



# Motion

**Proposer:** PC3 (decided on: 03/30/2026)

**Title:** Patching the holes in the EU fabric: a federal Switzerland in a federal Europe

## Motion text

1 11 November 2023 (lapsing). Renewed for Federal Committee April 2026 Submitted  
2 by Political Commission 3: External Affairs & Global Governance

3 JEF Europe,

4 ● Applauding the federalist, multicultural and multilingual democratic system of  
5 Switzerland;

6 ● Welcoming the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Bilaterals III  
7 package, signed on 2 March 2026 in Brussels by President Guy Parmelin and the  
8 Commission President Ursula von der Leyen;

9 ● Recognising the present absence of popular support to join the EU but noting a  
10 clear desire to increase collaboration and recognising increased political  
11 willingness on both sides to stabilise and deepen relations, as demonstrated by  
12 the Bilaterals III package, which includes participation in key EU programmes;

13 ● Deploring the lack of democratic debates before the Swiss government broke off  
14 negotiations in May 2021, which created mistrust between the EU and its Swiss  
15 partner;

16 ● Welcoming the signature of the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA) on 10 November  
17 2025, granting Switzerland association to Horizon Europe, Euratom, and Digital  
18 Europe retroactively from 1 January 2025, with participation in ITER from 2026,

19 EU4Health (subject to the health agreement), and Erasmus+ from 2027;

20 ● Regretting the slow unravelling of bilateral agreements due to the lack of  
21 progress in their update which led, among other things, to the loss of the stock  
22 exchange equivalency, and non-renewal of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)  
23 provisions on medical devices (aka MedTech), impacting Swiss companies and  
24 customers with rising prices and/or less choice of products and services, and  
25 acknowledging that the Bilaterals III package addresses these issues through  
26 updated agreements on air transport, land transport, free movement of persons,  
27 conformity assessment, and agricultural products, complemented by new agreements  
28 on food safety, health, and electricity;

29 ● Acknowledging the Swiss semi-direct democracy system which has worked well for  
30 Switzerland, and noting that, when Switzerland becomes an EU member, Swiss  
31 referenda would become an integral part of the EU decision-making process in all  
32 domains where Swiss parliamentary authorities are engaged, exclusively or  
33 jointly as part of EU decision-making, but not when competencies are exclusive  
34 to the EU, in line with the Swiss federalist logic between municipalities,  
35 cantons, and the Confederation;

36 ● Acknowledging the recommendations issued by the Council of Europe's Group of  
37 States against Corruption (GRECO) to Switzerland regarding political funding for  
38 elections, referenda and initiatives;

39 ● Deploing the structural democratic deficit inherent in the bilateral model,  
40 whereby Swiss lawmakers incorporate EU law into Swiss law without having formal  
41 representation in EU decision-making institutions, a gap that can only be fully  
42 addressed through Swiss EU membership or through new institutional arrangements  
43 that have not yet been developed on either side;

44 ● Highlighting the importance of the continuation of cross-border cooperation  
45 between Switzerland and its neighbours at the local and regional level,  
46 including but not limited to key areas such as public transport, scientific  
47 research, education, healthcare, environmental conservation, and economic  
48 development;

49 ● Recognising the prevalence of cross-border workers in the Swiss labour force,  
50 constituting a significant proportion, who engage in commuting activities from  
51 neighbouring countries, thereby rendering them notably susceptible to challenges  
52 associated with cross-border work-related impediments;

53 ● Mindful of fears over maintaining high wage levels in Switzerland in the face

54 of EU integration, but aware that the cases of Denmark, Luxembourg and others  
55 have shown that maintaining high wages is compatible with EU membership;

56 ● Concerned that EU law may be applied differently in Switzerland and that there  
57 may be a lack of an efficient dispute resolution mechanism between Switzerland  
58 and the EU; an issue addressed in the Bilaterals III package through provisions  
59 for dynamic alignment of legislation and a dispute-settlement mechanism;

60 ● Noting that the safeguard clause on free movement of persons has been  
61 modified: Switzerland can maintain the clause but can no longer activate it  
62 unilaterally without prior discussion with the EU;

63 ● Welcoming Switzerland's participation in most EU sanctions packages, and  
64 noting that the Swiss parliament has approved amendments to the War Materiel Act  
65 allowing automatic re-export of weapons to 25 countries that share Swiss values  
66 and have comparable export control regimes, subject to a possible referendum and  
67 with the government retaining the right to block individual exports on national  
68 security grounds, while regretting that this change is not retroactive and  
69 therefore does not affect Swiss made weaponry bought by EU states prior to its  
70 entry into force, and noting with concern that Ukraine is not included among the  
71 benefiting countries;

72 ● Respecting Swiss military neutrality, but also reminding Switzerland that it  
73 benefits disproportionately from the EU's security and defence mechanisms  
74 without contributing, and that there will be growing expectations from the EU  
75 and its Member

76 States for Switzerland to contribute to Europe's future security and defence  
77 architecture and to level the playing field in security and defence spending;

78 ● Calling on the EU to remain responsive to Switzerland's security concerns and  
79 to engage in genuine partnership, recognising that a stable and mutually  
80 beneficial relationship requires efforts from both sides;

81 ● Welcoming Switzerland's commitment under Bilaterals III to a permanent  
82 financial contribution to EU cohesion: CHF 130 million annually for 2025-2029,  
83 increasing to CHF 350 million annually for 2030-2036;

84 ● Noting the establishment of a high-level dialogue between Switzerland and the  
85 EU through a joint declaration, providing for annual meetings to review progress  
86 and discuss future cooperation;

87 ● Welcoming the new agreements on electricity, food safety, health, and  
88 Switzerland's participation in the EU Agency for the Space Programme (Galileo  
89 and EGNOS), which deepen sectoral integration beyond the internal market;

90 ● Welcoming progress toward an EU–Switzerland electricity agreement, recognising  
91 Switzerland's strategic importance in European energy security and the shared  
92 goal of a carbon-neutral continent;

93 JEF Europe therefore,

94 1. Urges Switzerland to join the EU in order to fill the current democratic gap  
95 and enjoy the benefits of EU membership;

96  
97 2. Encourages Switzerland to pursue the process of European integration and to  
98 ensure the successful ratification of the Bilaterals III package through its  
99 parliamentary and popular consultation processes;

100 3. Suggests that Switzerland join Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway in the EEA  
101 in the short term as a possible first step toward EU membership, while  
102 acknowledging that the Bilaterals III package already provides access to key EEA  
103 programmes including Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, Digital Europe, and Euratom;

104 4. Calls on Switzerland and the EU to conclude as soon as possible a  
105 comprehensive package settling essential institutional issues such as dynamic  
106 incorporation of evolving EU legislation and an efficient dispute-settlement  
107 mechanism; welcoming that the Bilaterals III package, signed on 2 March 2026,  
108 achieves these objectives;

109 5. Calls on the EU and Switzerland to conclude an energy agreement as part of a  
110 comprehensive package; welcoming that such an agreement on electricity is  
111 included in Bilaterals III;

112 6. Invites Switzerland to modernize its interpretation of neutrality and align  
113 fully with the foreign policy of the EU in particular as regards to sanctions  
114 and sanction enforcement against Russia in response to the full-scale invasion  
115 of Ukraine, welcomes the Swiss

116 parliament's approval of amendments to the War Materiel Act easing weapons re  
117 export restrictions to 25 countries sharing Swiss values, while regretting that  
118 Ukraine is not included and that the changes are not retroactive;

- 119 **7. Recommends that special attention be given to potential issues arising from**  
120 **Switzerland's high wage and price levels by replacing current "accompanying**  
121 **measures" by EU and / or Swiss legislative measures designed to protect local**  
122 **wages;**
- 123 **8. Commits itself to support a referendum or a citizen initiative in Switzerland**  
124 **aiming at closer integration of Switzerland with the EU;**
- 125 **9. Urges Switzerland to become a participating country of the Erasmus+**  
126 **programme, welcoming that participation is confirmed from 2027 under Bilaterals**  
127 **III;**
- 128 **10. Strongly calls for full and permanent re-association of Switzerland to EU**  
129 **research programmes and Erasmus+ beyond the current Bilaterals III timeline,**  
130 **ensuring long-term stability for Swiss and European students, researchers, and**  
131 **innovators;**
- 132 **11. Commits itself to support JEF Switzerland in its objectives of improving the**  
133 **relationship between Switzerland and the EU and to support Switzerland in**  
134 **becoming a full member of a federal European Union.**