



## **Timeline of Swiss-EU relations since 2013 (aspects related to the institutional agreement)**

- 18.12.2013** Federal Council adopts the negotiating mandate in regard to the institutional issues
- 09.02.2014** The Swiss people and cantons approve the popular initiative 'Stop mass immigration'.
- 22.05.2014** First round of negotiations on an institutional agreement between Switzerland and the EU The negotiations are interrupted from November 2014 to November 2015 in connection with the implementation of the popular initiative 'Stop mass immigration'.
- 24.11.2015** Negotiations on the institutional agreement resume.
- 16.12.2016** Parliament approves the implementation of Article 121a of the Constitution (initiative 'Stop mass immigration').
- 06.04.2017** Meeting between President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker
- 23.11.2017** Meeting between Leuthard and Juncker (offer of the EU to have a mechanism established for referring disputes to an arbitration panel)
- 31.01.2018** Federal Council decision to grant the FDFA, in collaboration with the FDJP and the EAER, the mandate to explore multiple issues with the EU (including how to settle disputes and to guarantee the continuation of the accompanying measures currently in place). In addition, the FDJP receives a mandate to determine whether Switzerland is able to make concessions as regards the Citizens' Rights Directive.
- 05–09.02.2018** Round of exploratory talks with the EU on the basis of the mandate granted by the Federal Council
- 02.03.2018** Federal Council decision clarifying the negotiating mandate of 18 December 2013 in regard to the institutional issues The clarification concerns, in particular, the settlement of disputes (through an arbitration panel).
- 23.11.2018** Ministerial meeting in Zurich between Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis and European Commissioner Johannes Hahn The EU holds that the negotiations on the institutional agreement are concluded. Switzerland contests this.
- 07.12.2018** Federal Council decision to launch consultations on the draft institutional agreement The Federal Council considers the outcome of the negotiations to be largely in keeping with Switzerland's interests. However, it decides not to sign the agreement due to the issues to be resolved concerning the accompanying measures and the Citizens' Rights Directive.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>January 2019</b>       | EU: formal instructions to the services of the Commission to suspend or delay the discussions under way with Switzerland while waiting for the institutional agreement negotiations to lead to a result (confirmation of the Selmayr doctrine, i.e. blocking progress on certain dossiers in connection with the institutional agreement) |
| <b>First half of 2019</b> | The Federal Council conducts consultations with the stakeholders in Switzerland.  |
| <b>07.06.2019</b>         | Federal Council decision approving the report on the consultations and requesting clarification of three points – the Citizens' Rights Directive, the preservation of working conditions and wages, and state aid These points are communicated to European Commission President Juncker in a letter sent the same day.                   |
| <b>From summer 2019</b>   | The Federal Council's foreign policy delegation, together with the cantons and the social partners, drafts proposals with specific solutions for resolving the three issues in need of clarification.   |
| <b>July 2019</b>          | EU: The stock exchange equivalence temporarily granted to Switzerland is not extended. Following this, Switzerland implements its plan to protect its stock exchange infrastructure.  |
| <b>03.12.2019</b>         | Parliament approves a second contribution to EU member states, in the form of two credits to further efforts in the areas of cohesion and migration. However, it sets a condition: these funds may not be distributed as long as the EU subjects Switzerland to "discriminatory" measures.  |
| <b>20.01.2020</b>         | Meeting in Davos between President of the Swiss Confederation Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillors Ignazio Cassis and Karin Keller-Sutter, and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen  |
| <b>27.09.2020</b>         | The popular initiative 'For moderate immigration' (referred to as the Limitation Initiative) is rejected.   |
| <b>11.11.2020</b>         | Federal Council decision on its position regarding the clarifications and the resumption of discussions with the EU   |
| <b>13.11.2020</b>         | Telephone exchange between Sommaruga and von der Leyen, during which Switzerland makes its offer to the EU regarding the aforementioned clarifications  |
| <b>21.01.2021</b>         | Discussions with the EU resume. The first meeting, between Stéphanie Riso, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the President of the European Commission and State Secretary Livia Leu, is followed by six formal rounds of intense, substantive and specific discussions.   |
| <b>23.04.2021</b>         | Meeting between von der Leyen and President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin to review the situation and take political stock of the ongoing discussions   |
| <b>April–May 2021</b>     | The Foreign Affairs Committees and the cantons are consulted.   |