equally. Both chambers are elected directly by the people: the National Council according to standard federal rules, the Council of States according to regulations which vary from canton to canton. In both instances, it is the cantons that are the electoral constituencies.

The people are represented in the National Council

The *large chamber* has 200 seats. The number of deputies from a canton depends on its population as recorded in the last census: for every 37 800 inhabitants or so, there is one member on the National Council. However, because the Federal Constitution guarantees one seat per canton, Appenzell Innerrhoden, which has only around 15 000 inhabitants, also sends a people's representative to the Federal Palace. Similarly, the neighbouring canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden and the cantons of Obwalden and Nidwalden, Uri and Glarus only send one National Council member each, whereas the highly populated canton of Zurich currently has 34 seats.



Proportional representation or majority vote

Seats are allocated in the *National Council* according to the system of *proportional representation*. It is called this because the seats are allocated in proportion to the share of votes cast.

In National Council elections, the votes for each party are counted first, as they determine the number of seats that a party is allocated. Then the candidates with the most votes within the parties are elected.

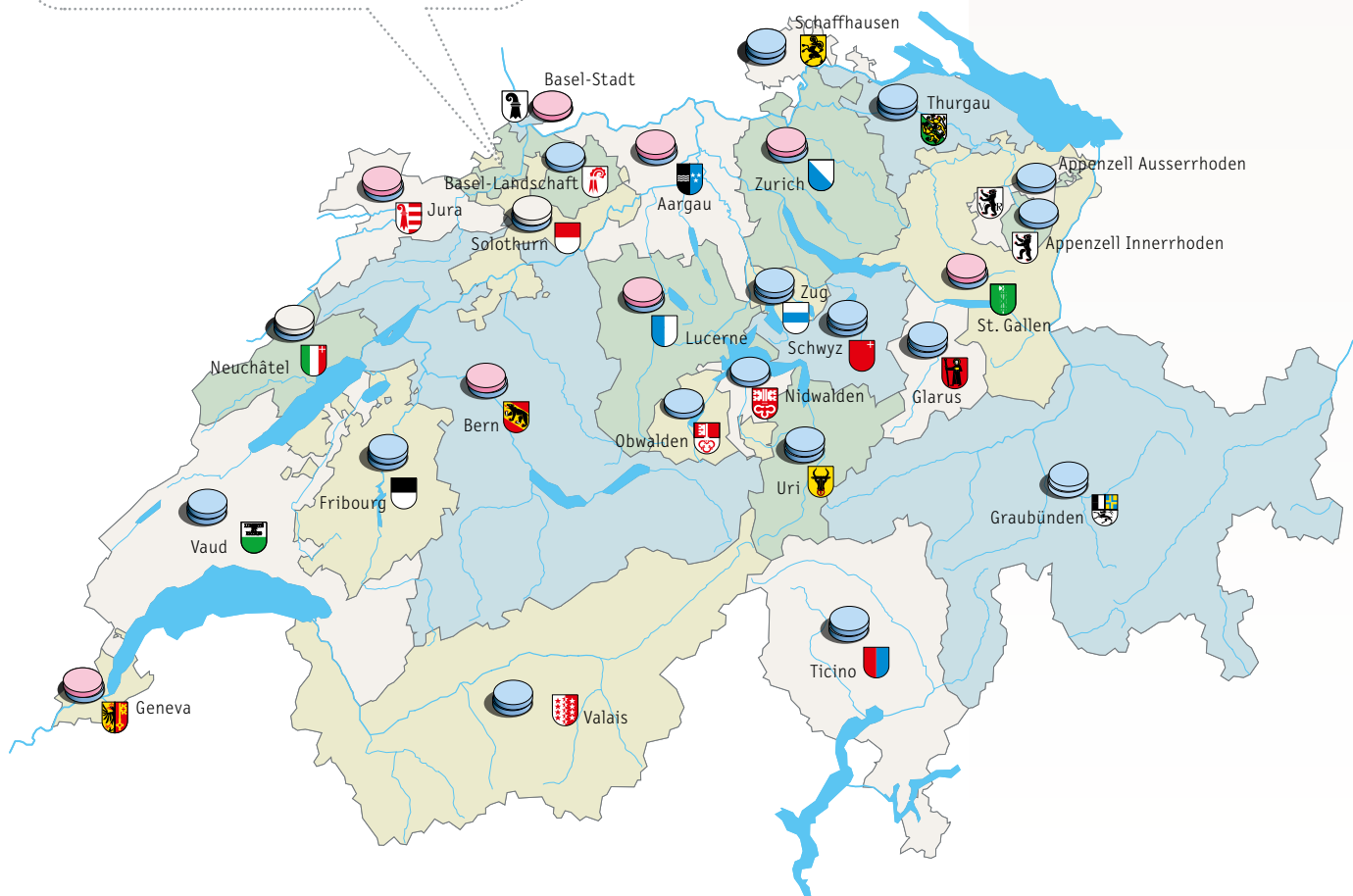
Of course an election by proportional representation only works if there is more than one seat to be allocated. In cantons with only one seat on the National Council there is a *majority vote (first past the post)*: the person with the most votes is elected.

With the exception of canton Jura, elections to the *Council of States* are also held in all cantons according to the first-past-the-post system. This procedure naturally favours large parties or leading figures with a high public profile. Minorities go away empty-handed.

The cantons are represented in the Council of States

The *small chamber* has 46 seats. Irrespective of its population, each canton sends two representatives to the Council, with the exception of the six former half-cantons, which only have one deputy each.

The Council of States members represent their cantons but are not bound by any instructions from them, whether from the cantonal governments or parliaments.



Representing Switzerland's 7.5m inhabitants

ZH		Max Binder SVP 1947 1991 2, 8	1	ZH		Filippo Leutenegger FDP 1952 2003 6, 12	26	BE		Pierre Triponez FDP 1943 1999–03, 07	51	OW		Christoph von Rotz SVP 1966 2007 8	76
ZH		Toni Bortoluzzi SVP 1947 1991 5, 7	2	ZH		Ruedi Noser FDP 1961 2003 4	27	BE		Christian Wasserfallen FDP 1981 2007 2, 6	52	NW		Edi Engelberger FDP 1940 1995 7, 10	77
ZH		Hans Fehr SVP 1947 1995 10	3	ZH		Martin Bäumle GLP 1964 2003 1, 6	28	BE		Theres Frösch GPS 1951 2003 2	53	GL		Martin Landolt BDP 1968 2009 1	78
ZH		Alfred Heer SVP 1961 2007 11	4	ZH		Tiana Angelina Moser GLP 1979 2007 3, 4	29	BE		Franziska Teuscher GPS 1958 1995 6, 8	54	ZG		Josef Lang GPS 1954 2003 3, 7	79
ZH		Hans Kaufmann SVP 1948 1999 9, 11	5	ZH		Thomas Weibel GLP 1954 2007 2, 5	30	BE		Alec von Grafenried GPS 1962 2007 11	55	ZG		Gerhard Pfister CVP 1962 2003 10	80
ZH		Christoph Mörgeli SVP 1960 1999 3, 4	6	ZH		Urs Hany CVP 1955 2006 8, 12	31	BE		Hans Grunder BDP 1956 2007 6	56	ZG		Marcel Scherer SVP 1952 1999 5, 12	81
ZH		Natalie Simone Rickli SVP 1976 2007 8	7	ZH		Kathy Riklin CVP 1952 1999 3, 4	32	BE		Ursula Haller BDP 1948 1999 3, 7	57	FR		Dominique de Buman CVP 1956 2003 9	82
ZH		Hans Rutschmann SVP 1947 2004 6, 12	8	ZH		Barbara Schmid Federer CVP 1965 2007 11	33	BE		Walter Donzé EVP 1946 2000 7, 10	58	FR		Thérèse Meyer-Kaelin CVP 1948 1999 5, 10	83
ZH		Ernst Schibli SVP 1952 2001 1, 10	9	ZH		Ruedi Aeschbacher EVP 1941 1999 8, 11	34	BE		Norbert Hochreutener CVP 1946 1995–99, 03 8, 11	59	FR		Christian Levrat SP 1970 2003 1, 8	84
ZH		Ulrich Schläpfer SVP 1944 1995–07, 09 3, 7	10	BE		Andreas Aebi SVP 1958 2007 3	35	BE		Andreas Brännimann EDU 1955 2009 1	60	FR		Jean-François Steiert SP 1961 2007 4	85
ZH		Jürg Stahl SVP 1968 1999 3, 5	11	BE		Adrian Amstutz SVP 1953 2003 6	36	LU		Yvette Estermann SVP 1967 2007 3, 5	61	FR		Jacques Bourgeois FDP 1958 2007 6	86
ZH		Bruno Zuppiger SVP 1952 1999 1, 7	12	BE		Andrea Martina Geissbühler SVP 1976 2007 10, 11	37	LU		Josef Kunz SVP 1945 1995 1, 4	62	FR		Jean-François Rime SVP 1950 2003 9	87
ZH		Jacqueline Fehr SP 1963 1998 5, 8	13	BE		Jean-Pierre Graber SVP 1946 2007 1	38	LU		Felix Müri SVP 1958 2003 4	63	FR		Marie-Thérèse Weber-Gobet CSP 1957 2008 2, 5	88
ZH		Mario Fehr SP 1958 1999 3, 4	14	BE		Rudolf Joder SVP 1950 1999 10	39	LU		Ida Glanzmann-Hunkeler CVP 1958 2006 2, 7	64	SO		Elvira Bader CVP 1955 1999 2, 6	89
ZH		Chantalé Galladé SP 1972 2003 3, 4	15	BE		Simon Schenk SVP 1946 1994 4, 8	40	LU		Ruedi Lustenberger CVP 1950 1999 2, 6	65	SO		Pirmin Bischof CVP 1959 2007 9	90
ZH		Christine Goll SP 1956 1991 2, 5	16	BE		Erich von Siebenthal SVP 1958 2007 2, 12	41	LU		Plus Segmüller CVP 1952 2007 7	66	SO		Roland F. Borer SVP 1951 1991 5, 7	91
ZH		Andreas Gross SP 1952 1991 10	17	BE		Hansruedi Wandfluh SVP 1952 1999 9	42	LU		Otto Ineichen FDP 1941 2003 4	67	SO		Walter Wobmann SVP 1957 2003 3, 10	92
ZH		Daniel Jositsch SP 1965 2007 11	18	BE		Evi Allemann SP 1978 2003 7, 8	43	LU		Georges Theiler FDP 1949 1995 9	68	SO		Kurt Fluri FDP 1955 2003 10, 11	93
ZH		Anita Thanei SP 1954 1995 11	19	BE		André Daguét SP 1947 2003 2, 11	44	LU		Louis Schelbert GPS 1952 2006 1, 9	69	SO		Bea Heim SP 1946 2003 1, 10, 12	94
ZH		Marlies Bänziger GPS 1960 2007 1	20	BE		Margret Kiener Nellen SP 1953 2003 1	45	LU		Hans Widmer SP 1941 1996 7	70	SO		Brigit Wyss GPS 1960 2007 2, 11	95
ZH		Bastien Girod GPS 1980 2007 6	21	BE		Ricardo Lumengo SP 1962 2007 7	46	UR		Gabi Huber FDP 1956 2003 8, 11	71	BS		Rudolf Rechsteiner SP 1958 1995 3, 6	96
ZH		Katharina Prelicz-Huber GPS 1959 2008 4, 5	22	BE		Hans Stöckli SP 1952 2004 10, 12	47	SZ		Peter Föhn SVP 1952 1995 8	72	BS		Silvia Schenker SP 1954 2003 5, 10	97
ZH		Daniel Vischer GPS 1950 2003 1, 11	23	BE		Ursula Wyss SP 1973 1999 1, 6	48	SZ		Pirmin Schwander SVP 1961 2003 1, 11	73	BS		Jean-Henri Dunant SVP 1934 1999 5	98
ZH		Doris Fiala FDP 1957 2007 3, 4	24	BE		Christa Markwalder Bär FDP 1975 2003 3, 11	49	SZ		Andy Tschümperlin SP 1962 2007 10	74	BS		Anita Lachenmeier-Thüring GPS 1959 2007 7, 8	99
ZH		Markus Hutter FDP 1957 2003 1, 8	25	BE		Johann N. Schneider-Ammann FDP 1952 1999 9	50	SZ		Reto Wehrli CVP 1965 2003 3, 5	75	BS		Peter Malama FDP 1960 2007 4, 7	100

The captions below the names refer to (from left to right) political party affiliation, year of birth, year of election to the Council and the committees (see pp 34–35) on which the council member sits. The numbering of members of the National

Council from 1 to 200, and of the Council of States from 1 to 46 (see over) is intended as an aid: It can also be found on the pages showing the chamber seating plan (29–31).

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

BL		Caspar Baader SVP 1953 1998 9	101	GR		Sep Cathomas CVP 1945 2003 2, 6	126	TI		Ignazio Cassis FDP 1961 2007 5	151	VS		Viola Amherd CVP 1962 2005 8, 11	176
BL		Christian Miesch SVP 1948 1991–95, 03 2, 7	102	GR		Tarzislus Caviezel FDP 1954 2007 8	127	TI		Fulvio Pelli FDP 1951 1995 9	152	VS		Christophe Darbellay CVP 1971 2003 9	177
BL		Susanne Leutenegger Oberholzer SP 1948 1987–91, 99 9, 11	103	GR		Andrea Hämmerle SP 1946 1991 8	128	TI		Marina Carobbio Guscetti SP 1966 2007 1	153	VS		Roberto Schmidt CVP 1962 2007 10	178
BL		Eric Nussbaumer SP 1960 2007 6	104	AG		Sylvia Flückiger-Bäni SVP 1952 2007 9	129	TI		Fabio Pedrina SP 1954 1999 8	154	VS		vacant CVP	179
BL		Kathrin Amacker-Amann CVP 1962 2007 3	105	AG		Lieni Füglistaller SVP 1951 2005 1, 4	130	TI		Meinrado Robbiani CVP 1951 1999 5	155	VS		Oskar Freysinger SVP 1960 2003 4, 11	180
BL		Maya Graf GPS 1962 2001 4, 5	106	AG		Ulrich Giezendanner SVP 1953 1991 8	131	TI		Chiara Simoneschi-Cortesi CVP 1946 1999 4, 8	156	VS		Jean-René Germanier FDP 1958 2003 8	181
BL		Hans Rudolf Gysin FDP 1940 1987	107	AG		Walter Glur SVP 1943 1999 2	132	TI		vacant LegA	157	VS		Stéphane Rossini SP 1963 1999 2, 5	182
SH		Hans-Jürg Fehr SP 1948 1999 3, 9	108	AG		Hans Killer SVP 1948 2007 6, 12	133	VD		André Bugnon SVP 1947 1999 8, 10	158	NE		Laurent Favre FDP 1972 2007 6	183
SH		Thomas Hurter SVP 1963 2007 7	109	AG		Luzi Stamm SVP 1952 1991 3, 11	134	VD		Alice Glauser-Zufferey SVP 1954 2007 2, 4	159	NE		Sylvie PerrinJaquet FDP 1955 2007 4, 7	184
AR		Marianne Kleiner FDP 1947 2003 1, 5	110	AG		Pascale Bruderer Wyss SP 1977 2002 4	135	VD		Jean-Pierre Grin SVP 1947 2007 1	160	NE		Francine John-Calame GPS 1954 2005 3	185
AI		Arthur Loepfe CVP 1942 1999 1, 7	111	AG		Max Chopard-Acklin SP 1966 2009	136	VD		Guy Parmelin SVP 1959 2003 5, 6	161	NE		Jacques-André Maire SP 1957 2009 2	186
SG		Elmar Bigger SVP 1949 1999 6, 12	112	AG		Doris Stump SP 1950 1995 6	137	VD		Pierre-François Veillon SVP 1950 2003 2	162	NE		Yvan Perrin SVP 1966 2003 7, 10	187
SG		Toni Brunner SVP 1974 1995 6	113	AG		Esther Egger-Wyss CVP 1952 2007 1	138	VD		Josiane Aubert SP 1949 2007 4	163	GE		Martine Brunschwig Graf FDP 1950 2003 1, 3	188
SG		Theophil Pfister SVP 1942 1999 4	114	AG		Ruth Humbel Näf CVP 1957 2003 5, 10	139	VD		Ada Marra SP 1973 2007 10	164	GE		Hugues Hiltbold FDP 1969 2007 10	189
SG		Lukas Reimann SVP 1982 2007 11	115	AG		Markus Zemp CVP 1954 2006 9	140	VD		Roger Nordmann SP 1973 2004 6	165	GE		Christian Lüscher FDP 1963 2007 11	190
SG		vacant SVP	116	AG		Corina Eichenberger-Walther FDP 1954 2007 2, 7	141	VD		Eric Voruz SP 1945 2007 7	166	GE		Jean-Charles Rielle SP 1952 2007 5	191
SG		Jakob Büchler CVP 1952 2003 7, 12	117	AG		Philipp Müller FDP 1952 2003 9	142	VD		Daniel Brélaz GPS 1950 1979–89, 2007 8	167	GE		Maria Roth-Bernasconi SP 1955 1995–99, 2003 2, 12	192
SG		Lucrezia Meier-Schatz CVP 1952 1999 9	118	AG		Geri Müller GPS 1960 2003 3, 7	143	VD		Adèle Thorens Goumaz GPS 1971 2007 9	168	GE		Carlo Sommaruga SP 1959 2003 3, 11	193
SG		Thomas Müller CVP 1952 2006 1	119	TG		J. Alexander Baumann SVP 1942 1995 2	144	VD		Christian van Singer GPS 1950 2007 6, 12	169	GE		Antonio Hodggers GPS 1976 2007 10	194
SG		Hildegard Fässler-Osterwalder SP 1951 1997 9	120	TG		Peter Spuhler SVP 1959 1999 9	145	VD		Charles Favre FDP 1957 1999 9	170	GE		Ueli Leuenberger GPS 1952 2003 10	195
SG		Paul Rechsteiner SP 1952 1986 5, 9	121	TG		Hansjörg Walter SVP 1951 1999 9	146	VD		Olivier François FDP 1955 2007 2, 12	171	GE		Yves Nidegger SVP 1957 2007 11	196
SG		Yvonne Gilli GPS 1957 2007 4, 5	122	TG		Edith Graf-Litscher SP 1964 2005 8	147	VD		Isabelle Moret FDP 1970 2006 2, 10	172	GE		André Reymond SVP 1940 2003 3	197
SG		Walter Müller FDP 1948 2003 3, 7	123	TG		Brigitte Häberli-Koller CVP 1958 2003 1, 4	148	VD		Claude Ruy FDP 1949 1999 5	173	GE		Luc Barthassat CVP 1960 2005 3	198
GR		Brigitta M. Gadiant BDP 1960 1995 2	124	TG		Werner Messmer FDP 1945 1999 6	149	VD		Jacques Neiryneck CVP 1931 1999–2003, 07 4	174	JU		Dominique Baettig SVP 1953 2007 5	199
GR		Hansjörg Hassler BDP 1953 1999 9	125	TI		Fabio Abate FDP 1966 2000 1	150	VD		Josef Zisyadis PdA 1956 1991–96, 99 9, 10	175	JU		Jean-Claude Rennwald SP 1953 1995 9	200

























































































Representing the 26 cantons

Why some cantons only have one seat on the Council of States

Six cantons which once formed three entities and then subsequently divided used to be considered half-cantons.

These are Obwalden and Nidwalden, which divided well before the founding of the Swiss Confederation in 1291, Appenzell, which divided in 1597 on religious grounds into catholic Innerrhoden and protestant Ausserrhoden, and Basel, which suffered a violent split in 1833: the rebellious Basel Landschaft broke away from the once dominant Basel Stadt.

This is why these cantons only have one seat in the Council of States and only half a cantonal vote in votes on amendments to the Swiss Constitution.

ZH		Verena Diener 1	GL		Pankraz Freitag 13	AR		Hans Altherr 25	VD		Luc Recordon 37
		 1949 2007 6, 8, 11			 1952 2008 1, 10, 11			 1950 2004 1, 5, 7			 1955 2007 3, 7, 11
ZH		Felix Gutzwiller 2	GL		This Jenny 14	AI		Ivo Bischofberger 26	VD		Géraldine Savary 38
		 1948 2007 3, 4, 5			 1952 1998 1, 6, 8			 1958 2007 3, 4, 6			 1968 2007 4, 8, 11
BE		Werner Luginbühl 3	ZG		Peter Bieri 15	SG		Eugen David 27	VS		Jean-René Fournier 39
		 1958 2007 4, 9, 11			 1952 1995 4, 7, 8			 1945 1999 3, 5, 9			 1957 2007 1, 3, 7
BE		Simonetta Sommaruga 4	ZG		Rolf Schweizer 16	SG		Erika Forster-Vannini 28	VS		René Imoberdorf 40
		 1960 2003 5, 6, 9			 1945 1999 1, 6, 9, 11			 1944 1995 5, 6, 9			 1950 2007 2, 6, 8
LU		Konrad Graber 5	FR		Alain Berset 17	GR		Christoffel Brändli 29	NE		Didier Berberat 41
		 1958 2007 2, 8, 9			 1972 2003 1, 9, 11			 1943 1995 5, 6, 8			 1956 2009 1, 3, 9
LU		Helen Leumann-Würsch 6	FR		Urs Schwaller 18	GR		Theo Maissen 30	NE		vacant 42
		 1943 1995 2, 4, 9			 1952 2003 1, 5, 10			 1944 1995 3, 4, 7			
UR		Hansheiri Inderkum 7	SO		Rolf Büttiker 19	AG		Christine Egerszegi-Obrist 31	GE		Robert Cramer 43
		 1947 1995 6, 10, 11			 1950 1991 6, 8, 10			 1948 2007 5, 8, 10			 1954 2007 2, 6, 10
UR		Hansruedi Stadler 8	SO		vacant 20	AG		Maximilian Reimann 32	GE		Liliane Maury Pasquier 44
		 1953 1999 2, 4, 11						 1942 1995 2, 3, 10			 1956 2007 3, 4, 5
SZ		Bruno Frick 9	BS		Anita Fetz 21	TG		Hermann Bürgi 33	JU		Claude Héche 45
		 1953 1991 5, 7, 9			 1957 2003 1, 4, 5			 1946 1999 4, 7, 11			 1952 2007 2, 7, 8, 10
SZ		Alex Kuprecht 10	BL		Claude Janiak 22	TG		Philipp Stähelin 34	JU		Anne Seydoux-Christe 46
		 1957 2003 2, 5, 7			 1948 2007 2, 8, 11			 1944 1999 1, 5, 9			 1958 2007 2, 3, 4, 11
OW		Hans Hess 11	SH		Peter Briner 23	TI		Filippo Lombardi 35			
		 1945 1998 7, 8			 1943 1999 2, 3, 10			 1956 1999 2, 6, 8, 10			
NW		Paul Niederberger 12	SH		Hannes Germann 24	TI		Dick Marty 36			
		 1948 2007 1, 7, 10			 1956 2002 1, 3, 9, 10			 1945 1995 3, 9, 11			

The captions below the names refer to (from left to right) political party affiliation, year of birth, year of election to the Council and the committees (see pp 34–35) on which the council member sits.

Other rules apply to Swiss people living abroad

Swiss citizens living abroad have the option of being registered in Switzerland on the electoral roll – either in their home commune or in their former commune of residence. This gives them the right to vote and take part in elections at federal level and even to be elected to the National Council.

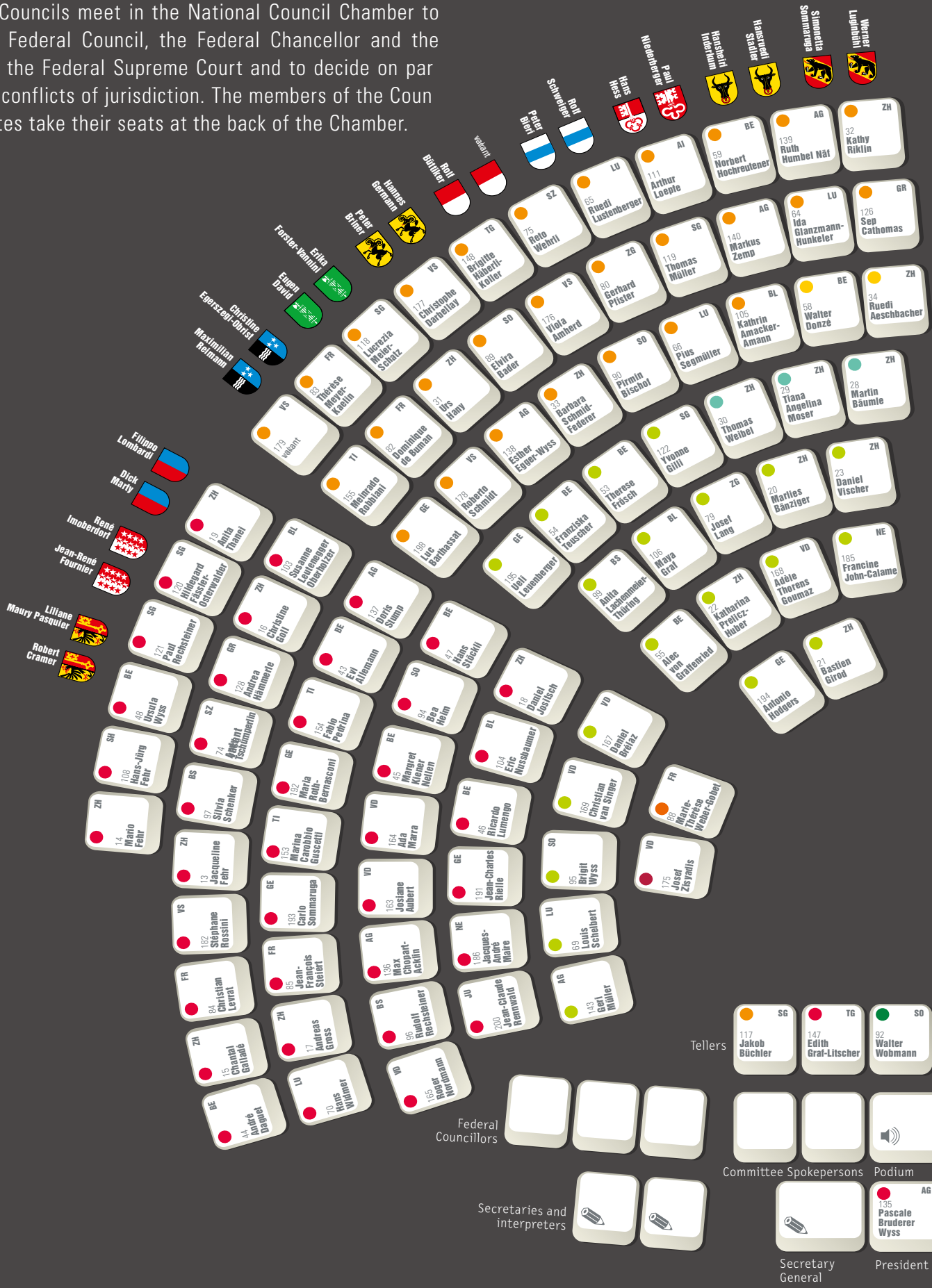
However, depending on where they are registered, Swiss people living abroad may or may not be able to take part in elections to the Council of States, depending on what their cantonal law provides.

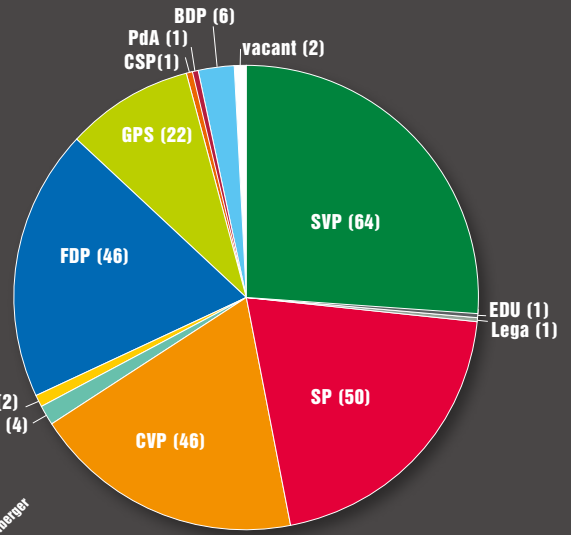
Swiss people living abroad only have full political rights in ten cantons where they can take part in National Council and Council of States elections and can also have their say on federal and cantonal matters. These cantons are Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Graubünden, Jura, Schwyz, Solothurn, Ticino, Basel Landschaft and Neuchâtel: in the last two cantons they are even allowed to have a say in the affairs of the commune.



Number of voting papers distributed: 246

The two Councils meet in the National Council Chamber to elect the Federal Council, the Federal Chancellor and the judges of the Federal Supreme Court and to decide on pardons and conflicts of jurisdiction. The members of the Council of States take their seats at the back of the Chamber.





Tellers

- 166 Eric Voruz (VD)
- 174 Jacques Neiryck (VD)
- 183 Laurent Favre (NE)
- 161 Guy Parmelin (VD)
- 77 Edi Engelberger (NW)
- 181 Jean-René Germanier (VS)
- 146 Hansjörg Walter (TG)
- 156 Chiara Simoneschi-Cortesi (TI)

1st Vice-president: Jean-René Germanier

2nd Vice-President: Hansjörg Walter

Federal Councillors

- 130 Lienhard Föllmi (AG)
- 137 Ulrich Giezendanner (AG)
- 145 Peter Sommer (TG)
- 139 Urs Schwaller (UR)
- 131 Jörg Stähli (ZH)
- 111 Jürg Stähli (ZH)
- 110 Ulrich Steiner (ZH)
- 41 Erich Steinhalp (BE)
- 129 Sylvia Föllmi (AG)
- 128 Christoph Mordell (ZH)
- 6 Christoph Mordell (ZH)
- 10 Ulrich Schuler (ZH)
- 72 Peter Thom (SZ)
- 35 Andreas Aebi (BE)
- 129 Sylvia Föllmi (AG)
- 128 Christoph Mordell (ZH)
- 6 Christoph Mordell (ZH)
- 10 Ulrich Schuler (ZH)
- 72 Peter Thom (SZ)
- 35 Andreas Aebi (BE)
- 129 Sylvia Föllmi (AG)
- 128 Christoph Mordell (ZH)
- 6 Christoph Mordell (ZH)
- 10 Ulrich Schuler (ZH)
- 72 Peter Thom (SZ)
- 35 Andreas Aebi (BE)

What “our people in Bern” are doing

The members of the National Council and the Council of States each have a series of more or less effective instruments to assert their opinion or to pass on that of their electors. They can propose legislative amendments, ask the Federal Council critical questions or assign it work to do.

Frequency and duration of parliamentary sessions

The National Council and the Council of States usually meet for an ordinary three-week session in spring, summer, autumn and winter. Committee meetings are held between sessions.

Part-time politicians

The 246 members of the National Council and the Council of States devote an average of 60–75 per cent of their working hours to their parliamentary duties. Generally, they also have another job. This arrangement where representatives take on public tasks and mandates on a part-time basis is known in Switzerland as the *militia system*. The representatives’ double workload regularly gives rise to calls for a full-time parliament.

On the other hand, some say that part-time members of parliament are closer to the people and that their professional knowledge is a valuable contribution to political debates.

Sessions in 2010

Spring session: 1 – 19 March
Summer session: 31 May – 18 June
Autumn session: 13 September – 1 October
Winter session: 29 November – 17 December
(8 December: election of the President of the Confederation and the Vice-President of the Federal Council)
Special session: 3 – 7 May

The main tasks

Legislation: The National Council and the Council of States constitute the legislature, which is the legislative power in Switzerland. The two chambers, together referred to as the Federal Assembly, debate all constitutional amendments before they are put to the popular vote. In addition, they prepare, amend or repeal federal acts, draw up federal decrees and approve international treaties. (See also “How new laws are made” on pages 38/39)

Elections: The two parliamentary chambers sit together as the United Federal Assembly in order to elect the members of the Federal Council, the Federal Chancellor and the judges to the federal courts. Each year during the winter session, it elects the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Vice-President of the Federal Council from among the seven members of the Federal Council.

In the event of a military threat to the country, the United Federal Assembly also appoints a General as commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Control: The Federal Assembly is responsible for the overall supervision of the federal administration; It decides, among other things, on the federal government’s budget – the level of revenues and expenditure. It also examines and approves the federal accounts.

Instruments

By making a **proposal**, members can make amendments to pending issues under discussion.

Parliamentary initiatives enable a member to submit a draft bill for an act or to propose in general terms that such a text be drafted. All legislative work takes place in a committee. Parliamentary initiatives are subject to a preliminary examination.

A motion obliges the Federal Council to submit a specific draft bill or decree or to take appropriate measures. A motion requires the approval of both chambers.

A postulate is a form of request requiring the Federal Council to examine and report on whether an act or decree needs to be drafted or if other measures need to be taken.

A postulate can also require the Federal Council to present a report on another issue. A postulate is binding once it is approved by one of the two chambers.

An interpellation enables members of the Federal Assembly to request information on important events or matters relating to foreign or domestic policy affecting the Confederation. A debate can be requested on the response given by the Federal Council.

An ordinary question, in the same way as an interpellation, enables members to request information on important events or matters relating to foreign or domestic policy affecting the Confederation. However, contrary to interpellations, ordinary questions are not put before the Federal Council, but are answered in writing by the Federal Council.

Question time is a procedure used only by the National Council to deal with current issues. During question time, members of the Federal Council appear before the National Council to respond to questions from Council members. Question time, which lasts no longer than 90 minutes, takes place at the beginning of the second and third weeks of sessions.

In addition to Council members, committees and parliamentary groups can also submit parliamentary initiatives and interventions. They can be signed by one or more Council members.

Midway through the 48th legislative period

Since the beginning of the 48th legislative period (winter session 2007) the members of the National Council and the Council of States have submitted a total of 3478 parliamentary requests up to and including the autumn session 2009.

- 217 parliamentary initiatives
- 937 motions
- 283 postulates
- 747 interpellations
- 327 simple enquiries and
- 967 written questions as part of question time in the National Council.

Tackling items of business

Committees are responsible for preparing items of business and formulating recommendations for their respective Council. They work closely with the Federal Council. In accordance with the Parliament Act, the committees should also monitor social and political developments in their fields of expertise and make proposals as to how new challenges could be tackled and problems solved.

Who does what and where

Both chambers each have twelve standing committees: two *supervisory committees* and ten *legislative committees*.

Their composition depends on the strength of the parliamentary groups. National languages and national regions are, as far as possible, taken into due consideration. A National Council committee has 25 members* and a Council of States committee has 13. Thus, a member of the National Council sits on one or two committees and a member of the Council of States on three or four.

The term of office for committee members is four years with the option of being re-elected. The term of office for committee chairpersons is limited to two years.

* Because a new method for calculating the allocation of committee seats has been in place since 2009, a transitional system is being used until the end of the 2007–2011 legislative period under which ten additional committee seats are available in order to prevent underrepresentation.

Work and importance of committees

In contrast to National Council and Council of States sessions, committee meetings are not public. The *in camera* consultations usually foster an open discussion between members, making it easier to find mutual solutions. The committees then brief the media after their meetings.

Members who have been unable to voice their concerns in the committee can subsequently submit minority proposals at the plenary session.

The councils tend to deal with their own committees' proposals; the most important principles to be followed are therefore set out in the advisory committees.

The committees meet on average for three to four days every quarter. Here the National Council Committee for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy is at work.



The ten legislative committees are concerned with legislation in their specific fields. The Committee for Public Buildings exists in the National Council, but not in the Council of States.

Supervisory committees and delegations

1 | The Finance Committees monitor the federal government's spending, review the federal government's budget and public accounts, and examine proposals for future spending. They are divided into sub-committees that scrutinise the finances of the seven departments. The Finance Delegation, made up of three National Council representatives and three Council of States representatives, continually monitors and supervises the federal government's finances. The NRLA **Supervisory Delegation** carries out overall parliamentary supervision of the construction of the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA).

2 | The Control Committees exercise overall parliamentary supervision. They fulfil their tasks by carrying out inspections and visiting agencies, commissioning the **Parliamentary Administration Control** to carry out evaluations, reviewing the reports on Federal Council business, the business of the federal courts and the annual reports of other bodies given tasks by the Confederation (Swiss Federal Banking Commission, the Federal Institutes of Technology, etc.). They deal with supervision requests submitted by third parties and follow up implementation of recommendations and other parliamentary interventions addressed to the Federal Council. The control committees are divided into sub-committees. In addition, each committee selects three members from its group to form the Control Delegation (GPDel) whose task it is to scrutinise activities relating to state protection and the intelligence services.

The committees are numbered in order to make it easier to identify which assembly members sit on which committee (pages 26–28).

Legislative committees

3 | Foreign Affairs Committees: international relations, neutrality, humanitarian aid, human rights, foreign economic / trade policy, European integration, World Bank, IMF

4 | Science, Education and Culture Committees: science, education, genetic engineering, languages, culture, sport, family issues, youth issues, women's issues

5 | Social Security and Health Committees: social insurance, health matters, drugs, food, sickness and accident prevention, health and safety

6 | Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy Committees: environment protection, national heritage, spatial planning, water supply and regulation, energy, forestry, hunting and fishing.

7 | Defence Committees: military defence, civil defence, national economic supply, peace and security policy, civilian service, war material export

8 | Transport and Telecommunications Committees: transport and traffic, postal services and telecommunications, media

9 | Economic Affairs and Taxation Committees: national economy, labour, social partnership, prices, consumer protection, private insurance, export risk guarantee, taxation, agriculture.

10 | Political Institutions Committees: federal authorities, relations between the Confederation and the cantons, political rights, citizenship, foreign nationals, asylum, relations between the Church and the State

11 | Legal Affairs Committees: civil code, code of obligations, intellectual property, fair trading, data protection, criminal law, military criminal law, parliamentary/ immunity, amnesty

12 | Committee for Public Buildings: civilian public buildings at home and abroad

Other committees

The **Drafting Committee** revises the wording of the laws in the three official languages and decides on their final version.

The **Committee on Pardons and Conflicts of Jurisdiction** examines requests for pardons submitted to the Federal Assembly and rules on conflicts of jurisdiction between the highest federal authorities. It also has the power to grant pardons.

The **Rehabilitation Committee** quashes convictions against persons who helped refugees to flee persecution during the period of National Socialism.

The **Judicial Committee** is responsible for the preparation of the election and the removal from office of members of the federal courts.

Delegations

Delegations are mainly called on to cultivate relations with other states; otherwise, they represent the Federal Assembly at international parliamentary assemblies relating, for example, to the Council of Europe, Francophonie, the OSCE or NATO.

Where great minds vote alike

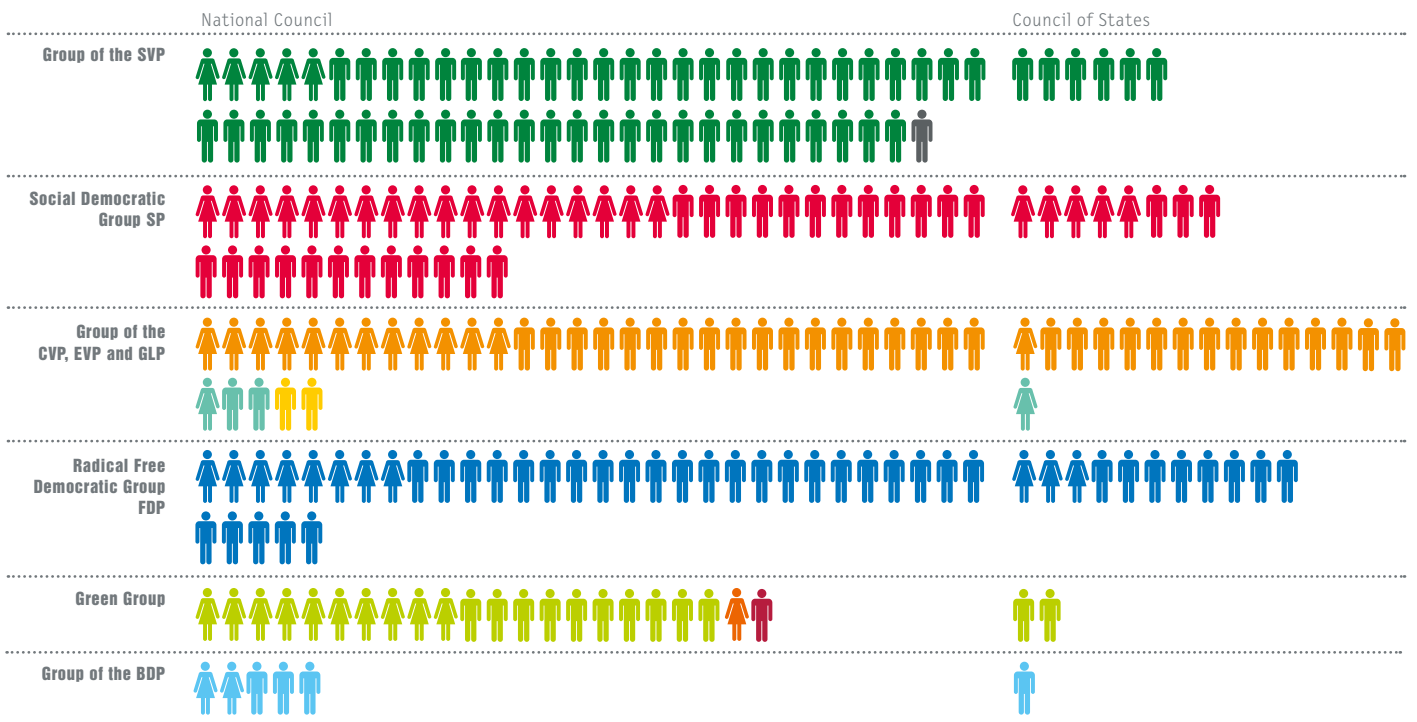
Parliamentary groups comprise members of the same party or parties sharing the same political sympathies. They play an important role in opinion-forming processes, discussing important Council business and agreeing on a line that can be followed by Council members in the Council and in their dealings with the media and the public. At least five members from the same Council are needed to form a parliamentary group. In the National Council, belonging to a parliamentary group is a prerequisite for membership of a committee.

This is why parties with fewer than five members are keen to join a group. But they are also courted because the more members a parliamentary group has, the more committees it can sit on and the greater its impact on Council business.

Politically speaking, the **Federal Assembly** is not divided into parties but into parliamentary groups of which there are currently six.

Money paid for a job done

Parliamentary groups are paid a fixed allowance of CHF 112 000 a year, and each of their members receives the additional sum of CHF 20 800. Members of parliament with no affiliation to a parliamentary group do not receive any of this money and are not entitled to sit on a parliamentary committee or have their say in most debates.



The service centre for the Federal Assembly

Parliamentary Services support the Federal Assembly in the fulfilment of its tasks. They provide a comprehensive service to assist members of parliament in carrying out detailed and creative legislative work. They plan and organise parliamentary sessions and committee meetings, handle secretarial business and prepare reports, minutes and transcripts, and translations, obtain and archive documents and advise and provide technical assistance to Council members in matters related to parliamentary procedure. Parliament's backoffice employs 293 staff who share 197 full-time positions under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

General Secretariat



Secretary-General:
Christoph Lanz

Parliament Building, 3003 Bern
031 322 87 90

information@pd.admin.ch
www.parlament.ch

The *General Secretariat* is responsible for planning the sessions and any related business, and for organisational and procedural matters.

The *Central Secretariat* is parliament's general service office. It makes the basic preparations for parliamentary work, manages addresses and compiles lists.

The *Information Service* maintains contacts with the media, in particular with accredited journalists, and with the general public. It also supports and advises council members, the parliamentary bodies and the heads of service on information and media-related matters.

The *Public Relations Service* produces communication material on parliament and organises events and guided tours of the Parliament Building. Together with the Federal Chancellery, it also runs the "Political Forum of the Confederation" in the Käfigturm.

The *Internet Service* maintains the parliament website and offers information on a daily basis on the workings of parliament and its various bodies. During parliamentary sessions, it broadcasts the debates.

The *Legal Service* provides advice and information on questions of parliamentary law.

Scientific Services

The activities of committees are an important part of parliamentary work. The volume and complexity of business is continuously increasing, which is why each matter is assigned to one of the committees. The committee secretariats form the *Committees Service*. It plans the committees' work, and provides them with technical, organisational and administrative assistance, and advises them in particular on procedural and jurisdictional questions.

The word "parliament" is derived from the Latin *parlare*, to speak. However, it is often a case of no sooner said than forgotten. Every parliament therefore also needs a transcription service. The transcription service used by the *Official Bulletin* is one of the most modern in the world: the statements of council members are recorded and relayed for publication on www.parlament.ch almost in real time.

The *Documentation Centre* is able to provide the information members of parliament need to prepare material for council decisions or debates.

External Relations and Information

The *External Relations Service* is the secretariat of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Delegations. It also organises foreign trips for members of parliament and visits to Switzerland by delegations from foreign parliaments, and is responsible for questions of protocol.

The *Language Service* provides translations for parliament and the Parliamentary Services. The *Interpreting Service* ensures simultaneous translation of the statements made by members of parliament into the three official languages (German, French and Italian).

Resources, Security and Logistics

The *Personnel Service* implements personnel policies and is the contact for training and organisational development.

The *Finance and Travel Service* is responsible for the preparation and the administration of the budget, accounting and controlling. It arranges for the allowances to be paid to members of parliament and organises their trips.

The *Security and Infrastructure Service* ensures compliance with security measures, plans and coordinates the use of the building and maintains the rooms and the technical infrastructure in the Parliament Building.

The *IT and New Technologies* team is responsible for operating and maintaining the entire IT infrastructure used by the Parliamentary Services and the parliamentary groups' secretariats. It provides all members with personal IT equipment.

The *Operations and Usher Service* is responsible for the infrastructure of the federal chambers, committees and the parliamentary groups. The ushers are available to the chambers at all times during meetings. They also accompany Council Presidents to public events.

The *Project and Integration Management Unit* is responsible for tasks in the areas of infrastructure, security, IT, document management and *e-parl*. The *e-parl* project aims to make all documents necessary for the operations of the councils fully available on the Internet.

The revision of the Narcotics Act

Bringing in new legislation is a complex and at times protracted business. The process takes at least twelve months but it has been known to take as long as twelve years or more. However, the number of new acts has significantly increased in recent years. On average, every week sees a new act come into force or an existing act amended.

With the amendment of the Federal Act of 3 October 1951 on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, the concept that has been in place for the last twenty years to address the problem of drugs was given a proper legal footing. Here are the steps that led to this revision.



1	Who: FDHA	When: 1994
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The first step is when someone thinks there is a need for a new piece of legislation or for an existing act to be amended. This can be an individual member of the electorate or interest groups, members of parliament, or sections of the administration, cantons or the Federal Council. In this case it is the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA. It establishes an expert committee and issues it with the task of preparing a draft revision of the Narcotics Act of 3 October 1951 by the end of 1995.

2	Who: Various	When: 1996
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In its decision of 19 April 1996, the Federal Council empowers the FDHA to conduct consultation proceedings on the report of the expert committee. The report supports the legal anchoring of heroin prescription and the decriminalisation of its consumption; a shift away from the proscription of narcotics or a legalisation of cannabis is rejected.

A majority of responses from the consultation proceedings is favourable towards the recommendations of the expert committee although the recommendation to decriminalise the consumption of all narcotic substances is the most controversial.

3	Who: Federal Council NC-CSSH	When: 1999
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As the decriminalisation of consumption is controversial, the Federal Council draft of 1 September 1999 contains two variants: variant 1 proposes the decriminalisation of all narcotic substances, and variant 2 the decriminalisation of cannabis alone.

The National Council Committee for Social Security and Health submits a further three variants on the decriminalisation of the consumption of all narcotic substances and minor dealing in cannabis to the two put forward by the Federal Council.

4	Who: Various	When: 19
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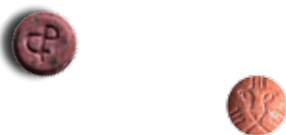
There are consequently five variants for consideration in the consultation. The cantons, the federal courts, political parties, business federations and other interest organisations are all able to submit their comments and propose amendments. The clear preference in the responses to the consultation is for variant 1.

5	Who: FOPH	When: 2000
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The Federal Office of Public Health FOPH compiles the responses to the consultation in a report and drafts a dispatch on the revision of the act.

6	Who: Federal Council	When: 9.3.2001
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The Federal Council examines the text and submits it to Parliament on 9 March 2001.



7	Who: National Council	When: 25.9.2003 14.6.2004
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Following an initial rejection in 2003, the National Council once again decides not to enter into debate on the draft of the Federal Council. The revision of the Narcotics Act fails primarily due to the controversial stance on cannabis.

8	Who: NC-CSSH	When: 4.5.2006
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In 2005, the NC-CSSH considers three parliamentary initiatives and a petition on the revision of the Narcotics Act which are submitted shortly after the failure of the last revision in the National Council.

It postpones a decision on the matter and decides instead to prepare its own committee initiative. On 4 May 2006, it adopts its report on this as well as on the draft to amend the Narcotics Act, thus allowing the elements of the failed revision capable of securing a majority to be implemented swiftly.

9	Who: Federal Council	When: 29.9.2006
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On 29 September 2006, the Federal Council publishes its position on the committee draft. It welcomes the proposal in principle, but requests that heroin be removed from the list of prohibited substances as the revised Narcotics Act envisages a heroin-based, medical treatment.

It submits the text with its requests for other-wise minor changes to parliament.



10 **Who:** NC-CSSH **When:** 3.11.2006

In its debate of 3 November 2006, the NC-CSSH votes by a majority of 15 votes to 8 with one abstention, not to follow the Federal Council's request to remove heroin from the list of prohibited substances.

11 **Who:** National Council **When:** .12.2006

In the winter session of 2006, the National Council tables the partial revision of the Narcotics Act and decides to enter into debate on the proposal. It follows the decision of the NC-CSSH and is also against the removal of heroin from the list of prohibited substances. It largely adopts the proposal of its CSSH and adopts it by 108 votes to 65.

12 **Who:** CS-CSSH **When:** 15./16.10.2007

On 15 and 16 October 2007, the Council of States Committee for Social Security and Health CS-CSSH hears representatives of its sister committee and votes in favour of the Federal Council proposal and thus for the removal of heroin from the list of prohibited substances. The article on the aim of the law proves contentious; the law should not only prevent unauthorised consumption, but also and primarily regulate the provision of pain relievers and their authorised use.

All other proposals that deviate from decision of the first council are concern questions of editing. The CS-CSSH unanimously endorses entering into debate on the proposal.

13 **Who:** Council of States **When:** 18.12.2007

The Council of States fully agrees with the CS-CSSH and votes unanimously in favour of adopting the bill.

14 **Who:** National Council Council of S **When:** 3.2008 .3.2008

As differences remain between the two chambers regarding the aim and purpose of the law and the question of how heroin should remain prohibited, yet be medically prescribed, the matter moves to the resolution of differences procedure.

The National Council agrees to the extended article of purpose put forward by the Council of States, which states in first place the preventive approach and the encouragement of abstinence and in second place, the need to ensure the availability of narcotic substances for medical and scientific purposes. This does not entail a material change. In addition, the National Council comes up with a concept which retains the prohibition of heroin, yet allows for exceptions.

The Council of States follows the resolutions of the National Council.

15 **Who:** National Council Council of States **When:** 20.3.2008

On 20 March 2008 the partial revision of the Narcotics Act is put to the final vote in the National Council and is passed by 114 votes in favour to 68 against. The Council of States passes the revision unanimously. As the Narcotics Act is only an act of law and does not involve an amendment to the constitution, it does not automatically come before the people.

16 **Who:** Referendum committee **When:** 1.4.–10.7.2008

Those opposing the revision, however, managed to gather enough signatures against the amendment of the act within the 100-day period, thereby forcing a referendum.

17 **Who:** People **When:** 30.11.2008

A popular vote was therefore held on 30 November 2008. The proposal was decided with 68.1% voting in favour.

18 **Who:** Federal Council **When:** 20.5.2009

On 20 May 2009, the Federal Council decided to put the new provisions on heroin-based treatment into force with effect from 1 January 2010. The remainder of the changes to the Narcotics Act are to be introduced at a later date as they require significant amendments to be made at ordinance level.

The picture shows so-called "party drugs": 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamin or MDMA for short and better known as ecstasy, as well as mCCP or meta-Chlorphenylpiperazin.



THE EXECUTIVE: FEDERAL COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENTS OR

The Swiss government



The seven-member Federal Council and the Federal Chancellor are stepping optimistically into 2010 – with the firm intention of doing all they can to make it a better year than the last twelve months of the “Noughties”.

Switzerland faces greater and more complex challenges than in many a previous year, both at home and in terms of its relations with many countries around the world. And a host of challenging tasks await all of the government departments.

The Federal Council

The Swiss government comprises the seven members of the Federal Council, who are each elected by the United Federal Assembly for a four-year term of office. The president is elected for one year only and is regarded when in office as *primus inter pares*, or first among equals. He or she chairs the sessions of the Federal Council and undertakes special ceremonial duties. The Federal Chancellor acts as the government's chief of staff.



Doris Leuthard
President of the Swiss Confederation

Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs
Member of the CVP ●
Federal Councillor since 2006



Moritz Leuenberger
Vice-President of the Federal Council

Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Member of the SP ●
Federal Councillor since 1995



Micheline Calmy-Rey

Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Member of the SP ●
Federal Councillor since 2003



Hans-Rudolf Merz

Head of the Federal Department of Finance
Member of the FDP ●
Federal Councillor since 2004



Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf

Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police
Member of the BDP ●
Federal Councillor since 2008



Ueli Murer

Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport
Member of the SVP ●
Federal Councillor since 2009



Didier Burkhalter

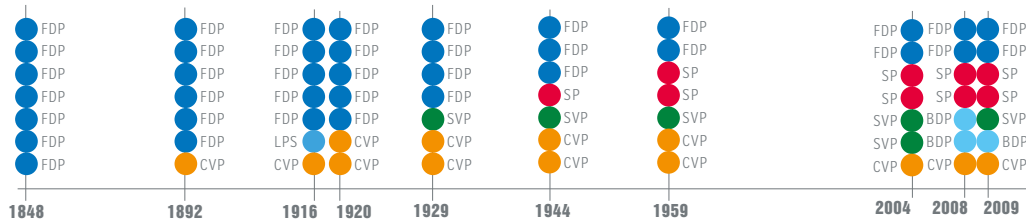
Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs
Member of the FDP ●
Federal Councillor since 2009



Corina Casanova

Member of the CVP ●
Federal Chancellor since 2008

The composition of the Federal Council in terms of political parties



The diagram shows the representation of the political parties in the Federal Council since 1848 from the forty years in which its members all came from the Radical Party to the current composition.

Role of the Federal Council As the highest executive authority of the country, the Federal Council is primarily responsible for the activities of the government. It must continuously

- assess the situation arising from developments in the State and society and from events at home and abroad;
- define the fundamental goals of State action and determine the resources needed to attain them;
- plan and co-ordinate government policy and ensure its implementation;
- represent the Confederation at home and abroad.

Furthermore, the Federal Council must regularly and systematically scrutinise the workings of the Federal Administration in order to ensure its efficiency and the legality and practicality of its activities. The Federal Council also takes part in the legislative procedure by

- leading the preliminary proceedings of legislation;
- submitting federal acts and decrees to the Federal Assembly;
- enacting ordinances in so far as the Federal Constitution or federal law empowers it to do so.

Finally, the Federal Council drafts the budget and the State accounts. It takes administrative action only in exceptional cases.

The Federal Council generally meets for one ordinary session each week and takes decisions on some 2000 to 2500 matters each year. In addition to the extraordinary sessions, which are convened at short notice as and when the need arises, a number of special meetings are also held each year, which are dedicated to the consideration of especially complex and important issues.

The sessions of the Federal Council are chaired by the President of the Swiss Confederation, or in his or her absence, by the Vice-President. They can last between one and ten hours.

The Departments and the Federal Chancellery prepare the agenda, but it is the Federal Council that takes the decisions as a collegial body. Each member of the Federal Council has one vote. The Federal Chancellor is entitled to propose motions and speak, but has no vote.

Collegiality

According to Article 177 of the Federal Constitution, the Federal Council is a collegial body, in which each member has the same rights and responsibilities.

The national government convenes every Wednesday morning for ordinary meetings where members express their views on the matters at hand and pass resolutions. As a rule, the Federal Council avoids putting matters to a vote, as it is normally clear from the discussion what the majority view is. Decisions are reached behind closed doors and must be presented in public unanimously, using the arguments that won the day in the discussions. In other words, members who do not share the opinion of the majority must nonetheless endorse the decisions of the Council as a whole.

Concordance comes from the Latin term "concordia", which means unanimity or the popular expression "one heart and soul".

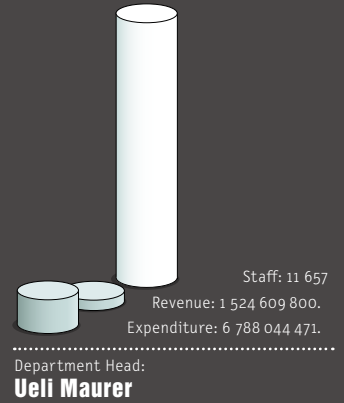
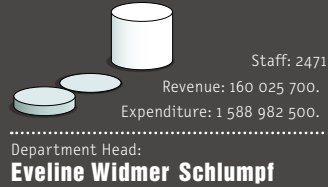
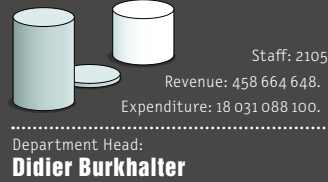
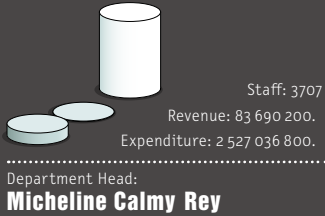
Unlike the consideration for the various regions of Switzerland, concordance is not stipulated in the constitution, but has developed over many years through Switzerland's highly developed mechanisms for the protection of minorities.

Concordance, does not, however, imply that everyone in Parliament and in the government is (or should be) in complete agreement, but rather that all opinions are represented and carry a weight that accords closely with the level of support that they enjoy among the electorate.

The magic formula is the phrase used to describe the way in which the Federal Council has been constituted since 1959 when the seats allocated to parties represented in the national government first corresponded roughly to their share of the vote: the SP (26.3%), the FDP (23.7%) and the CVP (23.3%) each had two seats on the Federal Council, while the SVP (11.6%) had one.

This balance remained unchanged for 44 years. The 2003 National Council elections saw the SVP gain the largest share of the vote, thereby earning them a second seat in government which they took from the CVP. However, in 2008 both SVP members of government shifted allegiance to the newly-founded BDP. Since the beginning of the year, the SVP has once again had a representative on the Federal Council in the shape of Ueli Maurer, whose seat was vacated by Samuel Schmid.

Where the 36 000-strong federal staff work

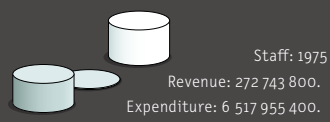


Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA	Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA	Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP	Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS
General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat
State Secretariat	Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE	Federal Office of Justice FOJ	Office of the Armed Forces Attorney General
Directorate of Political Affairs	Federal Office of Culture FOC	Federal Office of Police Fedpol	Defence
Directorate of Public International Law DPIL	Swiss National Library NB	Federal Office for Migration FOM	Civil protection
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC	Swiss Federal Archives SFA	Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland OAS	Sport
Directorate for Resources	Swiss Meteorological Institute MeteoSwiss	Federal Office of Metrology METAS	Armasuisse
Swiss diplomatic and consular missions abroad	Federal Office of Public Health FOPH	Federal Institute of Intellectual Property IIP	Federal Intelligence Service
	Federal Statistical Office FSO	Swiss Institute for Comparative Law SICL	
	Federal Social Insurance Office FSIO	Federal Gaming Board FGB	
	State Secretariat for Education and Research SER		
	Federal Institutes of Technology Group ETH Group		
	Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products Swissmedic		

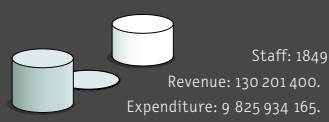
The colour coded organisational units are mostly independent, which is why information on their staff, revenue and expenditure is not included in the respective department figures.



Department Head:
Hans Rudolf Merz



Department Head:
Doris Leuthard



Department Head:
Moritz Leuenberger



Federal Chancellor:
Corina Casanova

Federal Department of Finance FDF

General Secretariat

Federal Finance Administration FFA

Federal Office of Personnel FOPER

Federal Tax Administration FTA

Federal Customs Administration FCA

Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication FOITT

Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL

Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority Finma

Swiss Federal Audit Office SFAO

Swiss Alcohol Board SAB

Federal Pension Fund Publica

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA

General Secretariat

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

Federal Veterinary Office FVO

Federal Office for National Economic Supply FONES

Federal Housing Office FHO

Office of the Price Supervisor

Competition Commission ComCo

Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training SFIVET

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

General Secretariat

Federal Office of Transport FOT

Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

Federal Roads Office FEDRO

Federal Office of Communications OFCOM

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE

Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate ENSI

Federal Chancellery FCh

Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner

Federal Chancellery FCh

As the staff office of the Federal Council, the Federal Chancellery ensures the smooth running of all Federal Council business. Before an item of business is actually tabled, it passes through a variety of stages. The Federal Chancellery plays the role of coordinator and acts as a hub to the rest of the Federal Administration and parliament. The Federal Chancellery is headed by the Federal Chancellor. She can propose motions to the Federal Council and represents Federal Chancellery business in parliament. The Federal Chancellery is also responsible for informing the public of the decisions taken by the Federal Council in a timely and transparent manner via the media.

In collaboration with the cantons, the Federal Chancellery is working intensively on the further development of e-Government, in other words electronic communication between the state and citizens. One of the most important aspects of this is e-Voting. Several cantons have already launched pilot projects.

A further important goal of the Federal Chancellery is to upgrade the system used to electronically enter official publications in the Federal Gazette and in the compilations of legislation. In the medium term all of the Federal Administration's transactions should be processed electronically and harmonised.

Federal Chancellor Sector: planning government business



Federal Chancellor:
Corina Casanova

The **Planning and Strategy Section** is responsible for the Federal Council's political planning and accountability instruments, which include legislature planning, annual objectives, and the activity report. The section is responsible for coordinating the Federal Administration's Forward Planning Staff and checking the most important Federal Council business for consistency with the current and planned overall policy. It also acts as a secretariat to the Conference of Secretaries-General, the highest coordination body in the Federal Administration.

The **Political Rights Section** ensures that the political rights that are typical to Switzerland can be exercised smoothly. It advises initiative and referendum committees, formally conducts a preliminary examination of popular initiatives, verifies petition lists, organises federal votes and elections to the National Council and monitors pilot e-Voting schemes.

The **Federal Crisis Management Training (CMT) unit of the Federal Administration** trains senior staff from offices, departments and the Federal Chancellery to manage crises and disasters, and conducts exercises. Supra-departmental cooperation plays an increasingly important role.

The **Records and Process Management Section** is responsible for mail service, for the distribution of information regarding Federal Council business and consultation procedures among the federal offices, and for the archiving of the Federal Chancellery's documents.

The primary tasks of **Internal Services** include human resources, finance and accounting, information technology, events management at the von Wattenwyl Haus and the Lohn country residence, and the authentication of signatures for foreign authorities.

Federal Council Sector: Ensuring the smooth running of Federal Council meetings



Vice-Chancellor:
Thomas Helbling

The Federal Council begins its weekly session at 9 am every Wednesday in the west wing of the Federal Palace. The **Section for Federal Council Affairs** works together with the departments to prepare the items of business for approval by the Federal Council. It prepares an agenda, gathers the views on items of business awaiting resolution from all departments through a consultation process and submits them to the Federal Council. The protocol of decisions and individual decisions are executed after the Federal Council meeting.

The **Legal Section** has a control and advisory function in the legislative process and advises the departments and offices on their legislation projects. The Section screens all motions put to the Federal Council for their legal and formal accuracy. In addition, it is responsible for specific legal fields, such as administrative organisation law, consultative procedure law and official publications law.

Federal acts and ordinances must be published in the official publishing bodies to enter into force. It is the task of the **Official Publications Centre** to ensure that the Federal Gazette and both compilations of legislation are published swiftly and simultaneously in the three official languages (German, French and Italian). The Federal Gazette contains draft bills and decrees that parliament debates in the course of its legislative work, explanatory dispatches and Federal Council reports, referendum proposals and notices from the federal authorities. The Official Compilation of Federal Legislation (AS) is published on a weekly basis and contains the new and amended acts and ordinances. The Official Compilation of Federal Legislation (SR) is continuously updated and provides a complete overview of applicable law. The compilations of legislation are indispensable for legal practitioners, but also for many private individuals, as is evident from the some 500 000 online queries made each day.



Federal Chancellor:
Corina Casanova
 Vice-Chancellors: Thomas Helbling, André Simonazzi

Federal Palace West Wing, 3003 Bern
 031 322 37 91
 Information officers: Hansruedi Moser, Claude Gerbex
www.bk.admin.ch

The **Central Language Services** ensure, together with the Federal Office of Justice, that federal legislation and all other official publications are produced in a style of language that is accessible to the public. Through their own translations and the revision of those carried out by the offices, they help to ensure that government communications reach all language communities at the same time and in the same manner. The language services also ensure that important government texts are published in Romansh and in English. They maintain the *Termdat* terminology database, which is a multilingual electronic dictionary covering a wide range of legal, administrative and other specialised fields. It is a valuable tool for communication, editing and translation. In carrying out all these activities, the language services act as the guardians of our country's multilingualism.

Information and Communications Sector: Coordinating information from the administration



Vice-Chancellor:
André Simonazzi

Information and communication are key leadership tools for the Federal Council. Headed by the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Council spokesman, the **Information and Communications Sector** ensures, together with the relevant heads of department and their staffs, that parliament, the media and the public are continually provided with transparent information following the meetings of the Federal Council. This takes the form of press conferences that can also be viewed in real time online at www.admin.ch/ch/d/conferenza/index.html, and through press releases which can be subscribed to at www.news.admin.ch or downloaded from www.admin.ch. In addition, it operates a media centre across the road from the Federal Palace.

The Vice-Chancellor and his team (together with the specialists from the departments and federal offices and with the support of the language services) are responsible for the explanatory notes issued by the Federal Council on popular votes at federal level.

The **e-Government Section** hosts the Federal Administration's internet portal www.admin.ch and, on behalf of the Confederation and the cantons, the Swiss portal www.ch.ch. It also performs certain management and coordination tasks in the area of e-Government and is involved at the forefront of the development and implementation of the Federal Administration's 2010 Internet Strategy.

The **Communication Support Section** advises the Federal Administration on strategic and conceptual communication matters. At the same time, it also produces a wide range of print and web products (sometimes with the help of external specialists) for the departments, federal offices and the Federal Chancellery. The best known of these products is the brochure you are reading.

The **Käfigturm**, the **Political Forum of the Confederation**, primarily hosts exhibitions with political content and related discussions. In addition to media conferences, the Käfigturm organises a regular series of lectures on topical or historical subjects. Details can be found at www.kaefigturm.admin.ch.

Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner: Creating transparency and protecting privacy

The Commissioner monitors data processing activities by federal agencies or by private individuals and organisations. In the event of a violation, he can recommend that data processing methods be changed or discontinued. In addition, he provides advice to private individuals, federal agencies and the cantons. He advises the federal offices and departments on how to apply the principle of freedom of information, which facilitates access to official documents, and conducts mediation proceedings in the event of conflict between those applying for access to information and the offices concerned.



Cast off!

The Basilea is again ready to set sail from Setúbal in Portugal and head for Port Gentil in Gabon, Lukas Roth's work is done. The inspector from the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office has carefully checked over the multipurpose vessel from the engine room to the bridge: Are all the hatches closed? Are the engines and equipment in perfect working order? Is safety on board assured? Are the labour regulations for the crew respected? Are all the papers in order? – The answer to all these questions is yes, there is nothing major to report.

The Basilea is one of 35 cargo ships currently sailing the high seas under the Swiss flag. The ships have a total loading capacity of a million tonnes. That may only constitute about a thousandth of world tonnage, but it means Switzerland has the largest fleet of any landlocked country.

“Our” maritime fleet was established in 1941 during the Second World War and was intended to help safeguard the country's economic supply; and that remains the case today. Although the ships are owned by private shipping companies, in times of conflict or crisis the Swiss government can requisition the fleet to guarantee access to essential goods.

Nowadays Swiss are few and far between on board. The loneliness of life at sea, the hard work and poor pay make the job of seaman unattractive. Ships' crews today tend to consist of eastern Europeans and Asians.

*Lukas Roth is one of around 3900 federal employees at
the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA*

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for safeguarding Switzerland's interests abroad and for shaping and coordinating Swiss foreign policy. Its activities are based on the following five foreign policy goals:

- safeguard the independence and welfare of Switzerland
- alleviate hardship and poverty in the world
- respect for human rights and the promotion of democracy
- peaceful coexistence of peoples
- conservation of natural resources

General Secretariat



Secretary-General: Roberto Balzaretto	Staff: 79	Revenue: –	Expenditure: 17 671 700.–
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The General Secretariat supports the head of department in her daily work. In particular

- it coordinates business for parliament and the Federal Council
- informs the public about the activities of the department
- ensures the achievement of equal opportunities within the FDFA
- assesses the effectiveness of internal steering and controlling systems across all areas of the department's activities.

Presence Switzerland and the *Cultural Foreign Policy Centre* also report to the General Secretariat.

State Secretariat



State Secretary: Michael Ambühl	Staff: 230	Revenue: –	Expenditure: 294 396 300.–
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The State Secretariat plays a leading role in the development and planning of foreign policy on behalf of the head of department. In developing foreign policy strategies and concepts, the State Secretariat is supported by the Directorate of Political Affairs, which is headed by the State Secretary. The State Secretary represents the head of department both at home and abroad. His duties also involve maintaining Switzerland's bilateral relations with other countries. His most important dossiers include cooperation with the UN, the development of relations with the EU and security and peace policy which also involves policy on disarmament. The *Diplomatic Protocol* service and the *Integration Office*, a joint office of the FDFA and the FDEA, are also attached to the State Secretariat. The Integration Office is the federal government's specialist service for matters concerning European integration and it coordinates relations with the European Union.

Directorate of Political Affairs

Head:
Michael Ambühl, State Secretary
and Director of Political Affairs

Staff and budget: included in figures
for the State Secretariat

Assessing global challenges, developing foreign policy strategies, identifying hotspots and areas of tension: the Directorate of Political Affairs is where all the information flows that allows Switzerland's foreign interests to be defended. The Directorate of Political Affairs coordinates everyday foreign policy business and is the office to which all Switzerland's missions abroad report. The Directorate has four geographical and five thematic divisions:

- *Political Affairs Division I* (Europe, Council of Europe, OSCE, cross-border cooperation)
- *Political Affairs Division II / The Americas*
- *Political Affairs Division II / Africa and the Middle East*
- *Political Affairs Division II / Asia-Pacific*
- *Political Affairs Division III* (United Nations, Swiss activities in international organisations, host-state policy, Francophonie)
- *Political Affairs Division IV* (peace policy and human security, human rights policy, humanitarian policy and migration, Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peace Building)
- *Political Affairs Division V* (financial and economic issues; environment, transport, energy and science)
- *Political Affairs Division VI* (service for the Swiss Abroad and policy on the Swiss Abroad, consular protection, travel advice and crisis management)
- *Secretariat of Political Affairs* (international security policy, arms control and disarmament, conference service, historical service, documentation)

Directorate of Public International Law DPIL



Director: Paul Seger	Staff: 43	Revenue: –	Expenditure: 5 888 100.–
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International law governs the peaceful coexistence of States. A foreign policy that adheres to international rules is credible and predictable. International law is an important guideline of Swiss foreign policy.

As the "legal conscience" of the FDFA and the Swiss government's central office for international law, the Directorate of Public International Law ensures that Switzerland meets its international legal obligations both abroad and at home. It is involved in negotiating, concluding and implementing agreements based on international law and is committed to the promotion of and compliance with international law. It is also responsible for ensuring that Swiss legal claims vis-à-vis foreign states are enforced.



Department Head:
Micheline Calmy-Rey

Federal Palace West Wing, 3003 Bern
031 322 31 53
Information officer: Lars Knuchel
www.eda.admin.ch

The DPIL deals with a wide range of topics, including neutrality, human rights and international humanitarian law, the legal aspects of cross-border cooperation, dealing with the issue of proceeds of corruption, and shipping on the Rhine and other inland waterways.

The DPIL also coordinates foreign policy measures for combating terrorism and is responsible for relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

www.deza.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	-
Martin Dahinden	498	Expenditure:	1 563 825 300.-

Switzerland contributes to the alleviation of hardship and poverty in the world, to respect for human rights, and to the promotion of democracy and the peaceful coexistence of nations and the natural foundations for life, as stated in the Swiss constitution.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) implements this mission. Its activities are divided into four specific areas:

- Regional cooperation
- Global cooperation
- Cooperation with eastern Europe, new EU member states
- Humanitarian aid

Regional cooperation undertakes development programmes in 17 partner countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. It is responsible for cooperation with the regional finance institutions.

Global cooperation supports the activities of the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, other global funds and networks. It contribute to resolving global problems through three global programmes (climate change, food security and migration).

Cooperation with eastern Europe comprises Switzerland's assistance to transition countries in the West Balkans and the Community of Independent States of the former Soviet Union (CIS) and its enlargement contribution to the new EU countries.

Humanitarian aid saves lives and alleviates suffering. During armed conflicts and in the aftermath of natural disasters, the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit provides help and supports partner organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Food Programme. In addition to relief aid it provides reconstruction assistance and is involved in the area of disaster protection and prevention.

The work of the SDC focuses on ten topics: health, education, water, rule of law and democracy, migration, agriculture and rural development, business and employment, environment, conflict prevention and transformation, and economic integration.

Directorate for Resources



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	41 815 200.-
Helene Budliger Artieda	387	Expenditure:	266 961 400.-

The Directorate for Resources is the Department's service centre for all matters concerning resources and has three main tasks:

- It is responsible for managing and controlling resources (human resources, finance, logistics, IT, etc.) and ensures they are used effectively to achieve the department's goals.
- It manages the network of diplomatic and consular representations abroad. It takes measures to ensure the security of these representations and their staff, and is responsible for the communication channels and coordination between the Swiss representations abroad and the head office in Bern.
- It ensures efficient and customer-friendly consular services and creates the conditions for results-oriented management in the Swiss representations abroad.

In addition, legislation, the application of law and legal advice for the department (with the exception of questions of international law) are included in the DCM's remit. The Swiss Government Travel Centre, which organises the official international travel arrangements for the entire federal administration, is also part of this directorate.

Swiss diplomatic and consular missions abroad

Staff:	Revenue:	41 875 000.-
2470	Expenditure:	378 294 000.-

Some 150 missions represent Swiss interests vis-à-vis other states and international organisations and provide services to Swiss nationals and businesses abroad. The network includes embassies, general consulates, and consulates, as well as missions to multilateral bodies and SDC cooperation offices.



Switzerland at a glance

All of Switzerland's cantons, districts and communes on 139 x 88 centimetres: the annually updated overview of the institutional structure of Switzerland is just one of the 5000 or so maps produced by the Federal Statistical Office that Thomas Schulz and the Thematic Cartography Unit have to offer.

2010 marks the 150th anniversary of federal statistics. The Federal Statistical Office has been producing cartographic products for almost as long as part of its role to provide public information. Whether in the form of printed publications or online – the products are sought after by universities, public administrations and banks, but also by many members of the public.

It is not surprising that the maps are so popular. The colourful maps tell you what you want to know at first glance.

They show, for example, where the average age has risen particularly sharply since the last census; whether there was once again a divide along the "Röstigraben" in voting patterns at the last referendum, where unemployment is at its highest; where the incidence of road deaths is above average or where the most non-Ladin speakers use Romansh on an everyday basis, etc.

Almost all areas of life in Switzerland for which statistical data can be gathered are also presented in map form. To mark the anniversary and the pending census, 2010 will see the publication of a new Statistical Atlas of Switzerland, which makes the statistical information even more easily accessible and interactive in electronic form.

Thomas Schulz is one of around 2600 federal employees in the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

General Secretariat

www.edi.admin.ch



Secretary-General: Beno Bättig	Staff: 60	Revenue: 1 010 000.–	Expenditure: 85 555 700.–
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The General Secretariat is responsible for planning, coordination and controlling, acts as a hub between the federal offices and the head of Department and provides consultancy services for the entire department. Its legal service supervises charitable national and international foundations. The Federal Commission against Racism, the Service for Combating Racism and the Bureau for the Equality of People with Disabilities are affiliated to the General Secretariat.

Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE

www.gleichstellung-schweiz.ch



Director: Patricia Schulz	Staff: 13	Revenue: –	Expenditure: 8 491 000.–
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Equal rights in the workplace and at home are the office's main concern. The FOGE now provides financial assistance to promote company projects to improve in-house equal opportunities and, together with social partners, plays an active role in implementing equal pay for women and men. The Secretariat of the Federal Commission for Women's Issues is also affiliated to this office.

Federal Office of Culture FOC

www.bak.admin.ch



Director: Jean-Frédéric Jauslin	Staff: 219	Revenue: 2 305 000.–	Expenditure: 196 715 900.–
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The FOC formulates the federal government's cultural policy. It promotes cultural life in all its diversity and creates the conditions to ensure that it can continue to flourish. It supports creative work in the fields of film, the visual arts and design. Its tasks also include supporting and promoting the interests of the country's various linguistic and cultural communities. It supports umbrella organisations that represent cultural interests. It ensures the preservation of historic buildings and monuments, areas of local character and archaeological sites. The FOC is the contact point for queries regarding looted art and the transfer of cultural goods. The FOC manages valuable collections, including the federal art collection, and is responsible for supervising Swiss National Library and the National Museums.

Swiss National Library NL

www.nb.admin.ch



Director: Marie-Christine Doffey	Staff: 130	Revenue: 345 000.–	Expenditure: 38 010 500.–
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The Swiss National Library's task is to collect, preserve, catalogue and make available all printed and electronic publications relating to Switzerland. In addition, the NL also houses a series of special collections, the most important being the Swiss Literary Archive and the Graphic Collection. The Dürrenmatt Centre in Neuchâtel is also part of the Swiss National Library.

Swiss Federal Archives SFA

www.bar.admin.ch



Director: Andreas Kellerhals	Staff: 48	Revenue: 20 900.–	Expenditure: 18 988 400.–
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The SFA evaluates, safeguards, catalogues and raises public awareness of archive-worthy Confederation documents. It would take 12 terabytes and over 50 kilometres of shelving to hold the entire inventory, which includes original documents such as the Swiss Constitution, deeds, photos, films, recordings and databases.

In a democratic constitutional state, the archiving of such records is essential for continuity and transparency and it enables citizens to exercise democratic control over government and administrative activities and is the basis for research.

The main focus is currently to support the Federal Administration. In accordance with a Federal Council Decree, the SFA supports the Federal Administration by ensuring its transition to e-Government.

Swiss Meteorological Institute MeteoSwiss

www.meteoschweiz.ch



Director: Daniel K. Keuerleber-Burk	Staff: 294	Revenue: 36 787 900.–	Expenditure: 90 091 700.–
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As the national weather and climate service, MeteoSwiss provides services for the public and business. It observes the atmosphere over Switzerland, produces weather forecasts, warns the authorities and the public in the event of severe weather and analyses climate data. The regional centres in Zurich, Geneva and Locarno, the centre for meteorological measurement technology in Payerne and the aviation weather services at Zurich and Geneva airports provide first-hand weather and climate observations and are in close contact with their clients on site. The surface observation system, weather radars, satellites, radio soundings and other remote sensing instruments monitor the weather in three dimensions. High-resolution computer models calculate meteorological developments in the alpine region. National and international research projects contribute to a better understanding of weather and climate in the alpine area.

Federal Office of Public Health FOPH

www.bag.admin.ch



Director: Pascal Strupler	Staff: 422	Revenue: 25 692 500.–	Expenditure: 2 395 562 400.–
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The overriding aim of the FOPH is to promote and maintain the good health of all people living in Switzerland. It seeks to increase awareness of health-related matters so that people can take responsibility for their own health. It also aims at a general improvement in people's health through disease prevention and health protection campaigns and by curing illnesses and alleviating suffering caused by disease and accidents. The FOPH tackles issues such as epidemiology and infectious diseases, substance abuse and drug prevention, food safety, noise and radiation pro-



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tection, assessment and monitoring of chemicals and toxic products, stem cell research and bioterrorism, and health and accident insurance.

Federal Statistical Office FSO

www.statistik.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	1 056 000.-
Jürg Marti	566	Expenditure:	166 573 700.-

Statistics help to create transparency in relation to social and political issues. The FSO therefore publishes information on the situation and trends in Switzerland in many different areas of life. It provides the quantitative information needed to understand the present and to plan for the future. The *Statistical Yearbook*, *Pocket Statistics* and, most importantly, the new internet portal provide an overview of the available information and give links to more detailed statistics. The FSO ensures that the services it provides are scientific, topical, user-friendly and comply with data protection regulations, as set out in the guidelines.

Federal Social Insurance Office FSIO

www.bsv.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	389 510 548.-
Yves Rossier	257	Expenditure:	12 822 241 500.-

Switzerland has an effective and solid social insurance system, which is an important element in upholding social peace, and therefore needs to be maintained in the future and under difficult economic conditions. The FSIO ensures the reliability of this social insurance system within its areas of responsibility and adjusts it to the new challenges: old age and survivors' insurance (AHV), invalidity insurance (IV), supplementary benefits, occupational pension funds, compensation for loss of earnings for people on national service and women on maternity leave, and family allowances in the agricultural sector. In addition, it is responsible at federal level for dealing with issues relating to family, children, youth and old-age, generational relationships and for general socio-political issues. The FSIO oversees the work of the executive bodies and is responsible for the regular adjustment of legislation to the changing social reality. To a certain extent it is itself the authority that implements the law, as for example in the area of incentive funding for supplementary childcare. The FSIO is currently concentrating on the consolidation of Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (amendment of the 11th revision, preliminary work on the 12th revision) and on the plan to restructure the finances of the Invalidity Insurance fund. Thanks to the increase in the rate of VAT approved in the recent popular vote the deficit can be corrected and a stop put to the run on debt. In addition, the FSIO is working on a structural reform in occupational pension funds (improved supervision) as well as on the restructuring of state pension funds and on a total revision of the Youth Activities Act and the establishment of a national claimants' register for family allowances.

State Secretariat for Education and Research SER

www.sbf.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	1 936 800.-
Mauro Dell'Ambrogio	96	Expenditure:	2 208 857 300.-

The SER is responsible for drafting and implementing federal policy in the areas of further and university education, research and space affairs. The most important education dossiers are the Swiss school-leaving certificate, the promotion of cantonal universities and preparation for and assessment of the implementation of the federal performance mandate in relation to the Federal Institutes of Technology ETH. The SER invests in the quality of Switzerland as a research location with resources for the Swiss National Science Foundation, academics, non-university research institutes, Switzerland's memberships in international research organisations and cooperation in international scientific programmes.

Federal Institutes of Technology Group ETH Group

www.ethrat.ch



President of the ETH Board:	Staff:	Revenue:	-
Fritz Schiesser	13 680	Expenditure:	2 251 095 000.-

The Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne as well as four research institutes: the Paul Scherrer Institute, WSL (the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research), Empa (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research) and Eawag (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) achieve academic results at the highest level with roughly the 17 000-strong staff and nearly 21 000 students and post-graduate students as well as a 600-strong professoriate.

These institutions are grouped together under the ETH Group, which the ETH Board strategically manages in its capacity as supervisory body. The ETH Board approves and supervises the development plans, controlling and ensures coordination. It draws up estimates and accounts for the ETH Group's budget and coordinates the management and maintenance of its real estate.

Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products Swissmedic

www.swissmedic.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	79 450 000.-
Jürg Schnetzer	300	Expenditure:	78 175 000.-

The protection of humans and animals requires that all therapeutic products are officially monitored. Swissmedic ensures that only high-quality, safe and effective medicines are made available. Full-scale testing of therapeutic products makes it possible to identify new risks at an early stage and ensure the swift implementation of the appropriate safety measures.

Where are you from? Why are you here?

Anyone seeking asylum in Switzerland has to face these and dozens of other questions – such as this young man from Yemen: Why have you and your wife left your home country? Were you persecuted there because of your ethnic group, religion or nationality? Or due to your political beliefs? Or because you belong to a particular social group? Or did you have reasonable grounds to fear such persecution? These are all criteria set out in the UN Convention relating to the status of refugees entitling a person the right to protection in a country other than his own.

At the Vallorbe reception centre, Sarah Meylan from the Federal Office for Migration questions asylum seekers with the help of an interpreter and in the presence of an aid organisation representative; at the same time, all of the statements are taken down by a clerk. At the end of the interview the transcript is translated into the asylum seeker's language and signed by all those present.

In 2008, 16 606 people applied for asylum; just before 2000, that figure was three times higher. That makes Switzerland one of the most popular asylum destinations in Europe for refugees from around the world as a proportion of its population.

It is not clear whether they have a realistic idea of what awaits them in their potential host country. A country where the population also asks: Are those who come to Switzerland willing to adapt to our customs and way of life, and familiarise themselves and abide by our rules? There is no shortage of questions.

*Sarah Meylan is one of around 3100 federal employees at the
Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP*



Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP

General Secretariat

www.ejpd.admin.ch



Secretary-General:	Staff: 110	GS Revenue:	5 706 600.-
Jörg Gasser	ISC: 151	GS Expenditure:	59 362 700.-
Head of ISC:		ISC Revenue:	71 444 700.-
Christian Baumann		ISC Expenditure:	81 603 600.-

Like traffic lights at a busy junction, the General Secretariat is responsible for ensuring that the various parts of the FDJP work together as a team: it coordinates business for parliament and the Federal Council; it informs the public via the media or internet of the Department's activities; and it manages human resources and finances for the whole department. The *Information Technology Service Centre* is a specialist unit which develops and manages security-critical IT applications in the areas of justice, police and migration, such as search systems or the register of criminal records. It is also responsible for monitoring post and telecommunications.

Federal Office of Justice FOJ

www.bj.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	12 480 000.-
Michael Leupold	208	Expenditure:	153 303 500.-

The Federal Office of Justice prepares decrees related to the main areas of law, including the civil code, criminal code, debt collection and bankruptcy law, international private law, as well as public and administrative law. The office also advises the other agencies of the Federal Administration on all legislative matters. It is responsible for the supervision of the commercial register, the register of births, marriages and deaths, the land registry, debt collection and bankruptcy and the enforcement of sentencing and criminal records. It provides building subsidies for the costs incurred by the cantons for construction work in connection with the implementation of criminal penalties and measures. Operational costs subsidies for youth welfare services premises also help to ensure the quality of the educational work.

The Federal Office of Justice represents Switzerland at international level before the Strasbourg human rights bodies and in many other organisations and is the national agency dealing with international child abductions and adoptions. The Office collaborates with foreign authorities in the spheres of legal aid and extraditions.

Federal Office of Police Fedpol

www.fedpol.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	11 970 000.-
Jean-Luc Vez	752	Expenditure:	227 454 500.-

Fedpol employees carry out tasks in various areas to protect the population and the Swiss constitutional state. For example, they investigate several hundred cases a year, in which the Confederation is responsible for prosecution. Terrorism, organised crime and money laundering are a top priority. Fedpol also supports the cantonal police in numerous procedures, such as the fight against internet child pornography.

They are also responsible for organising the protection of hundreds of foreign nationals who must be protected according to international law, of local government officers and of federal buildings. They see to all the necessary steps involved in issuing passports or also issue entry bans.

Fedpol provides services to national and international partners, such as database operations to search for persons or property and to identify persons and traces. Finally, Fedpol also formulates the necessary agreements for international police cooperation, as in the case of linking Switzerland to the European Schengen area.

Federal Office for Migration FOM

www.bfm.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	41 873 000.-
Alard du Bois-Reymond	720	Expenditure:	978 836 400.-

The Federal Office for Migration determines the conditions under which people may enter, live and work in Switzerland, and it decides who receives protection from persecution. At the end of 2008, there were 1 638 949 people in our country in possession of a residence permit or a permanent residence permit and 40 794 people had the status of asylum seekers or provisionally admitted persons. Switzerland has been a country of immigration for around a hundred years and foreign workers have become an important factor in our economy.

The FOM's core tasks also include the planning and implementation of measures for the peaceful coexistence of the national and foreign population. The FOM coordinates the integration policy of the federal government, the cantons and the communes. Particular consideration is given to the areas of language learning, education and work, where the idea is to encourage but also insist on progress. The Swiss Emigration section of the FOM supports Swiss seeking to emigrate in the form of free advice and information.

Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland OAS

www.ba.admin.ch



Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland:	Staff:	Revenue:	590 200.-
Erwin Beyeler	126	Expenditure:	36 505 200.-

As the Confederation's prosecuting authority, the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland, which is part of the FDJP, is responsible for investigating and prosecuting offences against the Confederation or that seriously affect its interests.

Offences which come under federal jurisdiction are, for example, espionage, abuse of office by federal employees, and crimes involving explosives or radioactive material. As the federal investigation and prosecuting authority, the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland also deals with cases of organised crime and terrorism, money laundering and bribery and corruption, and white collar crime with major international or intercantonal implications.



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Other tasks are the implementation of mutual assistance applications by foreign prosecuting authorities and the promotion of cross-border cooperation in fighting crime.

Federal Office of Metrology METAS

www.metas.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	8 630 100.-
Christian Bock	120	Expenditure:	34 923 100.-

Swiss goods and services are known for their high quality, precision and reliability. In order to reach this standard, our economy needs to be in a position to measure, test and assess the properties of its goods and services to the requisite degree of precision.

When assessing the precision of production, calculating electrical energy or keeping within the prescribed limits in the environment, the economy and society only function if the right measurements are made correctly.

The Federal Office of Metrology carries out Switzerland's reference measuring, ensures it is internationally recognised and passes on the measuring data with the required precision to research institutes, business and the general public. It is able to calibrate the most precise measuring instruments, thereby ensuring that Switzerland is able to measure and test to the requisite degree.

Federal Institute of Intellectual Property IIP

www.ige.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	38 129 000.-
Roland Grossenbacher	218	Expenditure:	48 506 000.-

Is the coat of arms on Swiss army knives merely decorative or is it a brand name? Are cosmetics "Swiss made" if, despite being developed in Switzerland, they are produced abroad? And what is the Swiss cross doing on Chinese pans? In short: How much Swiss input does a product have to have for it to be branded as Swiss? The Institute of Intellectual Property has prepared a legislative revision intended to create greater clarity with regard to the use of the designation Swiss and of the Swiss cross on goods and services.

The IIP is responsible for all matters concerning the protection of intellectual property. Creative minds can register their inventions and creations with the Institute to protect them from being copied: new technical inventions can be patented, catchy names can be trademarked and original shapes or forms can be protected.

Swiss Institute for Comparative Law SICL

www.isdc.ch



Director a.i.:	Staff:	Revenue:	1 939 900.-
Christina Schmid	34	Expenditure:	7 571 200.-

This independent institute advises international organisations, courts of law, law firms, authorities, companies and individuals in Switzerland and abroad on points of law on all national legal systems. It also provides Swiss law-makers with reference models and sources of inspiration for drawing up and revising laws and international treaties.

The institute library has 360 000 reference works in over 60 languages for academics everywhere.

The SICL holds several events each year on topical subjects of comparative law and regularly publishes its own research work.

Federal Gaming Board FGB

www.esbk.admin.ch



Director:	Staff:	Revenue:	5 391 200.-
Jean-Marie Jordan	32	Expenditure:	9 422 300.-

The Federal Gaming Board supervises the 19 casinos in Switzerland. It ensures that casinos offer their patrons a fair and enjoyable game. Its main task is to ensure compliance with legal provisions to fight money laundering and compulsive gambling.

The Board also has the task of levying gaming tax on casinos, the revenues from which mainly flow into the Old Age and Survivors compensation fund so that at some point they benefit the whole population. The FGB also has the task of determining the legal status of a game if there is doubt regarding its nature. In such cases it has to determine whether the game concerned is one of luck or skill. In Switzerland only casinos are entitled to offer games of chance. The FGB is also responsible for addressing unlawful gaming.

London calling

Hopefully, when London calls the youth of the world to the 30th Olympic Games in 2012, a fair number of graduates from the recruit school for elite athletes will be among them. That is the declared goal of each of the 18 week training courses: namely to enable particularly talented and hard working athletes to compete successfully at Olympic and world championship level.

Warrant Officer Urs Walther shares credit for the fact that this goal is achieved year after year. At the Federal Office of Sport training centre in Magglingen he plans and monitors the daily sport and military training routines, while the various trainers put the athletes through their paces in their respective disciplines to make them as competitive as possible – personal coaching that other young professionals could only dream of.

Those performing their military service in Magglingen are of course professionals; the longstanding rule established by the reviver of the Olympic idea, Pierre de Coubertin, that only amateurs be allowed to compete at the Games, was officially dropped in the 1990s. And few people nowadays really believe that it is the taking part, not the winning that counts: today podium places and results are more important than ever.

The Swiss team brought back six medals from Beijing in 2008 and a dozen Olympic diplomas. Will they manage to bring back a few more from London in two years' time – thanks in part to Urs Walther?

Urs Walther is one of around 12 500 federal employees at the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS



Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS

General Secretariat



Secretary-General: Brigitte Rindlisbacher	Staff: 488	Revenue: 4 560 000.-	Expenditure: 188 249 100.-
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The head of the DDPS has a very wide range of responsibilities and is supported in his daily work by the General Secretariat, a team of specialists from very varied fields that also plans for the middle and long term. The GS manages, coordinates and monitors the use of Department funds in the areas of personnel, finances, legal affairs, IT, area planning and environment. It is also responsible for security policy strategy, communication, the Library Am Guisanplatz, translation services, the DDPS Damage Compensation Centre and Information Security and Facility Protection (ISFP).

For administrative purposes, the Security Committee of the Federal Council (Staff SecCom) is affiliated to the GS. The Security Committee comprises three federal councillors (defence minister, justice minister and foreign minister) whose business is first examined by the Security Steering Group. Both committees are supported by the Staff of the SecCom by means of regular situation assessments and assistance in crisis management at federal level.

The General Secretariat also looks after the three world-renowned Geneva Centres: the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

Office of the Armed Forces Attorney General www.aa.admin.ch



Armed Forces Attorney General: Brigadier Dieter Weber	Staff and budget included in the General Secretariat figures
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The Office of the Armed Forces Attorney General AFAG ensures that the military justice system can fulfil its task independently of armed forces command and of the administration. The Armed Forces Attorney General is the highest military prosecutor. He supervises the proper conduct of criminal proceedings and is also responsible for pursuing suspected war criminals, under the Geneva Convention, regardless of their nationality and the location of the crimes they commit.

Defence

www.armee.ch



Chief of the Armed Forces: Lieutenant General André Blattmann	Staff: 9684	Revenue: 363 356 900.-	Expenditure: 5 355 566 700.-
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The second D in DDPS stands for Defence. This sector is the planning, führende und verwaltende backbone of the Swiss Armed Forces. Defence makes up the largest sector in the department and is headed by the Chief of the Armed Forces who holds the rank of lieutenant general (three-star general). The Defence group consists of the headquarters with the Armed Forces Staff and the Joint Staff, the Land Forces and Air Force, the Armed Forces College, the Armed Forces Logistics Organisation and the Command Support Organisation.

The Armed Forces Staff is responsible for implementing political directives and instructions at military strategy level. It also ensures the development, planning, resource allocation and steering of the Armed Forces. The Joint Staff is in charge of planning and ensures the required level of readiness of the forces and operations, whether in terms of security for the WEF Annual Meeting in Davos, peace support in the Balkans (e.g. through Swisscoy in Kosovo) or disaster relief following avalanches, flooding or forest fires in Switzerland or abroad.

The Commanders of the Land Forces and the Air Force, also lieutenant generals, bear overall responsibility for training the Land Forces and the Air Force and for preparing ground and air units for action.

The militia officers and professional militiamen and women are being educated and trained at the Armed Forces College. Logistics involves maintenance, medical services, transport, infrastructure and the supply and return of arms, equipment and food. The command and control support organisation provides all necessary electronic support services.

Civil protection

www.bevoelkerungsschutz.ch



Director: Willi Scholl	Staff: 284	Revenue: 13 024 400.-	Expenditure: 137 271 800.-
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The P in DDPS stands for civil protection. Civil protection is an integrated system to provide crisis management, protection, rescue and assistance. In the event of disasters and emergencies it ensures the cooperation of the five partner organisations: the police and fire services, the health service, technical operations and civil defence. A joint management body is responsible for coordinating and managing operations.



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Responsibility for civil protection lies mainly with the cantons. The federal government, in particular the Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP) takes care of the general planning and coordination of NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical threats) protection, early warning and alerting systems and other emergency procedures, training and protective infrastructure. The federal government is responsible particularly for instructions in the event of increased radioactivity, emergencies relating to dams, epidemics and livestock epidemics, and armed conflict.

Within the FOCP there are two services with special tasks: the National Emergency Operations Centre in Zurich is responsible for warning and alerting the authorities and emergency services. The Spiez Laboratory is Switzerland's specialist institute for protection from nuclear, biological and chemical threats and hazards. Its services are often required by the UN and other international organisations.

Sport

www.baspo.ch



Director: Matthias Remund	Staff: 275	Revenue: 15 897 000.-	Expenditure: 183 574 500.-
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The S in DDPS stands for Sport. The Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO) promotes sports and physical activity for the whole population. Its activities focus on the positive effects of sport and movement: health, education, performance and the economy. The FOSPO devises and develops national sports policy and implements the resulting tasks. The FOSPO's most important programme is Youth + Sport in which around 550 000 young people take part each year in 75 different disciplines. The Swiss Federal Institute of Sports in Magglingen is one of the most important training facilities in Swiss sport. Its core competencies include teaching, research and development as well as services in the fields of sport and sport science.

In Magglingen and Tenero the FOSPO runs state-of-the-art education, training and course centres open to universities, associations, clubs and schools.

Armasuisse

www.armasuisse.ch



Chief of Defence Procurement: Jakob Baumann	Staff: 926	Revenue: 1 127 771 500.-	Expenditure: 923 382 371.-
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Armasuisse is the DDPS competence centre for procurement, technology, real estate and geodata. It ensures that the armed forces and civil protection are supplied with the systems, vehicles, equipment and properties that they require. Armasuisse is one of two federal government procurement centres. There is scarcely a household in Switzerland that doesn't have some armasuisse product such as the high quality products produced by the Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo) or the personal equipment of a member of the Swiss Armed Forces.

Armasuisse is undergoing a restructuring phase and will work more closely with its client, the armed forces. Armasuisse will in future comprise the Corporate Management Staff, the Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo), the Central Services and the following areas of competence: Advanced command and control and reconnaissance systems (e.g. procurement of simulators), Land systems (e.g. procurement of armoured vehicles), Air systems (e.g. procurement of aircraft for the Confederation), Purchasing and cooperation, Science and technology, and Real estate (manages in the region of 26 000 properties and 26 000 hectares of land belonging to the DDPS).

As Armasuisse is responsible for arms and equipment during their entire life cycle, it is also responsible for their liquidation.

Federal Intelligence Service



Director: Markus Seiler	Staff and budget confidential
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The Federal Intelligence Service FIS has the legal mandate to conduct a global evaluation of the threat to Switzerland. To that end it procures information not accessible to the public, analyses it and passes on its findings and assessments with the aim of providing a situation analysis suitable for decision-makers of all levels. Particular emphasis is placed on the early recognition of threats and dangers, but also on identifying opportunities for Swiss interests. The FIS deals with topics such as terrorism, proliferation, violent extremism and illicit intelligence gathering, but also with regional security developments, including their military aspects. The Service is supported by a broad network of domestic and foreign partners. It is supervised by various bodies of the administration and by parliament.



What goes where?

Monica Bilfinger works as an art historian at the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics. Her many and varied tasks include maintaining furniture and furnishings from buildings belonging to the Confederation. This includes, for example, both the two Federal Council residences – the Beatrice von Wattenwyl House in Bern’s old town and Lohn Manor in Kehrsatz –, but also embassy buildings abroad.

At the central warehouse, Monica Bilfinger carries out an inventory of the diverse range of furniture dating from various periods and checks whether they are being properly stored. Not all pieces are so attractive or valuable that they would fetch a high price at auction. However, because each piece is closely associated with the history of the building to which it originally belonged, all are valuable and worth preserving.

Naturally, Monica Bilfinger spends only a small amount of her time in the warehouse. Given her extensive knowledge of architecture and art history, her time is mostly spent advising those responsible for carrying out work on buildings owned by the Confederation subject to strict heritage rules. By far the most demanding recent project was the total renovation of the Parliament Building, which lasted two and a half years.

In addition, Monica Bilfinger works hard to raise awareness of the cultural monuments in her care by producing guides on Swiss art and history.

Monica Bilfinger is one of around 9200 federal employees at the Federal Department of Finance FDF

Federal Department of Finance FDF

General Secretariat



Secretary-General: Elisabeth Meyerhans Sarasin	Staff: 111	Revenue: 4 100.-	Expenditure: 123 711 600.-
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On a Tuesday evening in the Bernerhof, all the lights are burning and the offices are a hive of activity. The departments are submitting their final comments on the items of business concerning the FDF for the next morning's Federal Council meeting. In the General Secretariat, the finishing touches are being made to the proposals.

The GS plans the FDF items of business and supports Federal Councillor Hans-Rudolf Merz. The general public is informed through the department's communications. Improvisation would be out of place here; all information regarding Federal Council affairs is provided simultaneously in German, French and Italian. The *Federal Strategy Unit for Information Technology* is also affiliated to the GS. It draws up the principles for the further development of information technology in the federal administration and coordinates cooperation between the federal government, the cantons and the communes in the field of e-Government.

Federal Finance Administration FFA

www.efv.admin.ch



Director: Peter Siegenthaler	Staff: 203 excl. Swissmint (25) and the Central Compensation Office (601)	Revenue: 3 039 155 987.-	Expenditure: 6 321 808 262.-
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The FFA is the custodian of the federal coffers. The old rule "not to spend more than you earn" applies here more than elsewhere. In 2001, voters instructed the Federal Council and parliament not to run up any further debt. The debt brake therefore requires that expenditure not rise more rapidly than revenue over the economic cycle. The FFA has to comply with this requirement when it draws up the budget for the coming year. The FFA also draws up a financial plan for the three following years to give political actors sufficient time to make the appropriate changes. The financial plan lists all the agreed and envisaged expenditures. This allows sufficient time to decide whether projects need to be halted or if new sources of revenue need to be sought.

Through its transparent accounts, the FFA ensures that parliament and the people can see how their tax money is being spent and whether their decisions are being implemented. In addition, the FFA also oversees the legal framework of the Swiss financial centre and represents the country's interests with regard to international financial and monetary issues, as well as in the area of fighting money laundering and terrorist financing.

Federal Office of Personnel FOPER

www.epa.admin.ch



Director: Barbara Schaerer	Staff: 103	Revenue: 8 877 600.-	Expenditure: 223 580 100.-
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A country owes its success first and foremost to individuals and this also applies in the federal administration. As a large employer with well-qualified and motivated staff it has to

stand out through its expertise and know-how, but also through its creativity and breadth of vision. Around 36 000 work within the federal administration which offers innovative working conditions often in unique positions.

As a modern and attractive employer, the federal administration also contributes to the country's strong standing in international competition among locations for work. In order for that to remain the case, FOPER continuously adapts its human resources policy to ensure that the federal administration can continue to attract and retain the best people for the job. In order that it can achieve this in the long term, the FOPER is following the latest developments in the field of human resources and orienting its personnel policy accordingly. The FOPER is ensuring that the federal administration remains a competitive employer by applying innovative ideas, high quality further personal development opportunities and a transparent remuneration system.

Federal Tax Administration FTA

www.estv.admin.ch



Director: Urs Ursprung	Staff: 977	Revenue: 42 732 231 000.-	Expenditure: 5 740 494 000.-
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The FTA raises a major part of the Confederation's revenues and makes an important contribution to the financing of public activities. It ensures the efficient levying of VAT, direct federal tax, withholding tax and other duties. On the international level, the FTA seeks to negotiate the most beneficial double taxation agreements, which are of great importance for the economy and which set out rules on administrative assistance in tax matters. The FTA prepares legislative amendments in the field of tax law and implements the formal harmonisation of direct taxes by the Confederation, the cantons and the communes.

Federal Customs Administration FCA

www.ezv.admin.ch



Director: Rudolf Dietrich	Staff: 4501	Revenue: 11 333 700 000.-	Expenditure: 1 360 893 100.-
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Switzerland generates every second franc abroad. The Swiss customs authorities have the task of operating what is almost the only customs border in western and central Europe so that import and export businesses and regular travellers notice as little as possible. Swiss businesses should be able to operate on the single European market with as few disadvantages as possible compared to their European competitors. At the same time the customs authorities check that the legal requirements are being respected. The FCA levies a series of consumption taxes such as VAT and taxes on mineral oil and tobacco.

The Border Guard is the uniformed and armed section of the FCA and is the largest national civilian security organisation. Its duties include conducting searches for people, vehicles and other objects, fighting drug smuggling and document forgery, identity checks and traffic police duties, as well as customs services and fighting smuggling in general.



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Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication FOITT

www.bit.admin.ch



Director: Marius Redli	Staff: 1058	Revenue: 322 751 100.-	Expenditure: 323 450 000.-
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The times when the federal administration was able to function without computers and telecommunications are long gone. Websites, legislation online, customs declarations, tax forms – everything is done electronically. The FOITT is the central service provider in the administration for efficient, modern, secure, user and public-friendly services. The FOITT supports processes in the administration and makes sure telecommunications function between all federal offices at home and abroad. It installs standard workplace systems and also offers modern, specialised IT-supported applications.

Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL www.bbl.admin.ch



Director: Gustave E. Marchand	Staff: 670	Revenue: 920 659 100.-	Expenditure: 693 848 400.-
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Why are most of the offices in the Federal Administration filled with the same furniture? That's because federal employees are not allowed to simply order their desks and chairs from any furniture manufacturer that takes their fancy. Standardised items purchased in bulk are less expensive than individual purchases. Quotes always have to be sought – a thousand desks, ten pallets of ballpoint pens, tonnes of printer paper – and the contract is awarded to the best value bid. This is one of the responsibilities of the FOBL, which also maintains and manages the federal government's properties, whether it's the Federal Palace, the various administrative buildings, museums, castles or embassies around the world.

Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority Finma

www.finma.ch



Director: Patrick Raaffaub	Staff: 355	Revenue: 102 208 000.-	Expenditure (incl. compulsory reserves): 102 208 000.-
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Switzerland has one of the world's leading financial markets. The financial sector is therefore extremely important for the country's economy. In view of the dynamic developments in the financial markets and the ever increasing complexity of financial market supervision there was a need to improve the institutional structure of the existing supervisory authorities. Since the beginning of 2009, supervision of the core areas of the financial sector (banks, insurance companies, stock exchange etc.) has been undertaken by a single body, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority *Finma*. It was created through the merger of the Swiss Federal Banking Commission (SFBC), the Federal Office of Private Insurance (FOPI) and the Anti-Money Laundering Control Authority.

Swiss Federal Audit Office SFAO

www.efk.admin.ch



Director: Kurt Grütter	Staff: 88	Revenue: 1 130 000.-	Expenditure: 20 732 600.-
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As the Confederation's supreme audit institution, the SFAO has the right to request information from all federal employees about their work. It endeavours to identify deficiencies and weaknesses from a critical distance. It achieves improvements in the performance of federal activities by convincing staff of its expert recommendations. The SFAO relies on dialogue because its recommendations are more likely to be accepted.

Swiss Alcohol Board SAB

www.eav.admin.ch



Director: Alexandre Schmidt	Staff: 149	Revenue: 299 433 000.-	Expenditure: 35 595 000.-
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The SAB regulates the market for alcohol by means of taxes, controls and restrictions on trading and advertising. Alcosuisse, the SAB's profit centre is responsible for trade in ethanol (high grade alcohol).

As part of the total revision of the Alcohol Act, the questions of a liberalisation of the ethanol market by lifting the federal monopoly and the possible privatisation of Alcosuisse will be examined. In addition, the lifting of the monopoly on the production of spirits is being prepared, taking into account the proven provisions on prevention and the future needs of the spirits market.

Federal Pension Fund Publica

www.publica.ch



Director: Werner Hertzog	Staff: 126	Revenue: 32 900 000.-	Expenditure: 30 100 000.-
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The staff at Publica look after the affairs of around 55 000 active insured persons and 46 000 pensioners. Every month an average of CHF 160 million is paid out in the form of pensions and other payments. The saved assets of around CHF 30 billion have to be carefully invested over the course of the year. That means reconciling the need to generate a mandatory minimum return and protecting the capital that has been entrusted. The foundation of every healthy pension fund is therefore the consistent implementation of a serious long term investment strategy and a realistic basis for calculating pensions. In order to meet this requirement Publica completed the switch to a contributory plan in 2008 setting itself up as a collective institution with a total of 19 different pension schemes. Publica's new equal bodies have set the focus in 2010 on the consolidation of the collective institution and the raising of the working capital ratio. Whether the latter can be achieved is also dependent on the situation on the financial markets.

1 200 000 000

That's roughly the size of India's population: 1.2 billion, and that figure is expected to rise by a further 500 million by 2050. The world's most populous country after China is an interesting economic partner for Switzerland (and it will become even more interesting in future) as for its partner countries in the European Free Trade Association EFTA.

Ambassador Marie Gabrielle Ineichen Fleisch is spokesperson for the EFTA delegation, which is seeking a comprehensive free trade agreement with India for the four member states – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – particularly in the areas of goods, services, investment and intellectual property. It often takes a series of negotiation rounds, often spanning several years, until such an agreement is ready to be signed.

In order to achieve a win-win situation for all concerned it takes stamina, diplomatic finesse and a great deal of experience; those are aptitudes that the head of the World Trade Division of the Foreign Economic Affairs Directorate at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs has in abundance.

During negotiations with representatives of the most diverse countries, Ambassador Ineichen Fleisch is also able to display her flair for languages: in addition to our three official languages German, French and Italian, she is fluent in English, and also speaks Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

And as nothing opens doors to other cultures quite like languages, the polyglot ambassador is welcomed around the globe and is a successful negotiator.

Marie Gabrielle Ineichen Fleisch is one of around 2400 federal employees in the Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA



Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA

General Secretariat

www.evd.admin.ch



Secretary-General: Walter Thurnher	Staff: 189	Revenue: 22 548 800.–	Expenditure: 101 490 000.–
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The General Secretariat is the staff and coordination office of the Department and supports and advises the head of Department in her daily work. Its brief also involves planning, coordinating and monitoring the department's activities and it is responsible for overseeing the results and assessing the effects of its decisions. The General Secretariat provides human resources, finances and logistics, accounting and translation services for the whole department, as well as IT services.

For administrative purposes, the Federal Consumer Affairs Bureau and the Central Office for Civilian Service are also affiliated to the General Secretariat.

Swiss consumers have access to over 22 million different products and services. The *Federal Consumer Affairs Bureau* takes account of the interests of consumers and of the economy as a whole. In order to publicise consumer concerns, it also promotes access to objective information.

In 2009, admission to civilian service was considerably simplified with the introduction of what is known as proof by demonstration. A pool of recognised institutions in which service is performed provides over 6500 places to the 18000 or so individuals in service. The *Central Office for Civilian Service* and the seven regional centres process the applications, assist the individuals and recognise new institutions.

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

www.seco.admin.ch



Director: Jean-Daniel Gerber	Staff: 446	Revenue: 14 165 400.–	Expenditure: 1 229 411 300.–
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SECO is the Swiss Confederation's central office for all core issues of economic policy. Its stated aim is to promote sustainable economic growth by creating an appropriate regulatory and economic framework.

Employers and employees should be able to benefit from growth-oriented policies, the removal of barriers to trade, and the reduction of Switzerland's relatively high prices. On the domestic front, SECO acts as a point of contact between business, social partners and government. It supports the regionally and structurally balanced development of the economy and ensures the protection of employees. Through its labour market policy it contributes to the prevention and tackling of unemployment and consequently to upholding social peace. SECO also helps to ensure access to all markets for Swiss goods and services and investment. In terms of foreign economic policy, it is active in the formulation of efficient, fair and transparent rules for the world economy. Switzerland's relations to the European Union and to the European Free Trade Association are coordinated by the Integration Office, a joint office of the FDFA and the FDEA.

SECO also contributes to the sustainable development and integration of countries from the South and East into the world economy and to the reduction of social and economic disparities in the enlarged EU.

The Swiss Accreditation Service SAS which is now affiliated to SECO is responsible for the accreditation of public and private inspection and conformity assessment bodies in accordance with internationally recognised standards.

Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET

www.bbt.admin.ch



Director: Ursula Renold	Staff: 147	Revenue: 2 302 000.–	Expenditure: 1 277 475 800.–
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Education, research and innovation are essential for the economic, societal and social development of our country. The OPET deals with all three areas: It is the federal government's competence centre for vocational and professional education and training, Universities of Applied Sciences and innovation promotion. In this way, the OPET plays its part by training well qualified workers and making Switzerland an attractive location in which to do business. Together with the cantons and the professional associations, the OPET aims to ensure a high-level of vocational training. It coordinates the universities of applied sciences, which not only train future managers, but are also involved in applied research and development. The Innovation Promotion Agency CTI acts as a bridge between science and society. It supports research projects, the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and businesses and the recruitment of people with innovative ideas for new companies.

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

www.blw.admin.ch



Director: Manfred Böttsch	Staff: 965	Revenue: 195 005 500.–	Expenditure: 3 727 590 400.–
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Switzerland has 1 060 278 hectares of farmland, 1 560 000 head of cattle in its pastures and 172 991 people employed in the agricultural sector. Each year, the federal government provides agriculture with financial support of around CHF 3.6 billion. The FOAG works to ensure that the country's farmers produce high quality foodstuffs in a way that is both sustainable and market-oriented. Its aim is to have a multifunctional farming system that contributes towards meeting the food needs of the population and maintaining the basic necessities of life as well as towards the settlement of rural areas. It must also seek a socially acceptable balance between developments in domestic policy and the need to respond to changing external factors. The FOAG deals with the development of rural areas and promotes agricultural research.



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Federal Veterinary Office FVO

www.bvet.admin.ch



Director: Hans Wyss	Staff: 153	Revenue: 3 979 000.-	Expenditure: 69 540 700.-
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A tourist carrying 200 kilos of ape meat is stopped at the airport and another tries to illegally import souvenirs made of tortoise shell. Bluetongue has spread to Switzerland and has triggered the need for a vaccination campaign for cattle, sheep and goats. Animal rights activists are calling for stricter laws governing livestock farming while farmers are opposed. The tabloid press calls for “effective measures against fighting dogs” – many dog owners complain that they are being harassed by “dog haters” even though they behave properly.

All these situations have one thing in common: they are all difficult issues covered by the FVO: animal health, animal protection, food safety, species protection checks at border points and international cooperation in all these areas are dealt with by FVO employees on a daily basis. Many of these are emotive issues and that is how it should be as a federal office is there for people with thoughts and feelings.

Federal Office for National Economic Supply FONES

www.bwl.admin.ch



Delegate: Gisèle Girgis-Musy	Staff: 31	Revenue: 99 100.-	Expenditure: 8 149 000.-
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Switzerland buys virtually 100 per cent of its raw materials, 80 per cent of its energy, around one third of all its food, and a large proportion of essential therapeutic products from abroad. In cooperation with the private sector, FONES ensures that people in Switzerland have supplies of vital commodities in a crisis situation.

Supplies of food, energy supplies and therapeutic drugs are guaranteed by protecting imports, setting up compulsory reserves and making full use of domestic production. In addition, it is FONES' task to ensure the availability of transport capacities, sensitive industrial products and information technology infrastructure. It also takes measures to ensure the equitable distribution of scarce commodities.

Federal Housing Office FHO

www.bwo.admin.ch



Director: Ernst Hauri	Staff: 44	Revenue: 34 644 000.-	Expenditure: 104 298 200.-
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At Switzerland's latitude it is impossible to survive without accommodation. Housing is therefore a basic need. However, an apartment is also a capital asset. Each year around CHF 24 billion is invested in housing construction. Living costs are the greatest items of expenditure for households. Tenants pay some CHF 25 billion a year in rent and around CHF 18 billion is paid by house owners to creditors by way of mortgage interest payments. The FHO works closely with property developers to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable housing and that chang-

ing needs are taken into account. The ageing population, changing family and household structures and new lifestyles and forms of work also have an impact on housing. The FHO also seeks to reconcile the interests of landlords and tenants in the area of tenancy law.

Office of the Price Supervisor

www.preisueberwacher.admin.ch



Price supervisor: Stefan Meierhans	Staff: 14	Revenue: –	Expenditure: 2 852 100.-
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People used to worry about the cost of a cup of coffee. Now it tends to be doctors' or hospital bills, gas and water rates, or rubbish disposal and postal charges. Price supervision is aimed at protecting consumers from excessive pricing. Price supervision is aimed at protecting consumers from excessive pricing. It monitors price trends and blocks or eliminates improper price increases that have not been determined under free market conditions.

Competition Commission ComCo

www.weko.ch



Director: Rafael Corazza	Staff: 44	Revenue: 282 000.-	Expenditure: 10 430 400.-
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It is often the case that medicines are more expensive in Switzerland than abroad, that businesses put pressure on their suppliers and that companies merge. Such business transactions can have an adverse effect on consumers and other companies. ComCo monitors these transactions, prohibits illegal cartels and intervenes in cases where free competition is restricted. Its stated aim is to ensure unrestricted market access for businesses in Switzerland and open borders with foreign countries.

Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training SFIVET

www.ehb-schweiz.ch



Director: Dalia Schipper	Staff: 180	Revenue: –	Expenditure: 32 068 600.-
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The SFIVET is the federal government's competence centre for basic and continuing training of VET/PET professionals and conducts research and evaluations in a wide range of fields related to professional training.

Every year at the SFIVET's three locations: Lausanne, Lugano and Zollikofen, as well as in Zurich, a total of 600 VET/PET professionals obtain a diploma or a certificate, and 6000 expert examiners are trained. Around 40 new education ordinances are monitored and more than 20 research projects are carried out every year.

Is it rising or falling?

The lake at the lower Grindelwald glacier first formed in the summer of 2005 and has grown year by year, but it has also emptied a number of times – often without warning. Such dramatic changes in water level are rarely observed elsewhere.

Reason enough then for Hugo Raetzo from the Federal Office for the Environment to regularly monitor the level of the lake and analyse the data gathered from the measuring instruments together with the cantonal and communal authorities.

Hugo Raetzo works in a kind of oversized natural laboratory where the effects of climate change can be studied at first hand: in the Alps especially, conditions in many places are altering more drastically and at a rate far greater than scientists have ever seen before.

The glacier has already been receding for a hundred and fifty years. Consequently, the ice is no longer able to support the valley walls. This in turn repeatedly leads to rock falls. Because the fallen debris conserves the ice below and the glacier continues to recede, a basin has formed at the end of the valley with no aboveground drainage. Melt water and rain gather and could cause the lake to grow by up to 100 million cubic metres over the next five to ten years if nothing is done.

But last year something was done: an underground spillway tunnel was dug out. Today, it ensures that there is a regular discharge of water thereby eliminating the risk of a sudden and catastrophic flood in the Lütschinen valley down to the plateau between the lakes of Thun and Brienz.

Hugo Raetzo is one of around 2100 federal employees at the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC





Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

General Secretariat

www.uvek.admin.ch



Secretary-General: Hans Werder	Staff: 75	Revenue: 125 000.-	Expenditure: 69 258 100.-
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DETEC's federal offices are located in Ittigen and Biel. The office directors meet at the General Secretariat (GS) in Bern several times a year as it is not uncommon for several offices to have an interest in ongoing business at the same time. The meeting provides an opportunity to discuss these issues at the highest level.

The GS serves as the staff office for the head of Department. It plans and coordinates all departmental activities. In addition, it also exercises the role of owner with regard to Swiss Post, SBB, Swisscom and Skyguide and supervises the implementation of the strategic aims set out by the Federal Council.

The Independent Complaints Authority for Radio and Television, the Investigation Bureau for Railway, Funicular and Boat Accidents, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, and the postal services regulation authority (PostReg) are all affiliated to DETEC.

Federal Office of Transport FOT

www.bav.admin.ch



Director: Max Friedli (until 31.5.2010)	Staff: 255	Revenue: 6 432 000.-	Expenditure: 4 688 832 400.-
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In a series of popular votes the Swiss population has repeatedly approved measures to transfer transalpine heavy goods traffic from road to rail. Switzerland completed the first stage of this process with the opening in 2007 of the Lötschberg base tunnel. The tunnel is now fully operational. Together with the Gotthard and Ceneri base tunnels, which are still under construction, it forms part of the New Rail Link through the Alps NRLA. It is the cornerstone of the traffic transfer policy.

The huge NRLA project is coordinated by the Federal Office of Transport. It carries out the tasks determined by the Federal Council and parliament, monitors compliance in terms with cost and deadlines and issues the necessary authorisations.

The FOT is the federal office for public transport. Switzerland has a comprehensive and reliable transport network ranging from intercity trains to trams, buses, cable cars and paddle steamers. The FOT makes sure that the network continues to be modernised and is operated safely.

Plans to expand the network are in preparation. Journey times between Geneva and St. Gallen should be reduced by half an hour by 2030. Public transport timetables will be further improved with additional services. Targeted line extensions and more railway hubs will result in even better connections for many public transport users.

Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA

www.aviation.admin.ch



Director: Peter Müller	Staff: 251	Revenue: 13 689 300.-	Expenditure: 129 308 500.-
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"Safety first" is the FOCA's overriding principle. The FOCA uses a system of certifications and inspections to guarantee the implementation of high-level safety standards measured

against a European cross-section. In order to further improve air safety, Switzerland operates a system of non-punitive reporting. This principle allows pilots, air traffic controllers, mechanics and ground crews to report errors and accidents without being prosecuted by the FOCA. This approach places greater emphasis on learning from incidents that compromise safety than on penalising those at fault. The FOCA is performing pioneering work with its system of non-punitive reporting: only a few countries in Europe operate this type of system.

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

www.bfe.admin.ch



Director: Walter Steinmann	Staff: 156	Revenue: 14 888 500.-	Expenditure: 216 685 300.-
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The Federal Council's energy policy is based on the following four pillars: improvement of energy efficiency, promotion of renewable energy sources, the replacement of existing large-scale power stations as well as increased international cooperation. The SFOE has the task of putting these energy policy principles into practice for which it prepares suitable frameworks and measures. The aim is to ensure that our country will still have sufficient, safe and environmentally-friendly energy supplies in the future. Some of the necessary measures are set out in action plans on energy efficiency and renewable energies, such as the regulations on the energy consumption of household appliances, consumer electronics, light bulbs and electric motors.

Federal Roads Office FEDRO

www.astra.admin.ch



Director: Rudolf Dieterle	Staff: 405	Revenue: 16 163 400.-	Expenditure: 2 795 906 265.-
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The traffic on Swiss roads should flow. FEDRO is mandated by the Federal Council and parliament to solve the following problems: which national road sections need to be extended? Which road sections need to be resurfaced? Which tunnels need to be brought in line with the latest safety standards? How can the available funds be used most effectively?

Swiss roads should also be safe. FEDRO is actively involved in the federal action programme to improve road safety, *Via sicura*. The aim of the programme is to significantly reduce the number of people killed or injured in road accidents. Only well-trained drivers with safe, environmentally-friendly vehicles should be under way on safe roads. This is why FEDRO sets the requirements that drivers of 40-tonne trucks need to fulfil to ensure they transport their cargo safely and in an environmentally-friendly way. FEDRO also modifies technical requirements affecting car design to reduce the risk of injury to pedestrians or cyclists.

The increasing volume of traffic on the roads also has to be guided intelligently. FEDRO operates a traffic management system, which is run from a control centre in Emmen. The system allows the authorities to modify the flow of traffic on the national road network and ensure efficient and sustainable use of the limited road network.



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Information officer: Dominique Bugnon
www.uvek.admin.ch

Federal Office of Communications OFCOM www.bakom.admin.ch



Director: Martin Dumermuth	Staff: 249	Revenue: 48 883 100.-	Expenditure: 89 945 400.-
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Every day we listen to the radio, pick up the phone, send e-mails, surf online and watch TV. In order to be able to use all these services, there has to be a stable and powerful communications infrastructure in place. OFCOM has the task of enabling, licensing and supervising all this. With the growing communications needs of the 21st century there is a need for infrastructure with ever greater capacity. In order to ensure that everyone in Switzerland can benefit, OFCOM follows all the important steps at the political level. At present, the question being examined in conjunction with the Communications Commission (ComCom) and industry is how households can be connected to the fast glass-fibre network.

In addition OFCOM also allocates frequencies for radio and television stations. It ensures that the individual radio and TV stations do not infringe the conditions of their licence, e.g. on surreptitious advertising, and shares revenues from licence fees fairly between the regions.

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN www.umwelt-schweiz.ch



Director: Bruno Oberle	Staff: 398	Revenue: 30 000 000.-	Expenditure: 1 819 623 900.-
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We all want to live healthy safe lives. We also want to be able to enjoy the beautiful countryside and mountains. We naturally also expect a sound economy allowing us to lead comfortable lives.

But what does all that have to do with environment policy? A great deal, especially in an Alpine country like Switzerland where nature itself can be a threat. Flooding, rock slides or avalanches make that blatantly clear. The FOEN helps to ensure that the cantons, communes and residents are prepared for these things – be it in the shape of forests to protect roads and housing, or maps indicating the areas where natural hazards are most likely to occur.

Habitats and ecosystems also provide further benefits. They clean the water, fertilise crop plants or regulate the climate. Furthermore, they provide us with food, raw materials and other goods. One of the core tasks of the FOEN is to preserve the long term diversity of life, in a word, biodiversity. By helping to safeguard the sustainable use of water, soils and the air, it contributes to a healthy economy. Ultimately, environmental policy is also about what concerns us most, our health. It is easier to breathe when there is no fine particle dust or ozone in the air. People who are not bothered by noise have a better quality of life.

Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE

www.aren.admin.ch or www.raumentwicklung.ch



Director: Maria Lezzi	Staff: 60	Revenue: 20 100.-	Expenditure: 16 374 300.-
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Globalisation marches on. Europe is coming together. That presents Switzerland with great challenges. It has to position itself and play on its strengths – with efficient urban and economic centres, a dense network of lively and attractive towns as well as varied and well-preserved countryside and farmland.

Thanks to modern transport infrastructure, journey times between Switzerland's towns, tourist and rural centres have shrunk in recent years. That has had a positive impact on Switzerland's network of towns and rural areas. At the same time, the need for housing grows and valuable recreation and productive land is lost. Settlements and transport are not yet optimally attuned. Spatial planning in Switzerland is therefore not quite as sustainable as demanded by the Federal Constitution and the Spatial Planning Act.

The ARE weighs up these many demands on scarce land resources. The "Swiss spatial plan" provides a reference for spatial planning, which is currently being drawn up together with the cantons and communes. The partial revision of the Spatial Planning Act or the agglomeration programme also contribute to sustainable spatial development.

Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate ENSI



Director: Ulrich Schmocker	Staff: 116	Revenue: 26 578 000.-	Expenditure: 27 330 000.-
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Since 1 January 2009 the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI) has been responsible for ensuring the safe operation of nuclear installations in Switzerland. The ENSI is an independent public body and reports directly to the Federal Council. The ENSI took over from the Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (HSK) which was part of the Federal Office of Energy. The HSK's staff and responsibilities were also transferred. The overriding aim of the federal government's supervisory activities in the field of nuclear energy is to protect the population and the environment from harm resulting from radioactivity. The ENSI therefore supervises Switzerland's five nuclear power stations, the interim storage sites for radioactive waste and the nuclear research units at the Paul Scherrer Institute, the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and the University of Basel. That means ensuring that operators comply with regulations and that facilities are operated safely and that radiological protection is maintained. The ENSI also has the task of protecting nuclear facilities against sabotage and terrorism. Applications for alterations to existing nuclear facilities as well as applications for the construction of new nuclear facilities are assessed by the ENSI with safety in mind. It is also responsible for the safe transport of radioactive material and geo-scientific investigations on the deep geological disposal of radioactive waste.



THE FEDERAL COURTS OR

The Judiciary



As far as living arrangements are concerned, Switzerland is often referred to as a “nation of tenants”. Indeed there are few other European countries in which home ownership is as uncommon as it is between Lake Constance, Lake Geneva and Lake Lugano. Around two-thirds of Swiss households live in rented accommodation, and in larger towns and cities that figure even exceeds ninety per cent.

As is the case with all social relations here in Switzerland, relations between landlords and tenants are also largely formalised, in this case through mutual agreements and generally valid legislation.

However, given that every law can be interpreted in different ways and that jurisprudence is not an exact science, tenancy disputes, both major and minor, can arise.

And occasionally the views as to what is right and what is wrong are so far removed from each other, and the differences of opinion so great, that they pass through all instances up to the Supreme Court – as the case described on the next page shows.

The Third Power

The Federal Supreme Court as the highest court in Switzerland and the federal courts of first instance embody, at the federal level, the judiciary, one of the three state powers, the others being parliament, the legislature, and the Federal Council, the executive. Through their legal decisions, these courts contribute to the development of the law and to its adaptation to changing circumstances. The decisions of the Federal Supreme Court and the final rulings of the Federal Criminal and Administrative Courts may be referred to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The Federal Supreme Court must provide legal redress, ensure the uniform application of federal law, and develop the law in keeping with changes in the ways people live their lives. And it has jurisdiction in Switzerland as the court of final instance in almost every legal field:

Public law

The Federal Supreme Court hears appeals against cantonal decisions in matters of public law and legislation as well as violations of political rights (the right to vote, popular elections and votes). The two public law divisions rule on cases in these areas.

Civil cases

The Federal Supreme Court hears appeals against cantonal court judgements in civil matters (private law, contract law, commercial law, intellectual property, etc.). In disputes relating to property, the value of the claim must amount to at least CHF 30 000, or to CHF 15 000 in employment and tenancy cases. The two civil law divisions rule on disputes in these legal fields.

Criminal cases

The Federal Supreme Court hears appeals against cantonal judgements in criminal cases or against judgements of the Federal Criminal Court.

Social law

The Federal Supreme Court, in particular the two divisions for social law, deal with appeals in public matters against judgements of the cantonal insurance courts.

Subsidiary constitutional appeal

If the foregoing appeals are not admissible, action can be taken against violations of constitutional rights by means of a subsidiary constitutional appeal.

President of the Federal Supreme Court:



Lorenz Meyer
SVP

Vice President of the Federal Supreme Court:



Suzanne Leuzinger-Naef
SP

First Public law division



Michel Féraud
FDP President



Bertrand Reeb
FDP



Jean Fonjallaz
SP



Heinz Aemisegger
CVP



Niccolò Raselli
SP



Ivo Eusebio
CVP

First Civil law division



Kathrin Klett
SP President



Vera Rottenberg Liatowitsch
SP



Christina Kiss-Peter
FDP



Bernard Corboz
FDP



Gilbert Kolly
CVP

Criminal law division



Dominique Favre
SP President



Hans Wiprächtiger
SP



Laura Jacquemoud
CVP



Roland Max Schneider
SVP



Hans Mathys
SVP

First Social law division



Rudolf Ursprung
SVP President



Jean-Maurice Frésard
SP



Marcel Maillard
CVP



Suzanne Leuzinger-Naef
SP



Martha Niquille Eberle
CVP

The 38 judges and the 19 part-time judges carry out their duties in one of the seven divisions of the court in Lausanne or in Lucerne.

The United Federal Assembly appoints federal court judges according to linguistic, regional and party-political criteria; they serve a term of office of six years. They are assisted in their work by a staff that is 250 strong.

Second Public law division



Robert Müller (until 31.3.2010)
CVP President



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Notice served due to subletting without landlord's approval

In principle the Code of Obligations (OR) allows an apartment to be sublet in full or in part with the approval of the landlord. The rental agreement can place restrictions on this possibility or even prohibit it. In this case the Federal Supreme Court had to adjudicate on such a restriction.

Since 1998 a married couple had been renting an 8-room apartment in Geneva for 4220 francs a month. A provision in their rental agreement permitted the subletting of the apartment for three months over the summer; furthermore, the landlord had to be notified about the length and conditions of any sublet.

Disregarding this clause the couple sometimes also rented the apartment outside this period for 12 000 francs a month, often without notifying the landlord. The landlord repeatedly requested the couple to notify him of the subletting.

In February 2002 he terminated the rental agreement early for the end of March based on article 257f, para. 3 of the Code of Obligations.

The tenant objected but without success – firstly before the rental tribunal (decision of January 2007), then before the appeals chamber for rent and tenancy matters of canton Geneva (decision of November 2007). Lastly they submitted an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. The Court rejected the appeal in March 2008 and therefore confirmed the cantonal decision.

In this case the Federal Supreme Court upheld the conditions for a premature termination of the rental agreement: any tenant who sublets a rental property without the approval of the landlord risks the premature dissolution of their rental agreement; particularly if they fail to respond to a written request and the landlord could reject the sublet for reasons set out in the Code of Obligations. When the tenant refuses to reveal the conditions of the sublet, these conditions are abusive in comparison to those of the main rental agreement or if significant disadvantages arise for the landlord from the sublet. (BGE 134 III 300)

The Federal Criminal Court is the general criminal court of the Confederation, and has its seat in Bellinzona. It sits in judgement as a preliminary instance of the Federal Supreme Court.

It is independent in its activities but is subject to the administrative supervision of the Federal Supreme Court and the supervisory control of the Federal Assembly, which appoints the judges of the Federal Criminal court, of whom there are currently 17. They have a basic term of office of six years. Around 38 members of staff assist them in their work.

In accordance with its duties, the Court is organised into one criminal chamber and two appeals chambers.

Criminal Chamber

The Criminal Chamber is the court of first instance for offences that are subject to federal jurisdiction: felonies and misdemeanours against federal interests, explosives offences and cases of white-collar crime, serious organised crime offences and money laundering offences that do not fall within cantonal jurisdiction or which have an international element. In addition, the Court has jurisdiction over offences under the Federal Acts on Civil Aviation, Nuclear Energy and Pipelines.

First and Second Appeals Chambers

The *First Appeals Chamber* hears appeals against official acts and/or omissions by the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland or the Federal Examining Magistrates. In addition, it rules on coercive measures in federal criminal proceedings and on extensions of periods on remand, and deals with conflicts of jurisdiction between cantonal prosecution authorities or between the prosecution authorities of the Confederation and those in the cantons. The President of the First Appeals Chamber is responsible for approving telephone surveillance operations and covert investigations.

The *Second Appeals Chamber* deals with matters relating to international mutual assistance in criminal matters, i.e. appeals relating to the extradition of persons who face prosecution or who have been convicted, mutual assistance in foreign criminal proceedings as well as execution of penalties based on foreign convictions.

Federal Criminal Court
PO Box 2720, 6501 Bellinzona
091 822 62 62
www.bstger.ch

The Federal Administrative Court is the latest of the federal courts. It began its duties in 2007 and has its seat in Bern. In 2012, it is planned to move the court to a permanent location in St. Gallen.

The main task of the Federal Administrative Court is to sit in judgement on public law disputes that fall within the jurisdiction of the Federal Administration. These primarily involve appeals against decisions taken by federal or, in certain exceptional cases, cantonal courts. However, the Federal Administrative Court is also a court of first instance for actions based on federal administrative law.

In certain cases, decisions of the Federal Administrative Court may be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court. In more than half of its cases, however, it issues the final judgement as the court of last instance or of sole instance.

Organisation

The Federal Administrative Court employs 73 judges and a further 300 members of staff.

The court is organised in five divisions, with each having two chambers, and a General Secretariat.

The divisions are responsible for dealing with the appeals and claims. Each division deals with cases in a particular legal field.

- The *First Division* is responsible for appeal proceedings in areas including the environment, transport, energy and taxes.
- The *Second Division* focuses on proceedings relating to education, competition and the economy.
- The *Third Division* deals mainly with proceedings in the field of immigration, social security and health.
- The *Fourth and Fifth Divisions* operate exclusively in the field of asylum law, in particular in relation to questions of refugee status and deportation orders.

In most of these fields, the judgements of the Federal Administrative Court can be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court; in a few areas, and in particular in relation to asylum matters, the decisions of the Federal Administrative Court are final.

The Federal Supreme Court publishes reports of its decisions online.

Federal Administrative Court
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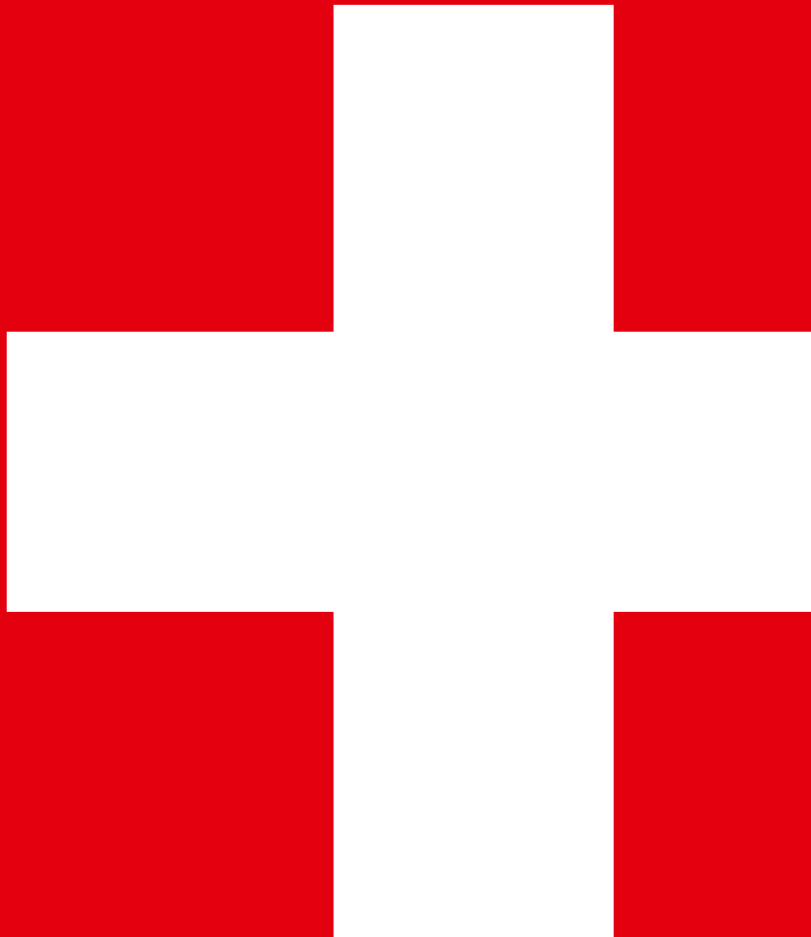
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