



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

The bilateral approach

© pixabay



Historical overview

Free Trade Agreement (trade)

1972

Bilaterals I (economy)

1999

Bilaterals II (politics)

2004

Additional agreements

from 2004 on



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Historical overview



Bilateral relations since 1972
On the basis of over 100
agreements

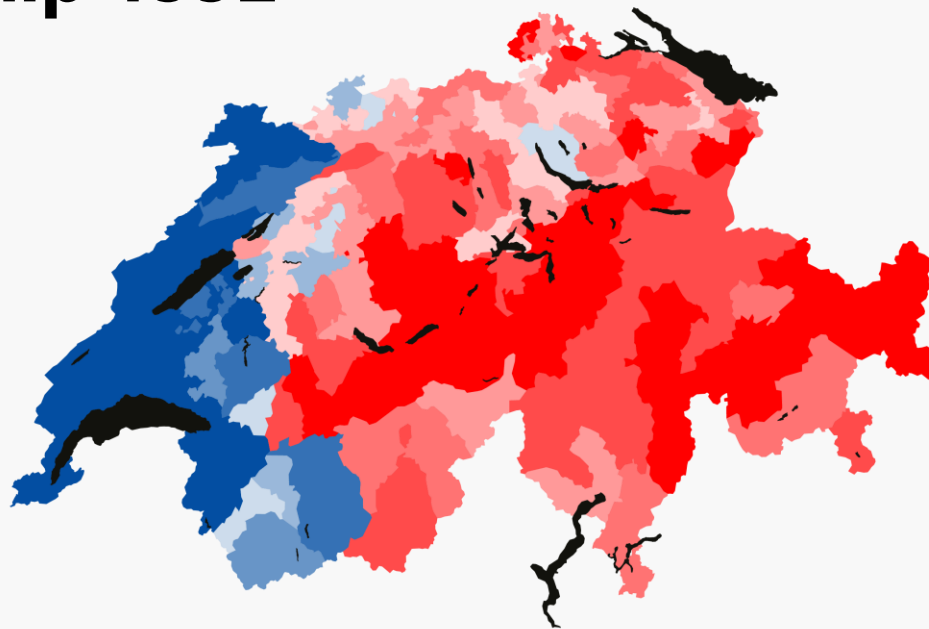
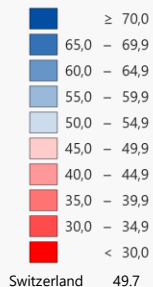




No to EEA membership 1992

Origins of the bilateral approach
on 6 December 1992

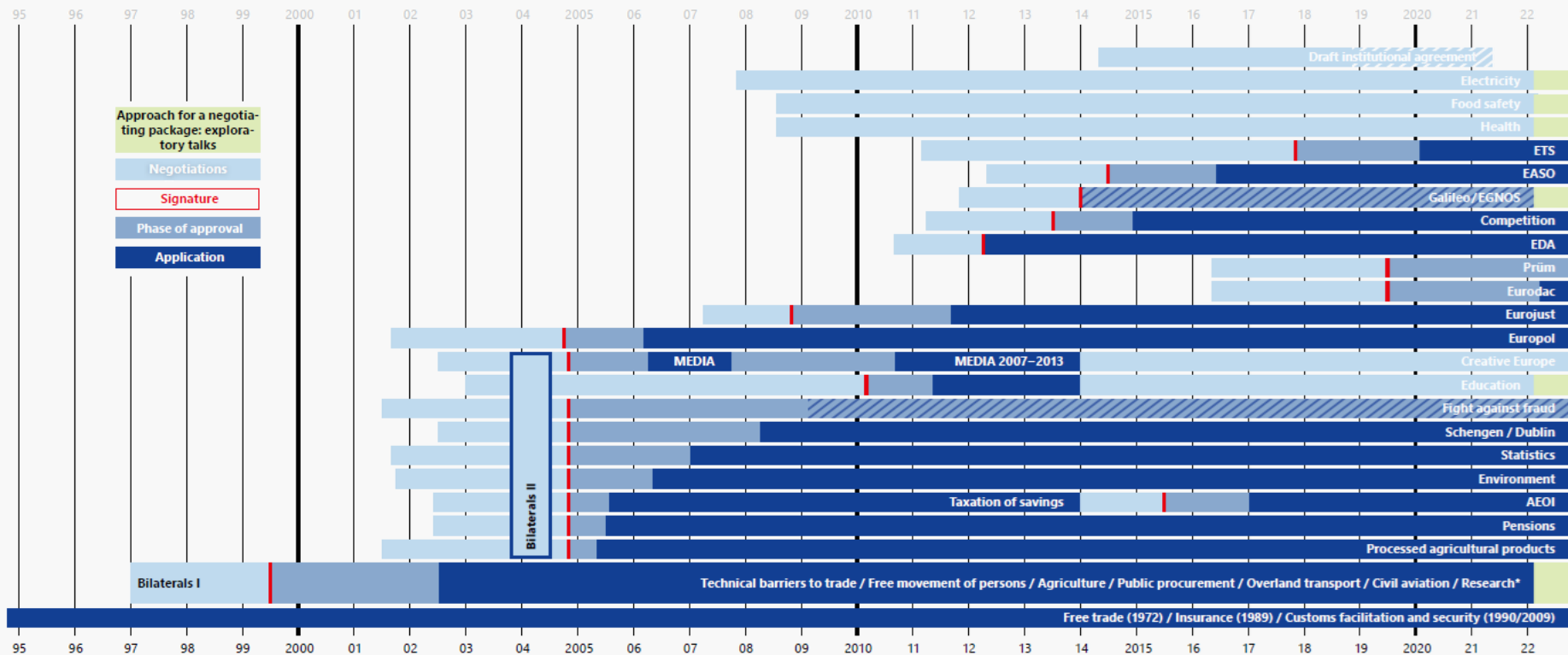
Yes vote percentage





Bilateral agreements Switzerland–EU

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



The bilateral approach

* Research: Due to the limited duration of the EU programmes, the research agreement must be renewed for each programme generation.

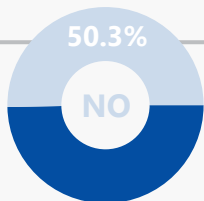


Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

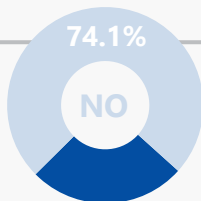
Key referendums

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

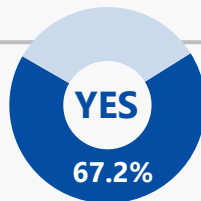
1992 European Economic Area (EEA)



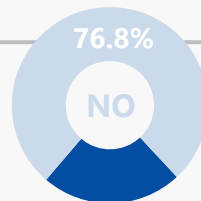
1997 'EU membership negotiations before the people' initiative



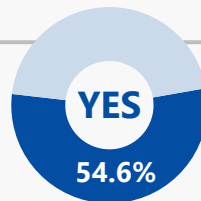
2000 Bilaterals I



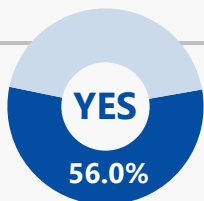
2001 'Yes to Europe!' initiative



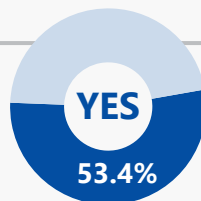
2005 Schengen/Dublin



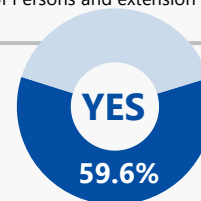
2005 Extension of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons



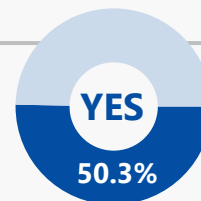
2006 Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe



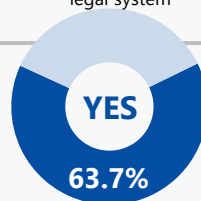
2009 Continuation of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons and extension to BG/RO



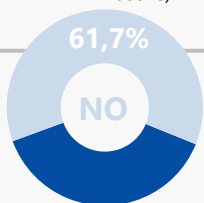
2014 'Stop Mass Immigration' initiative



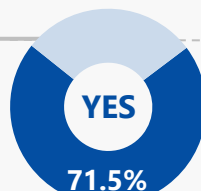
2019 Implementation of the EU firearms directive into the Swiss legal system



2020 'For moderate immigration (Limitation Initiative)'



2022 Frontex





Key elements of the bilateral approach



**Tailor-made
sectoral agreements**



Access to EU single market



A Swiss approach



Cooperation with Europe





Guillotine clause

- **Principle of parallelism:** the seven agreements were negotiated, signed and entered into force as a single package.
- **Bilaterals I:** free movement of persons; technical barriers to trade; public procurement; agriculture; overland transport; civil aviation; research.*
- The agreements were linked in legal terms by a **guillotine clause**. This means that if one of the agreements is terminated, all seven are annulled.

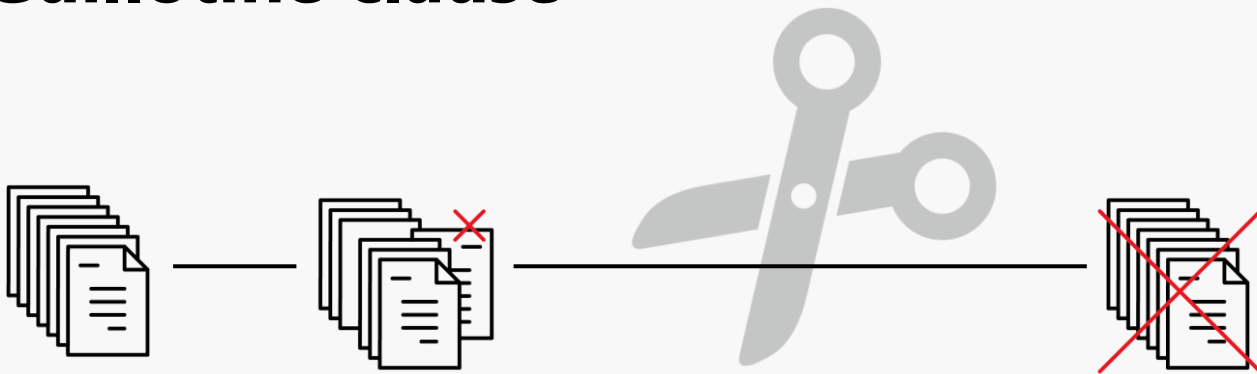
*The 1999 research agreement expired at the end of 2002.

Summary

If the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons is terminated, all other agreements under Bilaterals I will lapse after a period of six months.



Guillotine clause

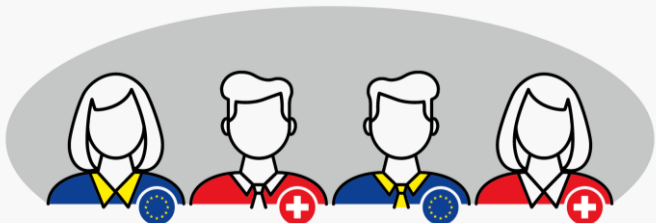


Summary

If the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons is terminated, all the other agreements under Bilaterals I will lapse after a period of six months.



Joint committee



- 1 agreement = 1 joint committee (excluding automatic exchange of information in tax matters and pensions)
- Governs the implementation of the bilateral agreements:
 - ensures that the arrangements function properly and adapt if necessary;
 - conducts exchanges.
- Comprised of Swiss and EU representatives
- Meet once a year



Package approach

To stabilise and develop the bilateral approach

15 December 2023

Federal Council approves
draft **negotiation
mandate**

8 November 2023

Federal Council decides on
the preparation of draft
negotiation mandate

27 October 2023

Exploratory talks with
the EU that began in
March 2022 come to an
end

23 February 2022

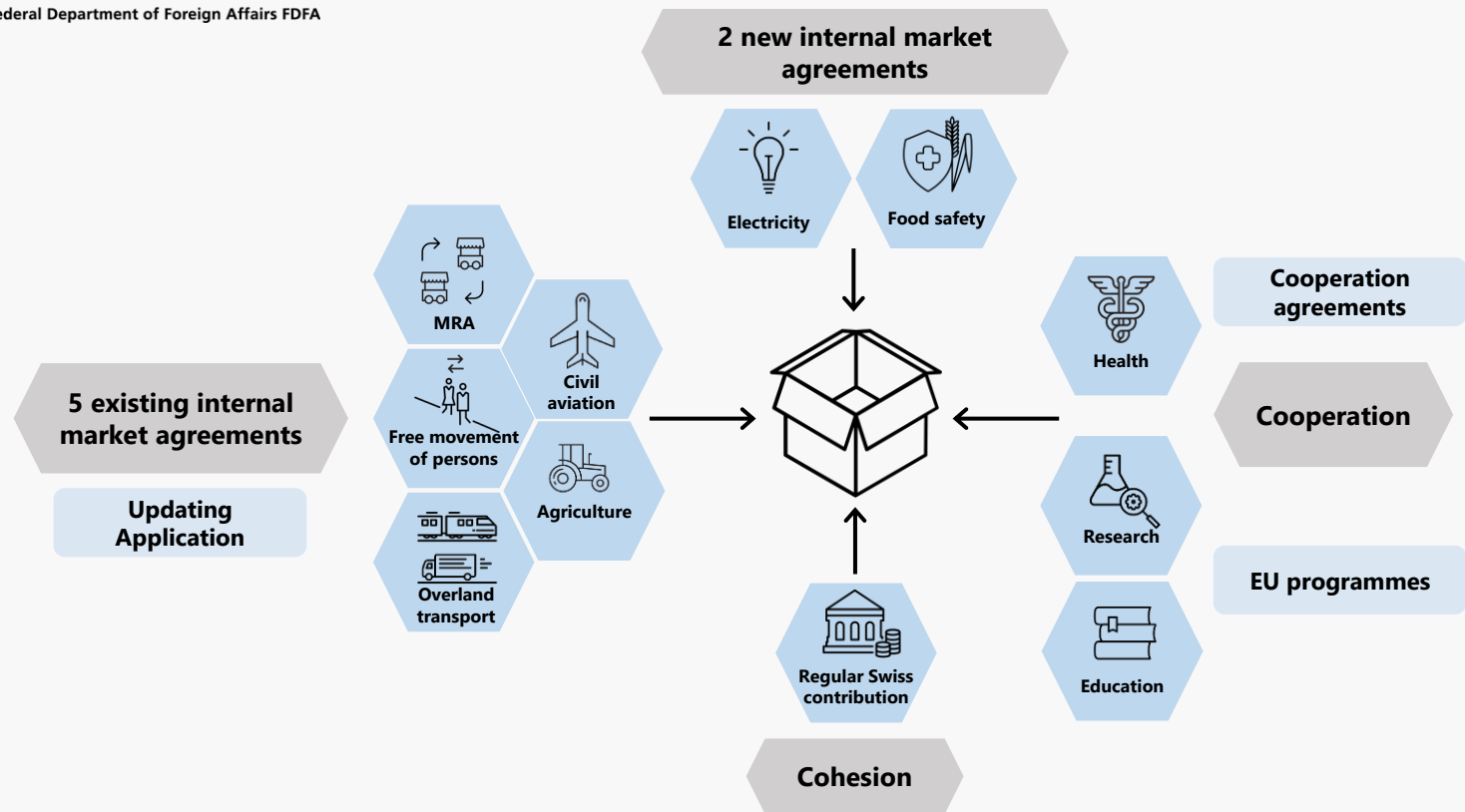
Adoption of guidelines
for a **negotiating
package** with the EU

What does the package contain?

Updating existing & concluding new internal market
agreements, new co-operation agreement,
participation in EU programmes, institutional
elements, state aid, regular CH contribution



Further development of the bilateral approach





Stabilisation of the bilateral approach

The Federal Council decided on an approach in which the institutional elements shall be anchored in each individual single market agreement. Their resolution is part of the package approach.

→ Incorporating these elements into the individual single market agreements enables a balancing of interests.

**Adoption of
developments of EU law**

Dispute settlement

Exceptions and safeguard clauses

Level-Playing Field



Switzerland has much in common with the EU and its member states

Besides economic aspects, we share values, languages, culture and geography.



In the international arena, we often advocate for the same goals and values such as peace, human rights and democracy.



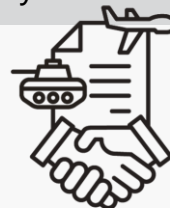


Switzerland–EU: broad cooperation for peace and security in Europe

- Agreement between Switzerland and the **European Defence Agency** (EDA) on armaments cooperation (non-legally binding).
- Opportunities for cooperation with the EU in relation to **the EU's common foreign, security and defence Policy** (e.g. Swiss participation in peacekeeping missions such as EULEX Kosovo and EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- EU **sanctions**: Switzerland decides on a case-by-case basis whether it wishes to adopt them and can thereby enhance their effect.
- Switzerland also participates in EU **election observation missions**.



Switzerland's commitment to **peace** and **security** is enshrined in the **Federal Constitution** and is a **priority** of Swiss foreign policy.





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

A close-up photograph of railroad tracks, showing the steel rails and wooden sleepers. The tracks are slightly curved and recede into the distance. The gravel between the tracks is visible.

Thank you for your attention

www.fdfa.admin.ch/europe_en

© pixabay