

PARTY PROGRAMME
2015–2019

SVP – the party for Switzerland



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2015 – 2019

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PARTY PROGRAMME

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Our agenda for a free, independent and

FOREIGN POLICY

Independence and self-determination

The SVP advocates the preservation of an independent and neutral Switzerland. The sale of Swiss sovereignty and self-determination by the political elite must be stopped. Therefore, our country must no longer be insidiously integrated into international structures such as the EU. On the basis of neutrality, the SVP commits to a credible policy of good offices, mediation and humanitarian aid.

Our focus:

- ▶ The SVP is opposed to gradual accession to the EU
- ▶ The SVP has launched the popular initiative «Swiss law instead of foreign judges (self-determination initiative)»
- ▶ The SVP demands that public development aid be linked to repatriation agreements for asylum seekers through their country of origin



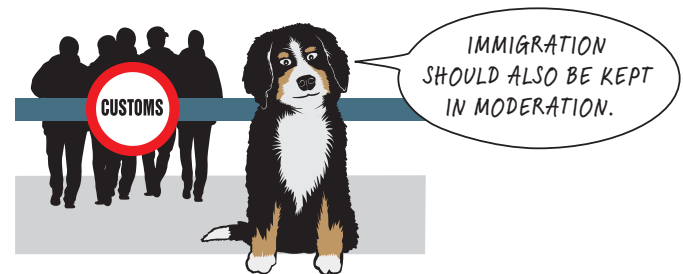
POLICY ON FOREIGNERS

Limit immigration

Switzerland has always offered a generous but controlled welcome to foreign workers, and provided them with job prospects. In various votes, the Swiss electorate has demonstrated that it wishes controlled immigration, with clear rules that apply to all. Anyone who comes to Switzerland is required to obey the local laws, integrate and earn their own living.

Our focus:

- ▶ The SVP demands the consistent implementation of the «Stop mass immigration» constitutional article (with respect to quotas and priority given to Swiss nationals), which has been endorsed by the electorate, in order to considerably reduce immigration
- ▶ The SVP calls for the reintroduction of border controls to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the country



sovereign Switzerland – overview

SECURITY

Punish criminals instead of coddling them

At one time, Switzerland was one of the safest countries on earth. Relaxed policy, inconsistent implementation of existing laws and opening the borders through joining the Schengen area have resulted in our country ranking today in Europe among the countries with a high rate of crime. However, Switzerland must not become an El Dorado for criminals. A policy with effective sentences and consistent implementation must be finally enforced.



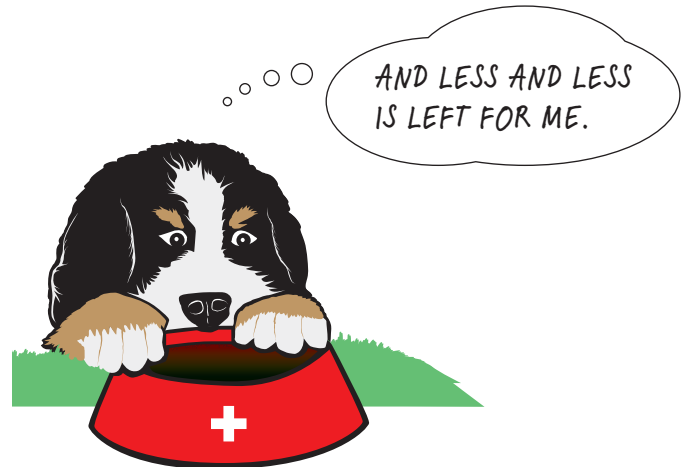
Our focus:

- ▶ The SVP calls for the consistent enforcement of the deportation of criminal foreigners
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FINANCES, TAXES AND LEVIES

More for small businesses, less for the state

The state keeps growing and growing. Federal government spending has doubled since 1990. The public sector is taking on more and more tasks. Since there is a lack of political willingness to get a grip on the spending explosion, taxes, levies and fees are being raised. The bill is being footed primarily by small businesses. This dynamic must ultimately be broken because the prosperity of the whole country is dependent on a healthy small business sector. Every Swiss franc spent must first be worked for.



Our agenda for a free, independent and

PROPERTY

Against expropriation, for the protection of privacy

The guarantee of private property is one of the most important tasks of a free and democratic state. The SVP supports the freedom of citizens to dispose of physical and intellectual property acquired by them. This includes the state leaving its citizens with as much money as possible in their wallets for them to freely dispose of. In our times, it is also becoming more and more important that the privacy of citizens be defended. The details of citizens' lives must not be laid bare.

ARMY

Security for our country and its people

Security is an indispensable requirement for freedom, independence and prosperity. A reliable militia army guarantees this security even in times of crisis, and is the tailored solution for the needs of Switzerland. Security is not something that can be taken for granted. Today, there are armed conflicts raging just a few flight hours away from us. Terrorist attacks can happen at any time and any place. We are obligated to provide the necessary resources for our army and national defence in future as well, so that the country and its people are able to live in security and freedom.



sovereign Switzerland – overview

AGRICULTURE

In support of domestic production

The SVP is committed to productive agriculture that provides the population with healthy foods produced near to where they are sold. Farming families must earn a reasonable income for the important services they provide on behalf of the general public. The planning security and innovativeness of an entrepreneurial agricultural sector is to be reinforced. What is more, excessive ecologisation is to be scaled down to a reasonable level, with cultivated agricultural land being preserved in return.



TRANSPORT

Smoothly flowing traffic without obstacles

A needs-based, well-developed and well-maintained transport infrastructure is an important prerequisite for prosperity and free development. The limited funds available for infrastructure should be used efficiently and without ideology. Roads must not be neglected in favour of the rail network, as has often been the case in recent decades. Each carrier should receive the funds it generates. Redistribution, cross-subsidisation and misappropriation must be halted, together with daylight robbery of car drivers through new and ever-increasing duties, charges and fines.



Preserve Swiss pillars of success



As a small, naturally poor country, Switzerland has evolved from once being the poorhouse of Europe to become one of the most successful and prosperous countries of the world. Switzerland essentially owes this to its special form of state em-

bodying the pillars of independence, direct democracy, neutrality and federalism. All of these make Switzerland a unique special case. They are the guarantee for freedom and welfare. It was only thanks to these pillars of success that our country was able to achieve and maintain its place in the world as an economic leader, and it is only thanks to these pillars that freedom and welfare are preserved. This is the only way to place focus on citizens – not on politicians and civil servants.

Attacks on the pillars on which our state is built

All other parties, with the exception of the SVP, are pulling in the opposite direction. They are undermining and destroying these pillars on which our state is built. They are pushing Switzerland towards foreign rule, particularly to EU accession, and they want foreign laws and foreign judges, which will cause Switzerland to lose its independence. They are progressively doing away with direct democracy by failing to implement the results of decisions made by the people. The other parties accord foreign laws greater respect than Swiss laws and want to thwart popular initiatives

and referendums. They regularly infringe our neutrality by taking positions on international conflicts and pushing to join the UN Security Council. In this way, they bring war to their own country. The other parties ignore federalism by taking more and more decisions away from the cantons and municipalities to Bern, to the detriment of our children, our families and our schools.

Independence at risk

The pillars of state enshrined in the Federal Constitution have brought Switzerland an openness to the world that is exemplary. At the same time, Switzerland has maintained its independence and not acquiesced to any external influences. The maintenance of this independence is nothing short of the purpose of the state of Switzerland. The seven federal councilors and all elected representatives have taken an oath or solemn undertaking to preserve this. Yet, the SVP is the only party that consistently champions the pillar of success of independence, which guarantees us freedom and welfare. The Federal Council, parliamentary majority and administration do the opposite: they insidiously promote accession to the EU. They talk about «framework agreements» or «institutional ties», but mean adopting foreign laws and the decisions of foreign judges.

Direct democracy is being undermined

The right of our citizens to co-determination is an exception worldwide. Since 1848, Switzerland has held more votes and elections than all the other countries in the world combined. The Swiss have more opportunities to vote in a single year than the British, for example, have in their entire lifetime. Thanks to direct democracy, our focus is on our citizens. They not only have the ability to elect their public authorities, they are also able to decide on factual issues. This prevents politicians from making decisions over the heads of citizens. The SVP is the only party that supports

direct democracy unconditionally. The other parties want to progressively limit it. They refuse to implement decisions made by the people by declaring nonbinding international law as being superior to national law. They want to thwart popular initiatives and referendums by pre-examining the subject matter of the initiative, rejecting it or expressly warning against it.

Neutrality is being destroyed

For a small state such as Switzerland that is open to the world, permanent armed neutrality is the most successful concept for security. Switzerland has proven that for centuries: because Switzerland does not interfere in foreign conflicts, it does not drag war into its own country and create enemies unnecessarily. This results in a successful openness to the world through friendly dealings with all states without any relinquishment of its own sovereignty. As a result, Switzerland has not seen any war in 200 years. The neutral stance also demands that our public authorities refrain from taking positions on international conflicts. Bern is currently disregarding all this, so that neutrality is discredited. Bern is interfering in all sorts of issues and taking major risks. The SVP is the party that backs Swiss neutrality unconditionally because it offers the greatest security and openness to the world and, in addition, offers the possibility of the provision of particularly good offices for peace.

Federalism is being undermined

Our federal state – a union of minorities – thrives on the federalism of cantons and municipalities. Federalism gives citizens the highest possible degree of co-determination within a manageable framework. Centralist decisions taken over the heads of the people lead to resignation, disillusionment with politics and maladministration. The closer to the people decisions are taken, the more efficient and sensible is the use made of public funds. Yet the other parties want to progressively limit our tried and

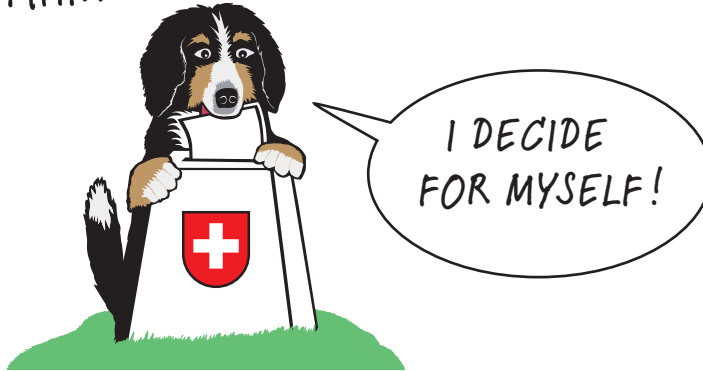
tested federalism. They want to transfer more and more power to the EU headquarters in Brussels and the federal authorities in Bern. To the extent possible, they want to eliminate any competition from the cantons and municipalities. They want to centralise schools, education, housing and taxes to the extent possible, and control them from above. The SVP defends federalism against centralist encroachments that increasingly limit the freedom of citizens.

People who care about our state pillars of independence, direct democracy, neutrality and federalism will vote for the Swiss People's Party. The elected representatives of the SVP at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels undertake to defend these pillars of success using everything in their power, and to preserve them for the future as well.

This is what we stand for! Your SVP



WILLY THINKS:



Independence and self-determination

The SVP advocates the preservation of an independent and neutral Switzerland. The sale of Swiss sovereignty and self-determination by the political elite must be stopped. Therefore, our country must no longer be insidiously integrated into international structures such as the EU. On the basis of neutrality, the SVP commits to a credible policy of good offices, mediation and humanitarian aid.

Constitution disregarded

The goal of Swiss foreign policy is set out in Article 2 of the Federal Constitution: «The Swiss Confederation shall protect the liberty and rights of the people and safeguard the independence and security of the country.» The people are sovereign and determine the fate and future of Switzerland in freedom and independence. These values such as freedom, self-determination, independence and neutrality that are enshrined in the Federal Constitution are being insidiously undermined by the Federal Council and Federal Administration, but also by courts and various law professors.

Neutrality is being eroded

Today, for example, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) barely cares any more about maintaining a neutral and impartial position with respect to conflicts. Diplomats and federal councillors prefer to bask in the spotlight and in so doing, openly take sides in disputes about political power instead of rather maintaining a completely neutral position for credible mediation and for humanitarian aid. For Switzerland to strive for a seat on the UN Security Council is also in diametrical opposition to neutrality. However, this is the plan of the political class in Bern. The UN Se-

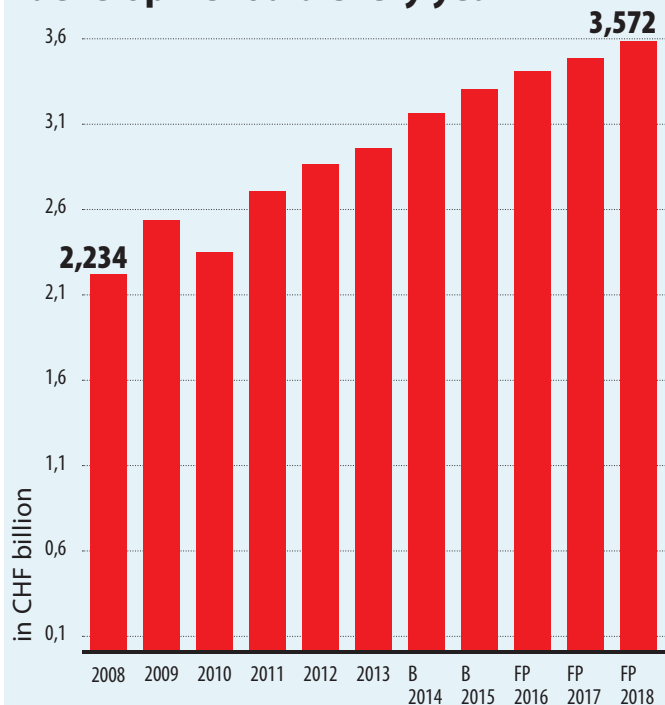
YES to the self-determination initiative

«Because **+**
we decide here!»



More information on the popular initiative «Swiss law instead of foreign judges»: www.selbstbestimmungsinitiative.ch

More than 3 billion Swiss francs for development aid every year



Source: additional documentation of the FDFA on the estimate for 2015

B = Budget FP = financial plan

curity Council is the place where decisions are made about so-called world peace, but as a consequence, also about wars and sanctions. It is not possible to take an impartial position on such issues. Switzerland does not need this interference in the worldwide wrangling over power and esteem, and it is dangerous.

International law given priority

Today, international law is being openly treated as more important than the laws enacted by parliament and the people in our own country. This is illustrated by the fact that increasingly more popular initiatives are not being implemented, or being implemented incorrectly. However, these foreign laws, which are often misleadingly labelled as being international law, possess little or often no democratic legitimacy at all. The distorted reference to human rights is misleading too. What is referred to today as human rights in the political manoeuvring for power and influence no longer has anything to do with the initial meaning of human rights, but is rather an ideologically leaning evolution and expanded interpretation of the original Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the European Court of Human Rights, usually favouring a solution that is centralised, places trust in the government and is socialist. International courts are increasingly abandoning their restraint, interfering in national laws and disregarding national constitutions. As a result, there is an increasing erosion of self-determination and independence in lawmaking.

Creeping EU accession

The most flagrant violation of all of the values of Switzerland is the planned institutional link to the EU. The Federal Council and the EU want Switzerland to submit to the dynamic legal developments in EU case law and legislation. In addition to adopting foreign laws and sentences rendered by foreign judges, the ability of foreign EU officials to unilaterally monitor and control Switzerland is also intended. The inten-

tion is for a framework agreement incorporating all other bilateral agreements to implement this institutional link. Switzerland would be bound to adopt the excessive progression of EU legal developments. The flood of regulations would spill over from the EU to Switzerland. Furthermore, it is intended that disputes decided by the EU Court of Justice have binding effect on Switzerland. This submissive project leading to dependence must therefore be prevented. Switzerland must maintain its independence to be in a position to defend its prosperity and economic success.

Limit foreign aid

The history of development aid is one of a succession of disappointments and failures. Despite payments of immense sums of money by the West over decades, the African continent, for instance, is worse off now than in the past. Many countries are threatened by civil wars, corruption and state collapse. The flows of migration from the south to the north continue still, allowing for only one conclusion: the costly state aid projects over the past decades have failed to achieve their objective. Public funds are not only frequently squandered, but also often used to indirectly support the lives of dictatorial, corrupt regimes and clans. This shows that there is a major need for action. There must be no increase of funds. Instead, any commitment ought to be limited to that which is the most essential and effective, and weight placed on humanitarian aid within the meaning of Swiss tradition.

Good offices

The commitment of the Red Cross, the humanitarian contribution of Switzerland and the location of international Geneva are part of our positive international reputation, and support the impartial and generally open position of Switzerland. This successful role is that of a medical assistant standing on the touchline, offering first aid quickly, efficiently and impartially, without attracting attention. Discreet diplomatic efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation should be preferred over loud declara-

tions made during an exercise in conference tourism. While humanitarian involvement should continue, development aid must be cleaned up. Thus, for example, grants of development aid should be linked to repatriation agreements for asylum seekers. Or instead of continually increasing expenditure on development aid, tax incentives should be introduced to encourage private donations.

Impartiality pays

The Federal Council must revert back to a permanent armed, perpetual and comprehensive concept of neutrality. Comprehensive neutrality means not just neutrality considered from a purely legal or military view (law of neutrality) but also a practised neutrality (policy of neutrality) that requires any foreign policy action taken by the government to be impartial and noninterventionist at all times. For this, however, Switzerland also needs defence preparedness in the form of a standby militia army with sufficient personnel, budgetary resources and equipment to first give credibility to the independence and neutrality of Switzerland. The federal government must not support any unilateral sanctions policy (diplomatic, financial and economic), including none of the UN, the EU or the OSCE.

Relations with the whole world

Switzerland must furthermore intensify its efforts to conduct trade with all states and cultures, and must not focus on the EU in this regard on a one-sided basis. This universal foreign trade policy requires conscious diversification through balanced free trade agreements with as many states as possible, because trade is also the best foundation for friendly relations and lasting peace. Economic links are thus the expression of mutual common interests as well. Economic relations do not require any political institutions, organisations or attempts to make ties. Swiss law must take precedence over the law of remote international institutions. Unification and levelling down contradict free trade. Freedom, innovation and success are sustained by competitiveness and competition.

Switzerland successful thanks to EEA no vote

The remoteness and the democratic deficits of the Brussels bureaucracy are rightly the subject of constant criticism. Switzerland, in contrast,



The international location of Geneva – home to the European headquarters of the UN above – contributes to our positive international reputation and underpins Switzerland's impartiality and all-round open attitude.

trumps the EU in all the rankings: attractiveness as a location, prosperity, social welfare, indebtedness, and even the contentedness of its population. If Switzerland is not a member of the EU today, it is not thanks to the self-satisfied elites in politics, business, society and the media, but rather thanks to the unique feature of direct democracy in which people have a right to have their say. And it is also thanks to the SVP, which has fought on the side of the people against joining the EU and the EEA for over two decades. Interestingly enough, contrary to all the predictions and allegations, failure to join the EEA did not turn out to be the downfall of Switzerland. Since the 1990s, Switzerland has been faring better than ever in economic terms, precisely because of its autonomy and independence. It is thus astonishing that, in relation to the EU, we are hearing the same old tunes: the administration and economic officials publicly declare that, without accession to the EU or without any further agreements with the EU, we will fall into poverty. Obviously, however, these fearmongers are not to be believed.

No accession to the EU

Switzerland does need good economic and friendly, neighbourly relations with the EU, but we are under no circumstances dependent on any national involvement in the EU, which would only lead to our subservience. Bilateral relations and agreements based on mutual interests are to be supported, but not any EU integration policy having EU accession as the ultimate goal, or that make us more and more dependent and harmonised, until we gradually become a member. The self-determination and independence of Switzerland and political rights of the people must be reinforced. Any further alignment and harmonisation with the EU cannot be tolerated. Why should we assimilate to an apparently worse system characterised by youth unemployment, symptoms of poverty, remoteness, bureaucracy and centralisation? The successful values of Switzerland such as freedom, independence, neutrality, direct democracy, federalism and market economy must be relentlessly defended.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- is opposed to gradual accession to the EU. Self-determination means: no institutional integration with the EU and thus no dynamic adoption of legislation and no foreign judges;
- supports the application of Swiss law over international, foreign law;
- has launched the popular initiative «Swiss law instead of foreign judges (self-determination initiative)», which ensures self-determination with respect to our own laws and ensures that referendums are again implemented;
- demands that the ultimate objectives of our foreign policy be the reinforcement of freedom, self-determination, citizens' rights and the independence and neutrality of Switzerland;
- is opposed to any weakening of the perpetual, permanent armed neutrality, and rather calls for it to be strengthened on a credible basis;
- demands that Switzerland, as a small state, live the tried and tested provision of good offices by our diplomats, the ICRC and the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, instead of exhibiting affectations of a superpower and making unilateral accusations;
- is opposed to any efforts by Switzerland to join the UN Security Council;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

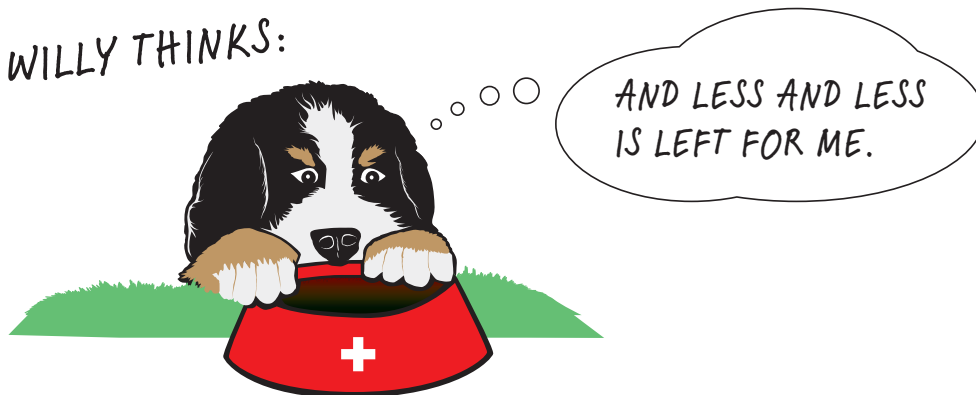
- demands that public development aid be linked to repatriation agreements for asylum seekers;
- seeks relations with states all over the world based on classical free trade agreements instead of fixating on the EU.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a voter the security to determine in future as well what rules are to apply in Switzerland;
- ✓ as an entrepreneur good relations with the whole world;
- ✓ as a taxpayer the certainty of not having to pay for the mismanagement of the economies of other countries;
- ✓ as a citizen a government that advocates the interests of Switzerland and its citizens instead of seeking the spotlight on the world stage.

WILLY THINKS:



More for the middle class, less for the state

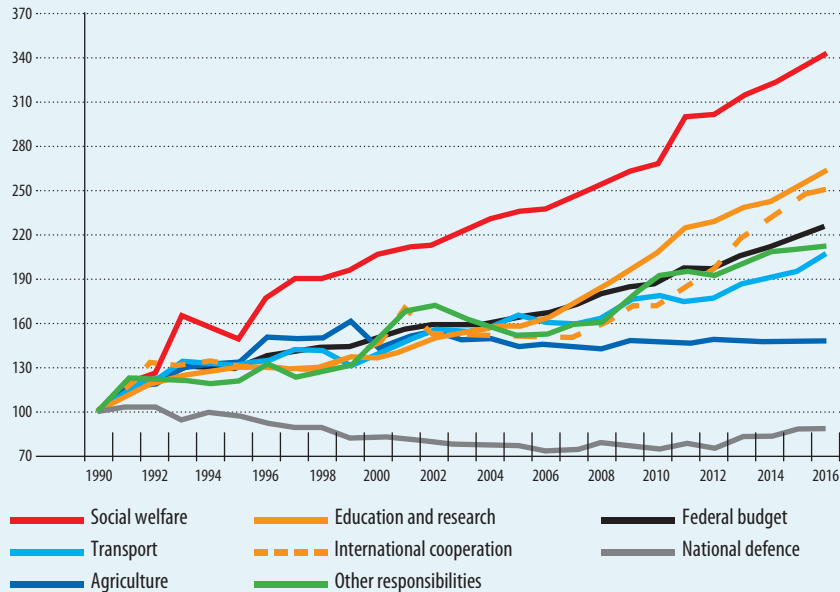
The state keeps growing and growing. Federal government spending has doubled since 1990. The public sector is taking on more and more tasks. Since there is a lack of political willingness to get a grip on the spending explosion, taxes, levies and fees are being raised. The bill is being footed primarily by small businesses. This dynamic must ultimately be broken because the prosperity of the whole country is dependent on a healthy small business sector. Every Swiss franc spent must first be worked for.

A policy of unchecked spending

Despite positive accounts, the federal finances, which are fuelled by an expansive spending policy, are in bad condition. Where spending in

1990 was some 32 billion Swiss francs, in 2013, it was 64 billion Swiss francs, which means that it doubled. According to the budget, the Federal Council wants to spend 73 billion Swiss francs in 2018.

Unhealthy development of federal budget expenditure



Source: FDF

The path of least resistance

While the areas of agriculture and the army have been saving for years, other areas continue to grow unabated. Social welfare is the area in which expenditure is the greatest by far. Today, social welfare claims one-third of the entire federal expenditure. Contrary to the leftist mantra that Switzerland is operating on the basis of «cuts to social services» and the state «cutting back to nothing», the social services sector is positively flourishing. Spending since the beginning of this century alone rose from 14 billion Swiss francs (2000) to 21 billion Swiss francs (2013), thus increased by half. More money is spent on social welfare alone than for education, transport and national defence combined.

The administration is growing at the expense of us all

Even the Federal Administration has grown rapidly in the past few years. Where expenses for personnel were at 4.5 billion Swiss francs in 2007, in 2014, they were already at 5.5 billion Swiss francs, having thus increased by more than a fifth in just seven years. Around half of this growth (520 million Swiss francs) is attributable to 1,200 new positions and changes of position. Altogether, over 33,000 people work for the federal government today.

Stop terrorising with fines

In addition to taxes, levies and fees, which have been raised in various areas in the past few years (e.g. value added tax – VAT, carbon dioxide taxes, unemployment insurance solidarity contributions, waste and waste water charges), public authorities appropriate ever more funds through fines. Many cantons have discreetly but steadily increased their revenues from fines in the past few years. Fines and charges are increasingly conceived as more fiscal in nature. Their effect as punishment or for increasing security is becoming of secondary importance. The mechanism in the case of fines is clear: thanks to greater revenue from fines, the authorities are able to access money from citizens in a relatively simple manner, whereas taxes may only be increased with the consent of the people.

So that more is left over for living

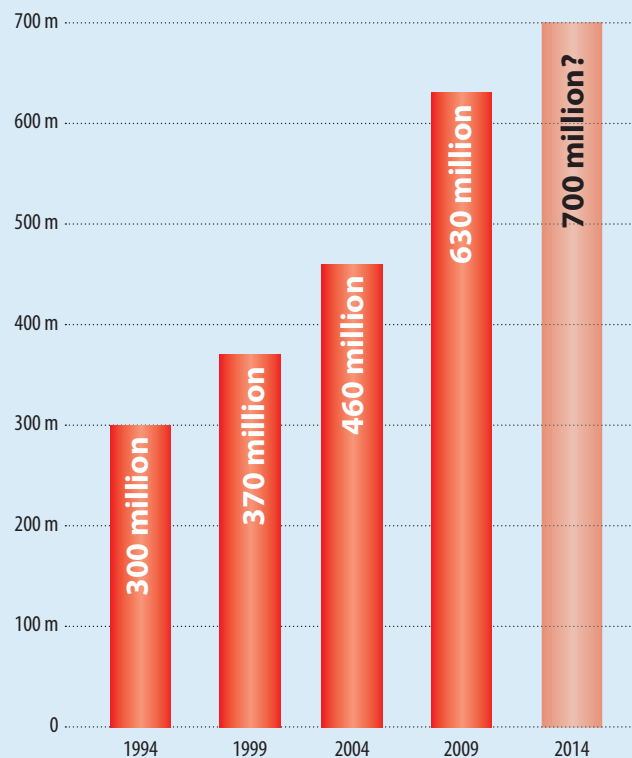
Jobs and prosperity can only be preserved if citizens and businesses are given more freedom to dispose of their money as they see fit. Today, we almost spend half the year working to pay compulsory state levies (taxes, premiums, levies and fees). The only way to foster more private investment, increased consumption and, therefore, more growth, jobs and apprenticeship places is to provide clear relief through lowering taxes and levies. The SVP is therefore opposed to all new taxes, levies and fees and rather calls for tax relief. Questions of interpretation with respect to taxes, levies and fees should be resolved in favour of the tax- and fee-paying public and companies.

Leaner state

The SVP advocates a cost-effective, leanly structured state. In the view of the SVP, the key to this is to focus on expenditures and bureaucratic structures. The practice of always creating new revenue streams to finance continually increased state spending is unacceptable. The SVP sees an urgent need for action, particularly with the exploding costs of

Stop terrorising with fines!

Development of income from fines (1994–2014)



Source: strassenschweiz (conservative estimate)

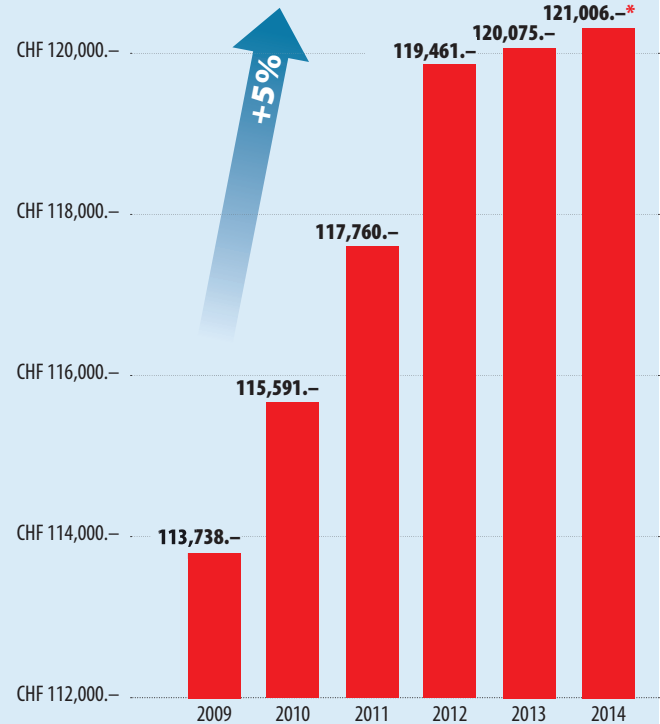
social welfare on which every third Swiss franc is expended in the interim. This demands that structural measures be taken to ensure our social principles. Any further expansion must not occur. Likewise, the massively increasing expenditure for foreign and development aid must be curbed.



The victim is the middle class, which have to pay for everything.

Rapid increase in wages of government employees (2009 – 2014)

Average gross wage of federal government employees



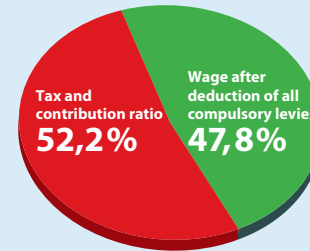
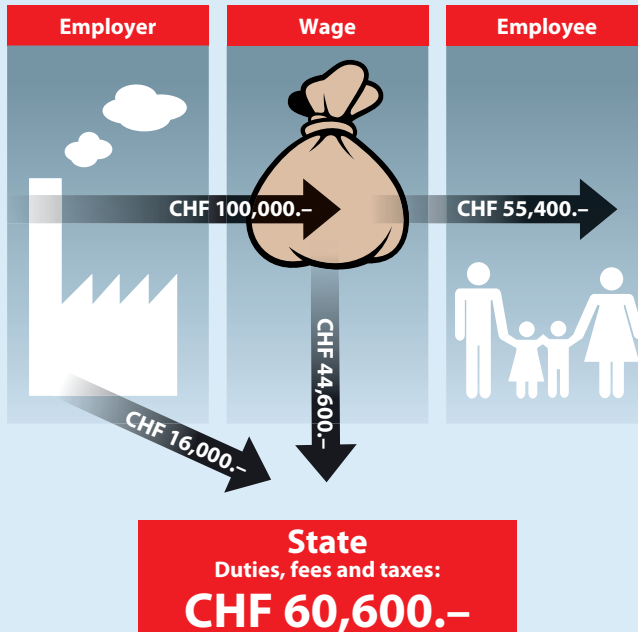
Source: SFSO (2015), excl. performance bonuses/allowances, *projection based on first to third quarter

Preserving tax competition

The SVP is the party of federalism and, therefore, of the tax sovereignty of the cantons and municipalities. This is the only way to ensure competition and the only way to force complacent governments to structure their tax policy in a way that favours the citizens rather than their own administra-

tive interests. Pressure on the Swiss tax system from abroad must be resisted. International advantageous special taxation provisions should only be adopted if they are compensated by tax relief in other areas. The SVP supports Switzerland as a competitive and attractive location for all companies in terms of taxation.

A couple with two children work for six months and six days only for the state!



| Effective wage of couple with two children: | CHF 116,000 |
|--|-------------------|
| Employer deductions (OASI, DI, IRI, UI, pension fund, accident and non-occupational accident insurance, family allowances) | -16,000 |
| Employee deductions Health insurance premiums | -14,000 |
| | -9,000 |
| Income tax (national average) | -8,700 |
| Direct federal tax | -900 |
| VAT on consumer spending (food, holidays, restaurants, telephone, clothes, furniture, newspaper subscription, etc.) of around CHF 54,000 | -4,000 |
| Motor vehicle and mineral oil tax, motorway vignette, import duty for car | -1,400 |
| Tobacco tax (one packet of cigarettes per day) | -1,600 |
| Various fees and duties (waste and sewage disposal, stamp duty, supplementary health insurance, ticket taxes, alcohol tax, dog license fee, deductibles for health care costs, etc.) | -5,000 |
| Wage after deduction of all compulsory levies | CHF 55,400 |
| Tax and contribution ratio | 52.2% |

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- supports lower taxes, levies and fees for everyone, and is opposed to any new taxes;
- fights at all levels of the political system to ensure that the state does not spend more than it collects, and that expenditure is in line with revenue collected and not the other way round;
- demands that the government not grow more quickly than the economy;
- demands a reduction in the number of federal government employees to year 2007 levels (2007: 32,105; 2014: 33,678) and a massive financial decrease in personnel expenses;
- demands that corporate taxation be internationally competitive;
- is opposed to any further increase of VAT, as well as the introduction of a uniform rate that would make luxury goods cheaper and basic foodstuffs more expensive;
- demands a reduction in the taxation of the business assets of sole proprietorships and partnerships;
- fights any form of inheritance tax;
- demands that the tax penalty placing married couples at a disadvantage in terms of taxation be abolished;
- demands that fines not be misused for the purpose of an easy source of revenue for government coffers.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as an employee more disposable income at the end of the month, and job security;
- ✓ as a consumer lower prices;
- ✓ as a car or motorcycle driver less fear of fines and moderate petrol prices;
- ✓ as an entrepreneur more money to invest in the future.



More economic freedom instead of bureaucracy

The SVP fights for more entrepreneurial freedom and is opposed to more and more laws and prohibitions that burden our businesses. The tendencies over the past years to increasingly regulate the liberal labour market, to raise the costs of energy and transport and to increase red tape must be stopped once and for all. We need to be concerned about our successful small and medium-sized enterprises, but also about the many large companies with head offices in Switzerland. The SVP backs Swiss quality and fights for competitive framework conditions to secure jobs in Switzerland.

Hard times for a liberal economic policy

Job creation is in fact a social act because work is the most reliable means to avoid poverty. This is the reason why liberal market economies historically and worldwide are the most successful and have the lowest levels of poverty. Our country, when compared to various other EU countries, is still quite well positioned. However, productivity is stagnating and, with respect to per capita income, Switzerland has steadily fallen behind since 1980 in comparison with other countries. Jobs and prosperity are only created when companies are able to operate under favourable conditions that make investments worthwhile.

The public sector is growing

In the past few years, job growth occurred almost only in the public sector, in administration, in health care and in social services. Between 2008 and 2014, two out of three new jobs created were in the public sector. The large number of new public-sector jobs created burden not just taxpayers but also the economy. More civil servants automatically lead to even more government bureaucracy and activity for activity's sake because all of the civil servants want something to do. Market and competition are being replaced by government regulations and interventionism as well as international egalitarianism, which force entrepreneurs out of the market. Furthermore, unnecessary monopolies such as Swiss Post, the Suva accident insurance fund or the SRG broadcasting corporation make services more expensive and prevent genuine competition.

Financial centre under constant fire

Added to this is that the duty of all employers and businesspeople to make a profit is considered morally questionable in the meanwhile. Yet hard-working entrepreneurs, tradesmen and craftsmen are the real «social workers» in our country. The financial centre has been under particular pressure in recent times. The banking, insurance and financial sectors

contribute a full 22 per cent to the economic performance of Switzerland as a whole. Envy and bankrupt foreign state coffers make this sector a target for hostile attacks from abroad, aided in Switzerland by compliant helpers right up to some in the Federal Council. Thus bank client confidentiality and privacy in financial matters are becoming more and more diminished in relation to foreign countries, and the locational advantages relinquished with reference to some international standards or consumer protection.

Tourism under pressure

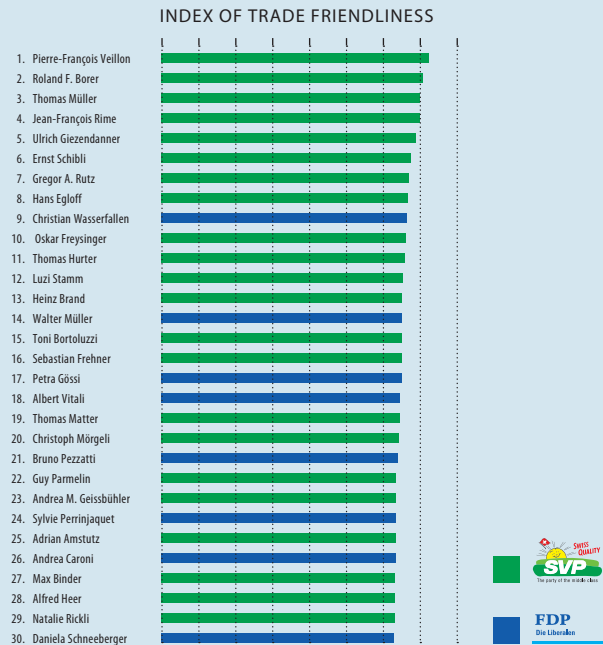
Tourism too, which provides a large number of jobs, is of major importance to the Swiss economy. However, enjoyment by tourists of the unique natural beauty of our country is affected by adverse factors such as a strong Swiss franc, high costs and outdated structures. Tourism enterprises are able to cope with many, but not all, problems on their own; however, they are dependent on certain prerequisites for their investments to actually pay off. The SVP demands the reduction of VAT for the hotel and catering industries to the reduced rate.

Boost small and medium-sized enterprises

Two-thirds of Swiss employees (2013: 67.9 per cent) work in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with less than 250 employees. As a result, the SMEs represent the virtual backbone of our economy. The SVP is aware of their importance and is particularly supportive of their well-being. The SVP national councillors have provided the greatest support for the business concerns impacting SME-relevant business, as an investigation of the Swiss union of crafts and small and medium-sized enterprises proves. An analysis of 215 votes in the National Council between 2011 and 2014 on 169 subjects relevant to SMEs shows: there are 41 members of the SVP among the first 50 national councillors. SVP representatives in the Council of States occupy the first four places. No other party represents the economy and business as consistently as the

SVP. The SVP refuses to accept any unnecessary regulations, new laws, rules and prohibitions, all of which are inimical to companies and commercial operations.

41 of the top 50 places in the SME rating are held by SVP national councillors



Source: SME rating 2011–2014 of the Swiss union of crafts and small and medium-sized enterprises

Back to liberal values

The state must neither compete with nor impede the economy, but should rather provide the prerequisites for businesses to operate as freely as possible. Because where there is a proliferation of red tape, entrepreneurial activity is inevitably restricted, and the regulatory costs get out of hand. State-imposed bureaucratic idling damages businesses and, as a result, Switzerland. The SVP therefore advocates a return of greater individual responsibility instead of increasing activity for activity's sake with regard to the state.

The flexible labour market, solidly anchored in social partnership, is one of the greatest trump cards of Switzerland as a workplace. The more liberally working conditions can be structured, the earlier full employment can be reached. Our unique dual vocational training system must be ensured as it represents, worldwide, the best protection against youth unemployment.

Preserve bank client confidentiality

The SVP is opposed to all efforts to diminish our traditional bank client confidentiality and the privacy of the personal financial matters of citizens. This was created in the interests of the bank clients, not the banks. The stamp duties, which have kept many attractive businesses away from Switzerland, must be abolished. In the area of European and global legislation, the SVP is fighting for Switzerland to only adopt those international standards absolutely necessary to ensure global market access.

Trade with the whole world

In the area of foreign trade, the SVP advocates good trade relations with the whole world. In this regard, Switzerland should not concentrate just on the EU, but also develop new markets that currently have the highest rates of growth. Free trade agreements serving mutual interests enable the open Swiss economy to flourish.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

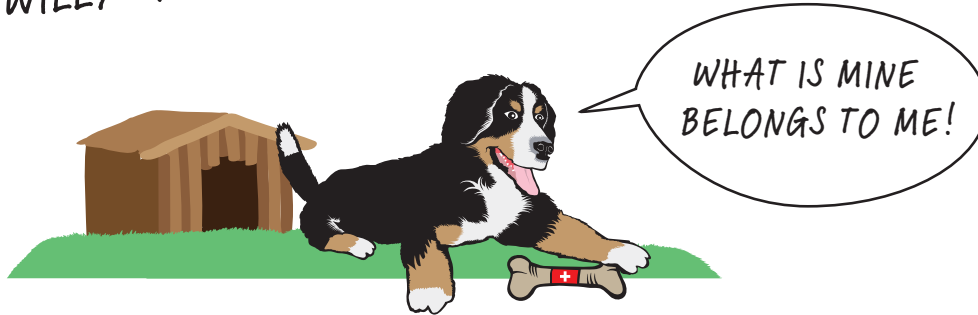
- supports the small, medium-sized and large enterprises that are the backbone of our prosperity;
- demands more freedom and no new rules and prohibitions, without at least abolishing many others at the same time;
- is opposed to quotas, policing of wages, joint and several liability and other detrimental state harassment of companies;
- demands that the state neither compete with nor impede the economy;
- wants to retain the Swiss franc as an autonomous and independent currency;
- supports Switzerland as a financial centre and supports Swiss bank client confidentiality;
- demands the reduction of VAT for the hotel and catering industries to the reduced rate;
- demands an exemption from the burden to compile statistics for companies with less than 50 full-time positions and a reduction to the minimum for all others;
- demands an increase in the threshold declaring collective labour agreements generally binding.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as an employee more job security;
- ✓ as an entrepreneur more money for innovations;
- ✓ as a tradesman or producing farmer less red tape and paperwork;
- ✓ as a hotelier or caterer more customers.

WILLY THINKS:



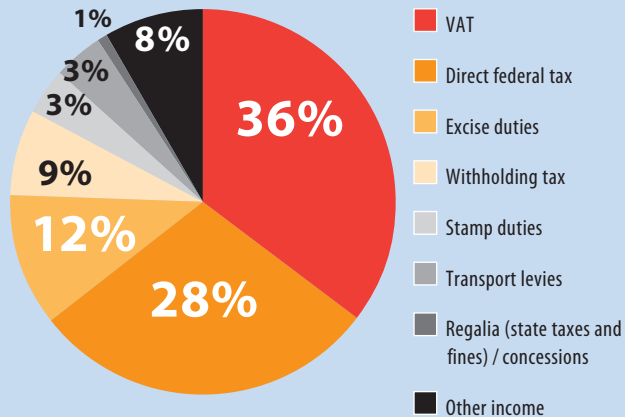
Against expropriation, for the protection of privacy

The guarantee of private property is one of the most important tasks of a free and democratic state. The SVP supports the freedom of citizens to dispose of physical and intellectual property acquired by them. This includes the state leaving its citizens with as much money as possible in their wallets for them to freely dispose of. In our times, it is also becoming more and more important that the privacy of citizens be defended. The details of citizens' lives must not be laid bare.

Against left-wing redistribution

Anyone who works and has set some money aside, and later wants to enjoy the benefit of their savings, has every reason to oppose left-wing policies. Because most of their moves are aimed at extracting more money from others, depriving people of their property and redistributing it. No one is more materialistic and self-serving than the leftists who seek to solve every problem using other people's money. Whether

63.5 billion Swiss francs in tax for the federal government alone in 2014



Source: State Accounts 2014

it is the integration of foreigners, early retirement, childcare facilities, nurseries, day schools, parental leave or subsidised housing: for the leftists, everything is a question of money – money which, in their opinion, the political class is free to dispose of and which needs to be redistributed.

The state keeps growing and growing

In the past few years, the state has become bigger and bigger and has significantly increased the levels of regulation; this is manifested by the enormous increase in the fiscal quota (sum of all taxes and levies as a proportion of gross domestic product). We work an increasingly longer part of the year in order to come up with money for taxes, levies and fees. The state is taking on more and more tasks that were formerly solved by the private sector. Mr and Mrs Swiss pay an average of 50 per cent of their income for taxes and levies alone. This means that for six months of the year, we work for the state. This puts Switzerland above the average of the OECD countries.

More freedom for residential property

The property of the Swiss is not just threatened by the growing burden of taxes and levies. The acquisition of residential property is also threatened by increasing prescriptive and restrictive state regulation. That also hurts tenants because sufficient residential accommodation at reasonable prices will only be built as long as investment, construction and renovation are worthwhile. However, current tenancy law has severely restricted the workings of the free market due to overregulation.

Less and less privacy

In addition to property, the leftists and others believing in the power of state also want to deprive us of our privacy: elimination of bank client confidentiality, automatic exchange of information, restrictions on cash transactions, control at every turn. The state is becoming ever

more blatant in its interference with our private lives with the goal of educating the citizens and taking even more money out of their pockets. The SVP does not accept this. The privacy of citizens needs to be respected and protected instead. For this reason, the SVP supports efforts to codify protection of privacy in the Federal Constitution. The SVP is likewise fighting hard for the preservation of bank client confidentiality in Switzerland and against the increasing options at the disposal of authorities to interfere with the privacy of citizens and to control and infringe it.

Strengthen property rights

Using everything in its power, the SVP supports the freedom of citizens to dispose of their legally acquired physical and intellectual property. Neither individual self-determination nor a free and prosperous society is possible without constitutionally guaranteed property rights. History has shown time and again that as soon as a state no longer guarantees the property rights of its inhabitants, or even takes them away, their lives and well-being are also soon at risk. In particular, the SVP opposes the prohibition against the early withdrawal of personally saved retirement assets in the second pillar to finance residential property for personal use or to establish a small self-owned business. This prohibition amounts to an expropriation of citizens.

Less government redistribution

The SVP likewise fights against even greater redistribution. For the purpose of a liberal state that promotes personal responsibility on the part of its citizens, all citizens should be able to dispose of their property and money as freely as possible in the manner they themselves see fit. Citizens themselves know best as to where and how they want to responsibly use their money. If this principle is further undermined, this will lead to socialism, under which the state confiscates the property of its citizens for the purposes defined by it.

Less bureaucracy in planning and construction law

In the area of real property, the SVP demands a relaxation of rental property management regulations and an easing of rent control. The SVP demands that tax incentives be provided for the purpose of encouraging house and apartment ownership. The current system of imputed rental value taxation discourages property ownership, and ought to be therefore abolished. The SVP opposes the construction of social housing by the state. Social housing construction invariably results in distorted competition, which has a negative impact on private investment.



Citizens must be able to dispose freely of their material and intellectual property. The state must protect property.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

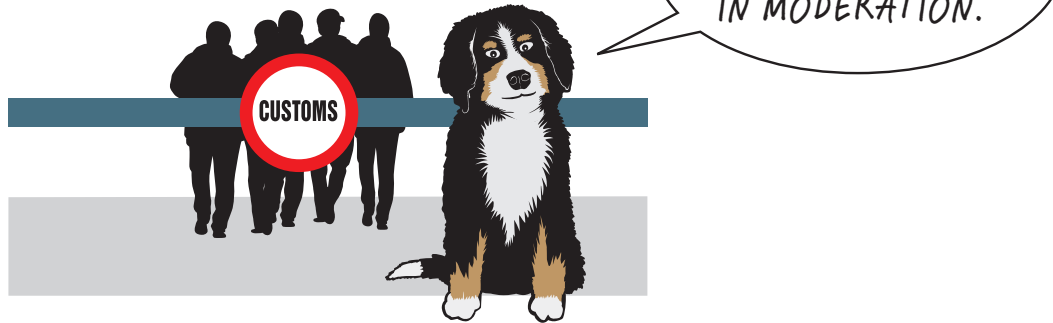
- upholds protection of the personal property rights and is opposed to any moves to limit the use of cash funds and recourse by the state to savings and pension fund assets;
- opposes any regulations in tenancy laws and the area of real property that discourage property ownership;
- advocates the abolition of taxation on imputed rental value that discourages property ownership, while keeping deductions for maintenance costs and debt interest that favour investment;
- opposes any unreasonable scales of progressive taxation;
- defends intellectual property as an important foundation of the status of Switzerland as a research and production location;
- is committed to the protection of privacy and opposed to any excessive government control. .

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a citizen the right to self-determination;
- ✓ as a family member more on which to live;
- ✓ as a gainfully employed person or pensioner less burden caused by taxes and levies;
- ✓ as a home owner protection of my property rights;
- ✓ as a bank client protection of my privacy;
- ✓ as an entrepreneur the salary earned from my innovations and developments.

WILLY THINKS:



Limit immigration

Switzerland has always offered a generous but controlled welcome to foreign workers, and provided them with job prospects. In various votes, the Swiss electorate has demonstrated that it wishes controlled immigration, with clear rules that apply to all. Anyone who comes to Switzerland is required to obey the local laws, integrate and earn their own living. Only those who meet these requirements should be given the opportunity to become naturalised after a certain period of time.

Appealing Switzerland

Immigration to our country is appealing to foreigners for economic, political and social reasons. In international comparison, only few other countries score higher than Switzerland in terms of quality of life, which is due to our political system, our stability, our security, the liberal economic system and last but not least the beautiful scenery. In short: it pays for foreigners to immigrate to Switzerland. However, it is a disadvantage for the Swiss if this immigration is not controlled and limited.

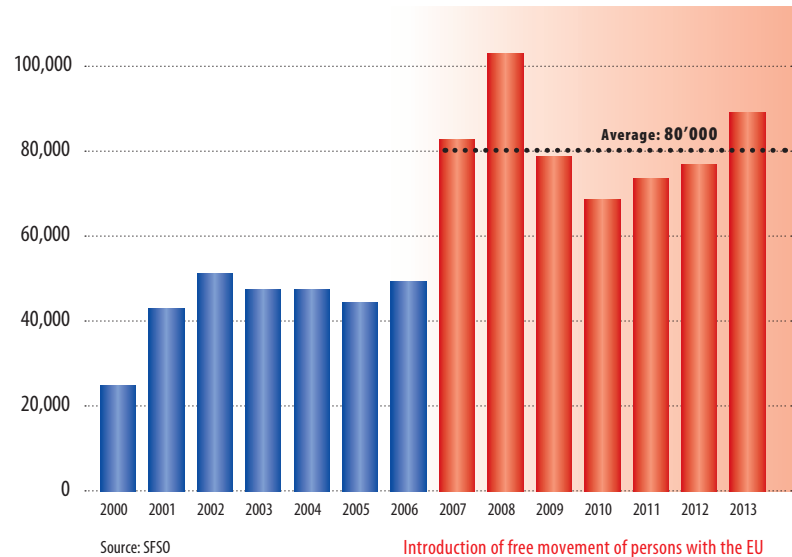
Massive increase in population due to immigration

Every year since 2007, around 80,000 more people have immigrated to Switzerland than emigrated. The net figure for 2013 was over 85,000 immigrants (some 155,000 people immigrating and around 70,000 people emigrating). This corresponds to an annual increase in population of a magnitude greater than the population of the city of Lucerne, and in two years, even the population of the city of Geneva or Basel. On an annual basis, this requires a settlement area which is the size of 4,560 football fields. At the end of 2014, around 8.2 million people lived in Switzerland, including 2 million foreigners. Without immigration control, the 10-million limit will have been reached in around 20 years.

Excessive immigration has consequences for everyone

The consequences of this unfortunate development are noticeable and experienced by everyone on a daily basis: increasing unemployment (the level of unemployed foreigners at the beginning of 2014 was 9.2 per cent), overflowing trains, congested streets, rising rents and land prices,

Every year Switzerland experiences net immigration in excess of 80,000 people



loss of valuable cultivated land as a result of building developments, wage pressure, a crowded labour market, cultural change in top management and a high percentage of foreigners burdening public welfare and other social institutions. Today's excessive immigration is jeopardising our freedom, our security, full employment, our landscape and, ultimately, our prosperity.

Steadily rising percentage of foreigners

As a result of the massive numbers of immigrants in the past few years, the percentage of foreigners in the population has also grown from year to year. Where in 1950, only 6 per cent of the population was comprised of foreigners and in 1980, 14.4 per cent, at the end of 2013, this figure was already 23.8 per cent; despite the fact that, since 1960, over a million foreigners have been naturalised. Even in an international comparison, Switzerland is among the countries with the highest ratio of foreigners to native citizens. No European state with more than 1 million inhabitants has a higher percentage of foreigners than Switzerland.

High numbers of naturalisations for years

The leftists attempt to explain that the high percentage of foreigners is due to Switzerland's very restrictive naturalisation process. However, the statistics on naturalisation contradict this. Switzerland has naturalised between 35,000 and 45,000 foreigners each year since 2002. Measured against the total population, this is very high when compared internationally. Of 1,000 inhabitants, 4.6 foreigners were naturalised in 2011. In all of Europe, the only country with a higher ratio was the small country of Luxembourg, which granted an inordinate number of citizenships in the past few years due to naturalisation criteria that changed in 2008.

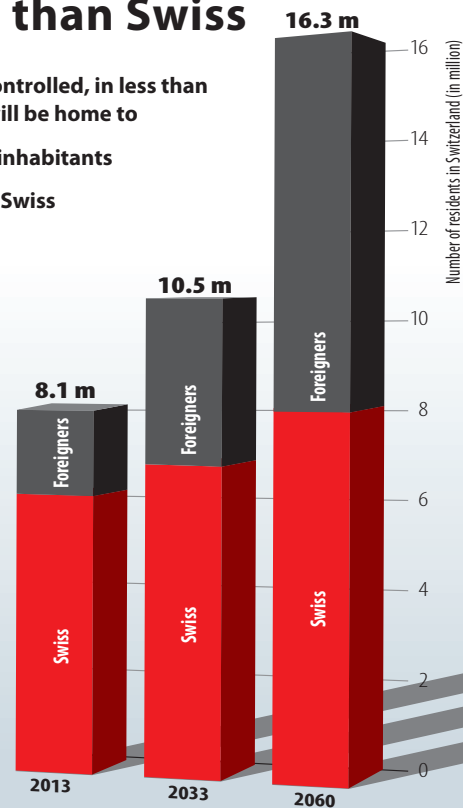
Problems «naturalised»

Due to the mass naturalisations of the past few years, many people who received the Swiss passport have not been integrated. A not insignificant number of new Swiss do not understand any of the country's national languages, do not accept the local customs and, shortly after their naturalisation, commit a criminal offence. Statistically though, these people are then counted as Swiss. As a result, many problems with foreigners were simply «naturalised». Naturalisation is intended to be the last step to integration and should only be given to those who behave correctly, earn their own living and have a good knowledge of at least one of the country's national languages.

There will soon be more foreigners than Swiss

If immigration is not controlled, in less than 50 years Switzerland will be home to

- More than 16 million inhabitants
- More foreigners than Swiss



Source: SFSO – linear extrapolation of excessive immigration since full introduction of the free movement of persons in 2007

Government promotion of integration as the new miracle cure

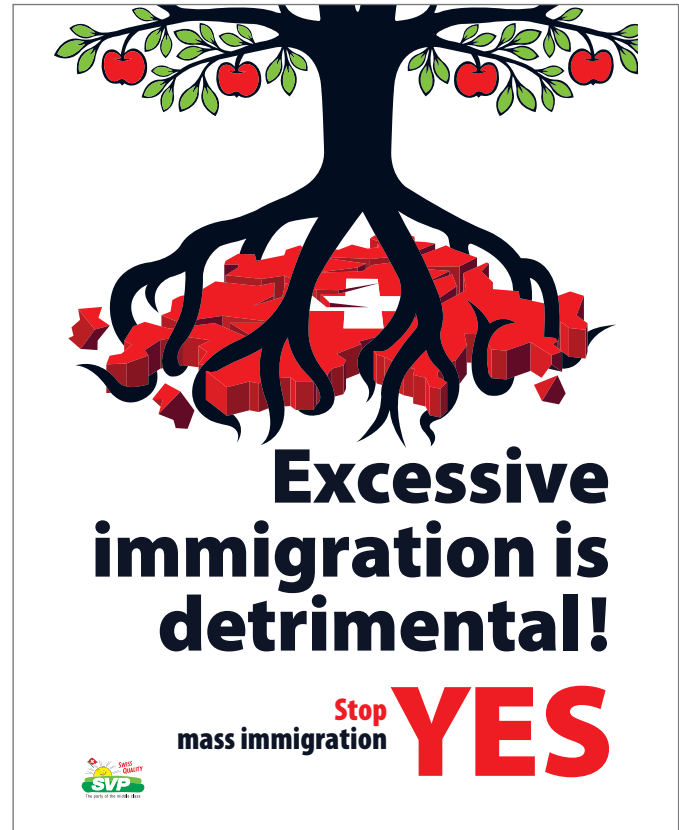
Integration is the responsibility of the migrants. Anyone who wants to immigrate to a country must also want to integrate there. The policy today, however, is increasingly aimed at an opposite approach: the authorities are in charge to ensure integration of the foreigners. Using expensive government measures and offers financed by taxpayers' money, the intention is to buy incentives for integration. We are in the absurd situation of having a booming integration industry that is becoming louder and louder. Without considering that integration can only be successful if initiated by the migrants themselves, and desired by them, social workers, therapists and instructors of pointless free courses have assumed the promotion of integration, and make a good living from it.

The public has had enough

The drawbacks in connection with immigration also upset the voters. This resulted in the Swiss electorate accepting the popular initiative «Stop mass immigration» on 9 February 2014. Consistent implementation of this initiative will be the primary demand made by the SVP with respect to immigration policy in the next few years. The new constitutional provision is intended to have Switzerland regain independent control over immigration through quotas and priority given to Swiss nationals. This initiative allows for measured control that is viable for the economy and in line with the sovereignty of the cantons. The Federal Council and parliament must now immediately address these domestic measures to implement the new constitutional provision.

Less social benefits, less family members following immigrants

Clear limits on the number of family members following immigrants and on social benefits should ensure that from the very beginning, fewer foreigners who are unable to earn their own living and only want to live from the state will immigrate to Switzerland. In addition, there should be the principle, for example, that only people who have paid contributions to



The constitutional mandate of 9 February 2014 relating to the passing of the mass immigration initiative must finally be implemented.

unemployment insurance for at least two years be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. Such time periods should apply also throughout Switzerland for the receipt of welfare benefits. In the case of family members following immigrants, there must be an assurance that the only people who may have family follow them are those who are also able to support them financially and who have an adequately large, self-financed home. With such a reduction of claims on the state, immigration can be cut back significantly without the economy being deprived of leading specialists.

Freedom of movement has ended

As soon as the internal implementation process is completed, the Federal Council must negotiate an amendment with the EU to the agreement on the free movement of persons. If the EU is not prepared to enter into a new arrangement regarding the free movement of persons for the non-EU country Switzerland, the agreement on the free movement of persons must be terminated. The SVP has prepared a corresponding popular initiative for this event. It will launch this initiative should the Federal Council and parliament refuse to effectively implement the new constitutional provision.

Consistent policy – also for illegal immigrants

Switzerland must also finally crack down on illegal immigration and people residing here illegally. People who do not have the status of a legal resident and are thus here illegally (undocumented immigrants) must immediately leave Switzerland. For this, the laws governing foreigners, which would actually clearly provide for this, must be applied strictly and consistently. Newly introduced regulations allowing illegal immigrants to attend schools and complete training contradict every understanding of the law and discriminate against those foreigners who make efforts to obtain a regular right of residence in Switzerland. People caught without valid papers allowing them to reside in Switzerland must be deported. To

render illegal entry into Switzerland impossible, border controls must be reintroduced.

Integration is the responsibility of migrants

Migrants must be required to integrate. Anyone who does not want to integrate will not do so by being able to attend a free course. Integration can only work if the immigrant wants it to. This can be expected from anyone who immigrates to a foreign country. Swiss who emigrate abroad also have to integrate themselves in the country where they have relocated, learn the language and customs there, follow the laws and make their own living. With this in mind, it is clear: integration is primarily the responsibility of the migrants and must be required of them. Anyone who refuses to learn one of Switzerland's national languages, flouts Swiss laws or does not earn their own living must leave Switzerland.

Naturalisation as last step to integration

Only those who have successfully integrated and mastered one of the country's national languages should be given the opportunity to become naturalised. The SVP demands that naturalisation again become a political act with no possibility of recourse. The SVP also opposes any further easing of naturalisations, particularly with respect to that of spouses. People with a criminal history or who are dependent on the state should not be able to become naturalised. There should be a probation period following naturalisation so that those who become naturalised do not commit any criminal acts shortly after receiving their citizenship. Only those who have proven, over a number of years, that they have followed our legal system should ultimately receive a Swiss passport.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- demands the immediate and consistent implementation of the popular initiative «Stop mass immigration» with respect to quotas and priority given to Swiss residents with the aim of considerably reducing immigration;
- demands clear limits on the number of family members following immigrants and on social benefits to migrants;
- is launching a popular initiative to terminate the agreement with the EU on the free movement of persons in the event that implementation of the popular initiative «Stop mass immigration» is thwarted by the Federal Council and parliament;
- demands compliance by all with the local rules, practices and customs;
- is opposed to the excessive increase of costly government integration measures;
- is opposed to any further easing of the requirements for naturalisation;
- is opposed to the naturalisation of those with a criminal background or who are receiving social welfare benefits;
- advocates probationary naturalisation so that citizenship can be withdrawn from those who commit crimes shortly after receiving their Swiss passport;
- is opposed to foreigners being granted any type of voting rights;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- demands strict and consistent application of the laws governing foreigners in relation to those who are here illegally and those who have no identification papers;
- calls for a reintroduction of border controls to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the county.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a citizen a liveable and unimpaired Switzerland;
- ✓ as an employee less wage pressure and less crowding on the labour market;
- ✓ as an unemployed person increased chances on the labour market compared to cheap foreign workers;
- ✓ as a commuter less congested roads and trains;
- ✓ as a tenant more affordable housing;
- ✓ as a citizen more security and the certainty that abuses will not be tolerated.

WILLY THINKS:

PUT A STOP TO
THE TRAFFICKERS'
GAMES!



Finally put an end to asylum confusion

The confusion in the asylum system and great appeal of Switzerland to bogus refugees have resulted in a massive increase of the number of applications for asylum in the past few years. Switzerland is one of the countries with the most applications per inhabitant in the world. The SVP intends to fight the failed asylum policy that has led to exploding costs, more crime and housing problems.

Humane, not naive

Switzerland has always welcomed people who were persecuted in their native country and whose lives and freedom were at risk. Our humanitarian tradition goes back further than any of the international conventions on refugees or human rights. However, having a humanitarian tradition and the desire to continue it does not mean that we want to be taken advantage of. More and more people come to Switzerland without a visa or a residence permit and attempt to remain here using the asylum route and live completely from the state and thus from Swiss taxpayers.

Rising number of applications – highest level in the world

This is reflected in the number of applications for asylum. While it was possible to lower the number of applications to 10,000 each year during the time SVP Federal Councillor Christoph Blocher was in office, that number has now again more than doubled. Any reduction seems to be remote, since it is not even a policy goal of the responsible federal councillor.

Considering the absolute numbers of applications and their bearing relative to the number of inhabitants and size of the country, there was no country in the whole world that registered more applications for asylum than Switzerland in 2013, measured by those three key figures. This is the case although we are surrounded by safe countries which, pursuant to the Dublin Agreement, are supposed to register asylum seekers who travel through their country and implement the appropriate procedures.

Swiss asylum system too attractive

Anyone who enters Switzerland illegally and makes a request for asylum here receives government support from day one. Asylum seekers receive free medical care, have total freedom of movement and are happily taken in, advised and taken care of by asylum lawyers and social workers. Since this asylum industry lives from the confusion and delayed applications in the asylum system, they naturally have no interest in dissuading asylum

seekers from pointless appeals or encouraging their charges to return home. It is therefore not surprising that proceedings often drag on forever and even result in persons who, from the very outset, were clearly not considered as being persecuted being allowed to remain in Switzerland for years, and sometimes for their entire lives.

Schengen/Dublin has collapsed

The increasing asylum numbers are also related to the Schengen/Dublin agreements according to which Switzerland may no longer control its borders systematically, since illegal migration should be prevented on the external Schengen border. However, precisely the opposite appears to be happening today in the Mediterranean region: the approach adopted does barely anything to discourage anyone from making a crossing, and even facilitates and fosters illegal immigration. Those who profit from this are the scrupulous people traffickers. Once they arrive in Europe, only a part of the migrants is registered. This means that not just Italy, but Spain and other Mediterranean countries too clearly violate the Dublin Agreement. The migrants are able to travel, unimpeded and unregistered, to northern Europe and Switzerland, where they make their first application for asylum. The Schengen/Dublin association agreements thus cost much more than was promised to voters, but the effect is also perverse: instead of more security and less requests for asylum, the agreements lead to less security and more illegal immigration and crime in Switzerland.

Noticeable rise in costs in the area of asylum

The steady increase of applications for asylum also has an impact on the costs of the asylum system. At the federal level, a sum in the amount of over 1 billion Swiss francs was budgeted for this area for 2015. Not included in these costs are all of the expenses that have to be covered by the cantons and municipalities. Even if there is no official record of the figures on these expenses, they are likely to be at least as high as the ones relating to the federal costs.

Excessively high rate of crime committed by asylum seekers

Crime control and law enforcement also entail high costs, particularly for the cantons. Because asylum seekers commit offences against Swiss laws far more frequently than do Swiss or other foreigners resident in Switzerland. Although people in the asylum system account for around 0.6 per cent of the population, in average (2011-2014) about 9 per cent of all offences against the penal code are committed by them. The lives of people who violate the laws of a host country to such an extent cannot really be at risk, otherwise they would not jeopardise their safe haven by committing criminal acts. Unruly and criminal asylum seekers must be sent to closed detention centres and then deported from the country.

Enforcement problems exacerbate the situation

The problems in today's confusing asylum situation are exacerbated even more by weak enforcement. Because today, fewer and fewer rejected asylum seekers are really sent back, either because they do not want to provide any travel documents, because they go into hiding or because Switzerland is not sufficiently insistent on compliance with the international obligations when dealing with the countries of origin or the relevant Dublin countries. There can be no credible asylum policy, however, without effective enforcement.

Political leadership is key

The fact that it was possible to significantly lower the applications for asylum and costs for the asylum system under Federal Councillor Christoph Blocher shows that much can be achieved with a consistent asylum policy and efficient implementation of existing legislation. In this regard, responsibility lies clearly with the responsible federal council member, and success depends on the political will of that member. The current leader of the department does not have any such will. Instead of solving problems, announcement after announcement is made, and the buck is passed to the cantons and municipalities, which then have to

solve housing issues and security problems that should not have occurred in the first place. It is imperative to ensure at the federal level that Switzerland not be attractive for bogus asylum seekers and economic migrants. On the one hand, this requires measures that ensure that such asylum seekers and migrants do not even come to Switzerland at all. On the other hand, far-reaching measures have to be taken to improve the situation with respect to process and enforcement so that those who are really persecuted can be helped quickly and those who abuse the asylum system can be promptly sent back.

Measures against illegal entry

The most effective and basically simplest way to solve the problems in the asylum system would be to ensure that bogus refugees do not come to Switzerland in the first place. Since it has been proven that control on the external Schengen border does not work and that some EU states do not comply with the Dublin Agreement, Switzerland must again control its borders systematically on its own. For this, the Swiss Border Guard must be equipped with the most technically advanced means of surveillance and be provided with support by the cantonal police forces.

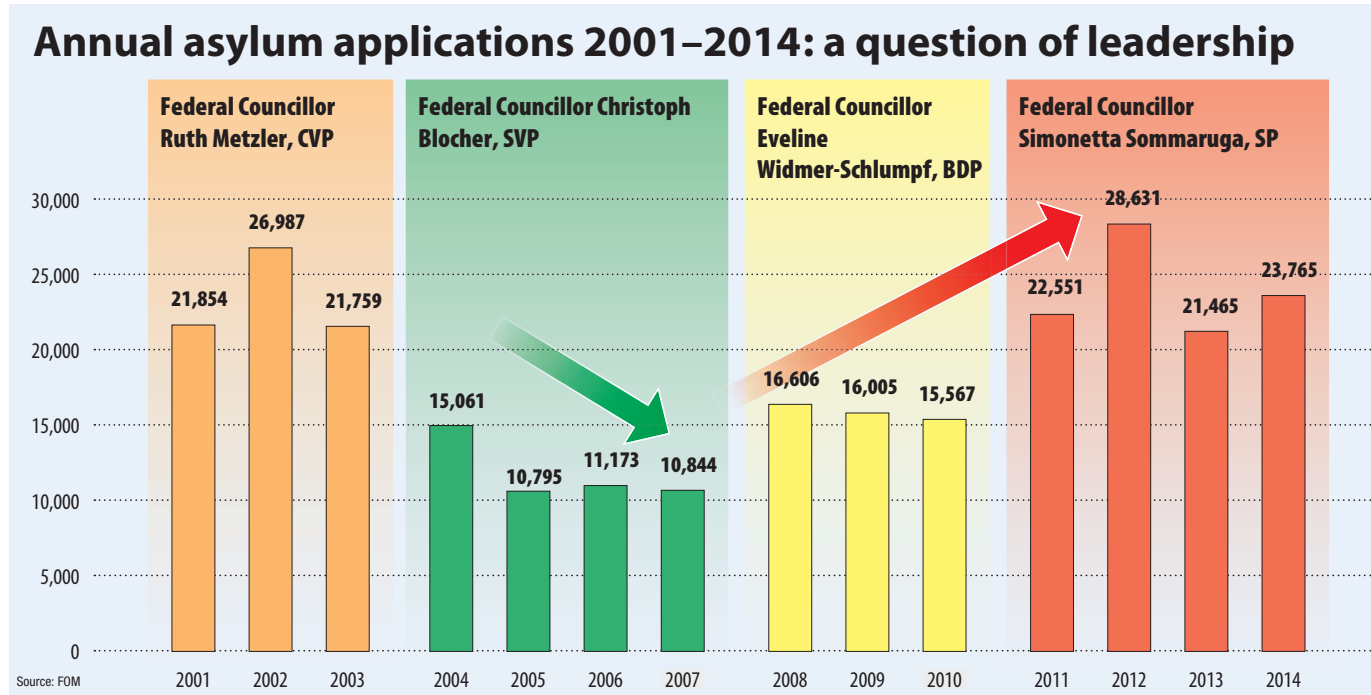
No entry from safe states

Illegal entry and illegally staying here, but also those who assist in this, must be pursued in a consistent manner. Anyone who enters Switzerland from a country in which they are not being persecuted should basically have no right to asylum, since the person being pursued should have already been able to find protection in that country. This principle, on which also the Dublin Agreement is based, must at last be enforced. In addition, in the case of war refugees, local assistance and assistance in their immediate geographic surroundings should be the priority. In this regard, Switzerland is involved in various international initiatives, for example as part of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Shorten proceedings, lower appeal

Pressure must not just be applied to illegal entry, it is also necessary to ensure that an application for asylum in Switzerland is no longer worthwhile for bogus refugees. Therefore, the appeal of the Swiss asylum system needs to be considerably lowered. The process must be drastically shortened by limiting appeal options that today leave the

door wide open to abuse. Apart from this, social benefits must be reduced so that recognised refugees are given more incentive to work. During the proceeding, applicants for asylum should be housed in controlled centres and receive in-kind emergency aid. Any applicant who has an ongoing proceeding must also be available to be interviewed. This can be ensured with a controlled centre. Anyone who does not

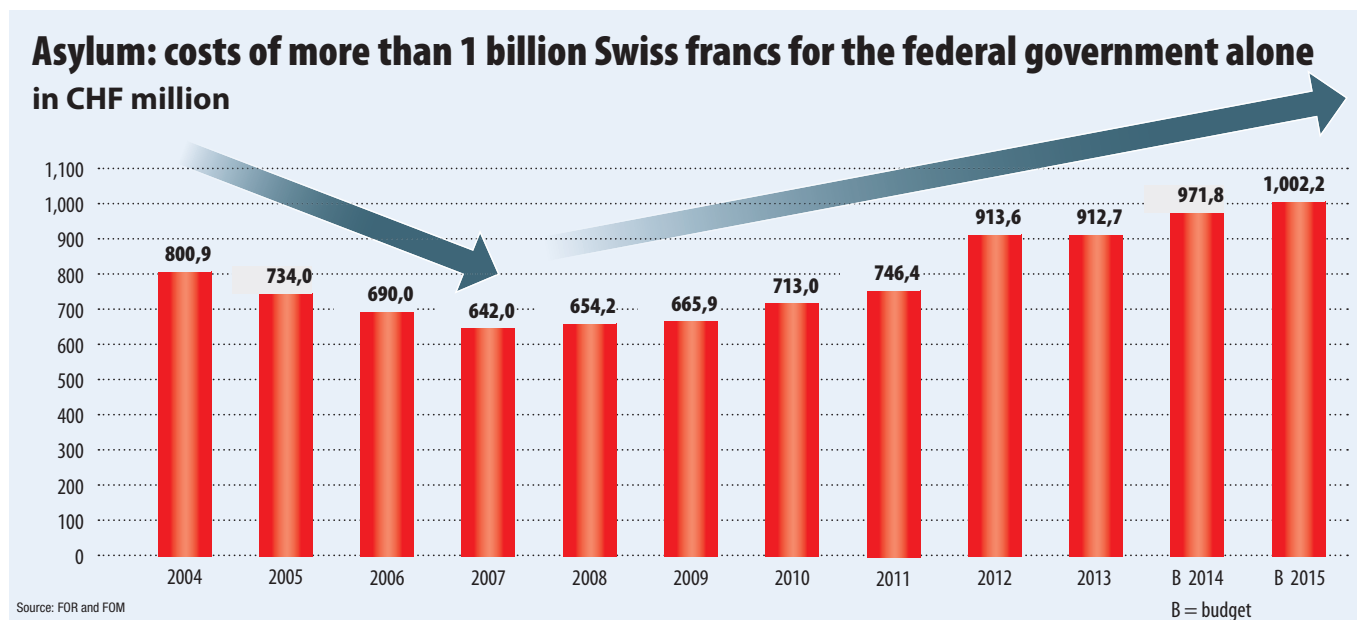


comply with these rules or Swiss law should be housed in a closed detention centre for the duration of the proceeding.

Measures to facilitate enforcement

Enforcement, meaning deportation of rejected asylum applicants, will make or break the asylum system. Anyone whose application for asylum has been rejected must be sent back to their home country as quickly as

possible. In the period prior to deportation, these people should only be provided with in-kind emergency aid. Anyone who resists the rejection must be deported using force. The bureaucratic and administrative requirements for deportation must be lowered, and repatriation agreements must be concluded with as many states as possible, and implemented. Countries which do not readmit their citizens when deported from Switzerland should no longer receive any development aid.



Costs of more than 1 billion Swiss francs for the federal government alone every year. This figure does not include the long-term costs in the cantons and municipalities for services such as social welfare – this is likely to account for a further 1 billion Swiss francs per year and the costs are increasing continually.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- advocates an asylum system that consistently sends bogus asylum seekers and economic migrants back so that those asylum seekers who are genuinely being persecuted can be helped;
- demands that the Federal Council promote implementation of the Dublin Agreement and, consequently, that anyone entering Switzerland from a safe third country no longer benefit from an asylum proceeding;
- demands that applicants for asylum who are rejected be sent back immediately, if necessary, by way of forced deportation;
- demands that decisions with a right of appeal be limited to those rendered at the first instance, instead of the current procedures with numerous appeal options, leaving the door wide open to abuse;
- does not accept that cantonal social welfare be provided to people subject to a legally binding removal order, who should have long since have left Switzerland;
- calls for lowering emergency aid to people whose application for asylum has been rejected;
- wants controls on the borders, specifically those with Italy, to be stepped up in order to gain control of illegal immigration;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- calls for abolition of temporary admission status and demands instead that there be a strict review of compliance with the requirements of refugee status;
- calls for controlled centres for asylum seekers with an ongoing asylum proceeding and closed detention centres for unruly and criminal asylum seekers;
- advocates that local assistance for war refugees be the priority.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a citizen more security;
- ✓ as a taxpayer less bogus asylum seekers, who are a drain on my pocket;
- ✓ as a resident of a municipality less problems with criminal asylum seekers;
- ✓ as a citizen the resumption of the humanitarian tradition of Switzerland;
- ✓ as a genuine refugee the certainty that the system is not burdened by bogus asylum seekers.

SAFETY FIRST!



Punish criminals instead of coddling them

At one time, Switzerland was one of the safest countries on earth. Relaxed policy, inconsistent implementation of existing laws and opening the borders through joining the Schengen area have resulted in our country ranking today in Europe among the countries with a high rate of crime. However, Switzerland must not become an El Dorado for criminals. A policy with effective sentences and consistent implementation must be finally enforced.

Insecurity is growing

Every eight minutes, a burglar breaks and enters into a flat or house somewhere in Switzerland. There are 932 break and enters per 100,000 inhabitants each year. That makes Switzerland destination country number one in Europe for gangs and thieves. Many no longer feel safe in our country. Older people no longer dare to venture out on the streets once it becomes dark. Young people are exposed to threats and attacks when they go out.

Refusal of politicians to carry out mandate

The rate of crimes committed by foreigners is constantly rising. On 28 November 2010, the voters and a majority of the cantons approved the popular initiative to deport foreign criminals. Instead of implementing the will of the people quickly and consistently, parliament waited four and a half years before approving an amended form of implementation based on the ineffective counter-proposal to the popular initiative. This counter-proposal had been drafted by the Federal Council and rejected by the people. This has resulted in thousands of foreign criminals neither being deported nor banned from entering the country since the initiative was accepted. The SVP felt compelled, in December 2012, to submit an enforcement initiative for the politicians in Bern to finally deal with the matter. Here too, the people will once again have to point the way.

Criminal law with no teeth

The revised penal code provides for three types of punishment for crimes or offences: a custodial sentence, payment of a fine and community service. Each of these punishments may be suspended or partially suspended. With the revision of the penal code, monetary fines and, with the consent of the perpetrator, community service were introduced, which were intended to replace the shorter custodial sentences imposed previously. The revision of the law has resulted in perpetrators not feeling the sanctions since they can be suspended. From the drug dealer to the thief

right up to the violent offender, criminals are then set free following brief questioning by the police, whereas the respectable citizen who incurs a traffic fine, for example, is positively clobbered.

Young people at risk

Today, our criminal justice system has various faults. For one thing, and particularly in the case of violent crimes, the sentences imposed are too lenient. Many judges fail to apply the sanctions that are available to them. Too many too lenient sentences and lax enforcement ensure the absence of the required deterrent effect. A further problem is posed by proceedings that are in part far too long. In the meantime, our criminal law is heavily focused on finding sanctions to accommodate and offer help to perpetrators, thereby placing greater weight on the therapeutic effect than on the punitive and deterrent effect. This results in the victim being forgotten, particularly when it comes to violent crimes. The laws governing juvenile crime should also be tightened. Word of the fact that 17-year-old perpetrators receive significantly more lenient sentences and sanctions has spread to organised crime rings, which is why children are increasingly being recruited to commit criminal offences.

Lack of borders as a problem

The Schengen Agreement is intended to promote freedom of movement through the elimination of the systematic controls of persons (without suspicion) at the domestic borders. Open borders, however, also mean open routes for criminal tourists and illegal immigration. Foreign gangs of thieves conduct regular raids throughout our country. In 2013, 75 per cent of the 10,982 perpetrators sentenced for theft were foreigners. Only one out of five of these foreigners had a permanent place of residence in Switzerland or held a B or C residence permit. In addition, once it joined the Schengen area, Switzerland relinquished its independence with respect to issuing visas.

Enforce popular decisions

Through its enforcement initiative, the SVP showed how the deportation initiative has to be implemented. That the SVP was even compelled to submit this initiative shows the extent of the lack of respect accorded to popular decisions. The enforcement initiative lists two types of crimes: Any person who commits a serious crime (e.g. premeditated murder, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, human trafficking, rape, etc.) will be deported from the country. Any person who commits a less serious offence (e.g. unlawful detention, arson, violence and threats against officials) will be deported from the country if the person has a previous conviction. This implementation proposal is proportionate and should have been implemented a long time ago.

Zero tolerance with respect to violence

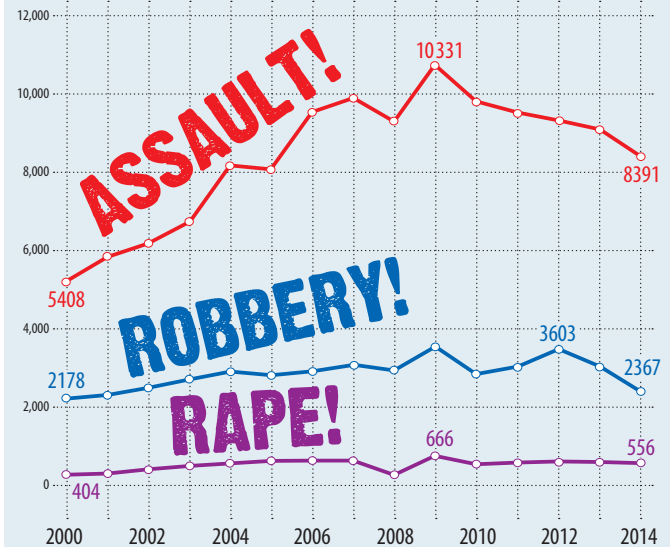
For crimes involving violence, the SVP calls for considerably greater punishment, particularly in cases of attacks on police or officials. In criminal law, a deterrent effect can only be achieved through harsh sanctions. Minimum sentencing rules are therefore required to limit the leeway of judges. It is urgent that the laws governing juvenile crime, applicable to under-age perpetrators, be tightened. The judiciary must also be given the option of sentencing minors as adults. There is furthermore a need to move away from the expensive, onerous therapy approach. A term of imprisonment is not intended to be a bed of roses.

Control borders

Switzerland needs to control its borders again as it did prior to joining Schengen. Any country that opens its borders with no control of them gives away an essential element of its sovereignty. In terms of security, a system of open borders from Poland to Portugal and from Romania to Belgium is detrimental to Switzerland. There is no dispute that com-

plete control of the border is not possible. However, there would be a dissuasive effect, not to be underestimated, if there was the possibility that any border crossing might be subject to control. In addition, Switzerland must regain its autonomy to decide about the issuance of visas, and not blindly accept Schengen visas.

Trends in criminal offences 2000 – 2014



Source: police crime statistics 2014

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- demands that the interests of victims be given consistently greater weight than those of the perpetrators;
- calls for the consistent enforcement of the deportation of criminal foreigners. The SVP's enforcement initiative has shown a suitable route;
- calls for quick and rigorous action to be taken against violent offenders for the security of the population;
- demands the reintroduction of unsuspended custodial sentences, including those under six months;
- calls for the elimination of suspended fines;
- demands the option of sentencing perpetrators to perform community service, even without their consent and, if they refuse, that they be sentenced to serve a custodial sentence that is twice as long;
- calls for the increase of the minimum sentencing threshold for offences involving life and limb, and for judges to also use the leeway in the penal code for longer sentences;
- demands that there be a register of convictions in which serious crimes are not expunged and which is effective for the purpose of preventing recidivism;
- supports swift action by the courts and tighter laws, particularly in relation to juvenile law;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- calls for a ban on the wearing of veils in public spaces;
- demands a rethinking of how sentences are enforced: less therapy, more work and contribution to costs incurred;
- wants dual nationality and immigrant background to be recorded in the federal criminal statistics;
- calls for effective measures against criminal tourism, particularly along the borders;
- demands that Switzerland reintroduce border control and aim at leaving Schengen.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a citizen security against break and enters and thefts;
- ✓ as a youth less harassment and vulgar remarks and behaviour when going out;
- ✓ as a victim of crime the security that the perpetrator will be taken out of circulation;
- ✓ as a judge or member of the police effective legal grounds to truly be in a position to crack down with respect to crimes.

WILLY THINKS:

I ALSO WANT TO
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
COUNTRY!



Security for our country and its people

Security is an indispensable requirement for freedom, independence and prosperity. A reliable militia army guarantees this security even in times of crisis, and is the tailored solution for the needs of Switzerland.

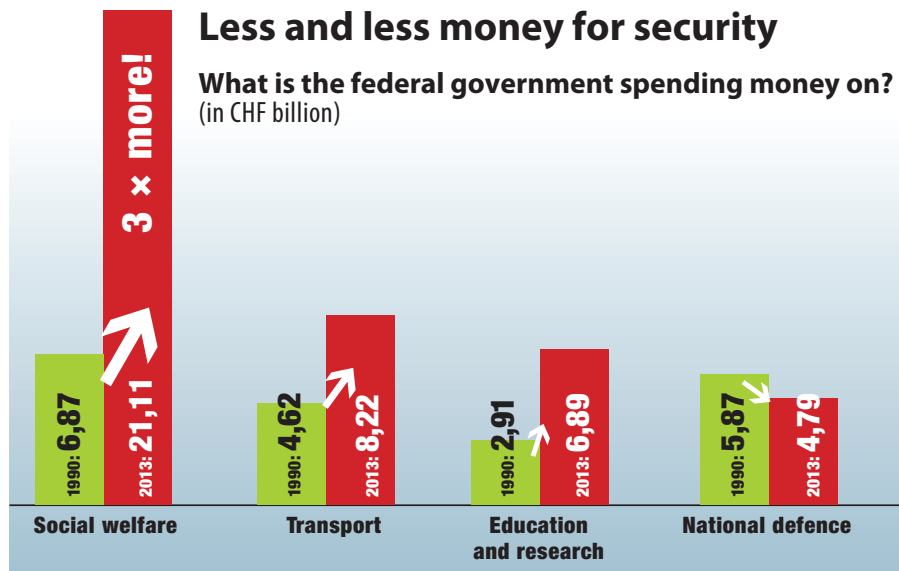
Security is not something that can be taken for granted. Today, there are armed conflicts raging just a few flight hours away from us. Terrorist attacks can happen at any time and any place. We are obligated to provide the necessary resources for our army and national defence in future as well, so that the country and its people are able to live in security and freedom.

Army as insurance

Switzerland's militia army protects our country and its people against all violent threats from outside. Permanent armed neutrality has brought our country independence, peace and freedom. The army protects the lives, property and homes of citizens, but also their direct democratic rights as supreme authority. Any country that is unwilling or unable to ensure its own security is no longer sovereign. The army is the final recourse when it comes to defending our freedom. For this reason, this final recourse must never fail.

Wars are an unfortunate reality

There are no signs of everlasting peace between the peoples of the earth. On the contrary: tensions and armed conflicts are increasing around the world. Violence and war remain the weapons of choice in the global fight for power, commodities or religious influence. National interests also shape the actions of the great powers. It is vital for our sovereignty that the small state of Switzerland independently ensure its own security. We must adopt a serious security policy based on a realistic view of the world that paints an accurate picture of the threats we face. Being realistic involves taking account of potential surprises and uncertainties. Protection of our country and its people does not tolerate any halfway measures or compromises.



Switzerland is vulnerable

In the context of the competition for resources and transport routes, our transit axes are a key strategic interest. Religiously motivated violence and terrorism, as radical Islamism has shown, does not just occupy space, it also occupies the minds of people as a result of the Internet. There is an increased threat of terrorism by non-state parties or possible cyber-attacks. Various incidents, including in the direct vicinity of Switzerland, have clearly demonstrated this. Even if Switzerland is unlikely to become the main target of potential aggression, hostile acts and terrorist attacks are possible at any time. Switzerland, as a country of great prosperity, Europe's water reservoir, a hub for international commodities trading and a major financial centre, still has much to defend.

Sufficient funds for a reliable army

The SVP wants a well-trained, defensive army with modern equipment that does not attack anyone, but that protects our independence and ensures that Switzerland is viewed as a neutral state that contributes to peace. Its job, which in addition to providing defence also consists of providing support to civil authorities (e.g. for disaster relief), cannot be carried out with the annual funds approved by parliament of 5 billion Swiss francs with a force of 100,000 army members. The haemorrhaging of the army as a result of a further reduction in military spending must be stopped. Since 1990, expenditure for the military has dropped from 19



The Patrouille Suisse aerobatic squadron, a proud symbol of the abilities of our army, should be maintained.

per cent to 7.2 per cent of the national budget. In comparison to states such as Sweden and Finland, Switzerland uses the least amount of funds for its army, measured on the basis of gross domestic product. In the view of the SVP, annual funds in the amount of no less than 5.4 billion Swiss francs and a force of at least 140,000 army members are imperative. Setting a maximum number of service days for each year is not required. As a rule, refresher courses should last for three weeks.

No alternative to independent defence

A key responsibility of any state is the safety of its land and people. This is why states need a strong and powerful army with a specific mission, binding goals and a reality-based strategy. In the 1990s, our army was reduced to a troubling state as a result of unworkable reforms such as Armee 95, Armee XXI and Entwicklungsschritt 08/11, which left it far from being fit for operational readiness. A change in trend came when SVP Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer took office and targeted measures were taken to remedy the shortcomings. The army must be in a position to carry out its duties at all times. To this end, it must be capable of deployment within a few days and of operating around the clock for a period of time to be defined.

No operations abroad and no military alliances

The army must abandon the ill-fated path of internationalisation; operations abroad are none of its business. Such operations, for example in Kosovo (KFOR mission), must be terminated. Our army must neither be led into NATO nor integrated in the common EU defence policy. In addition, any moves towards further scaling down the army and towards a creeping conversion of it into a professional force must be stopped. There must be a further and palpable streamlining of command structures and inflated staff. A powerful army also requires a well-equipped air force that is in a position to ward off threats in the air. It is therefore essential that the air force be overhauled in a timely manner.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- is committed to an adequately armed and superbly trained militia army with well-equipped air and ground forces to protect an independent, free and neutral Switzerland;
- calls for a target force of at least 140,000 army members with an annual budget of no less than 5.4 billion Swiss francs;
- calls for a complete overhaul of the air force. Air force patrols around the clock must be ensured. As an emergency solution during a transition period, two to three Tiger F-5 squadrons are to continue operation;
- demands a high level of readiness of all or parts of the army in line with the threat faced, and a corresponding organisation to oversee mobilisation;
- demands an end to armed missions abroad such as the KFOR mission in Kosovo;
- rejects the forming of alliances and any further integration into NATO;
- supports the immediate reversal of the unlawful separation of responsibility for training and deployment;
- calls for a balanced army presence in all regions;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

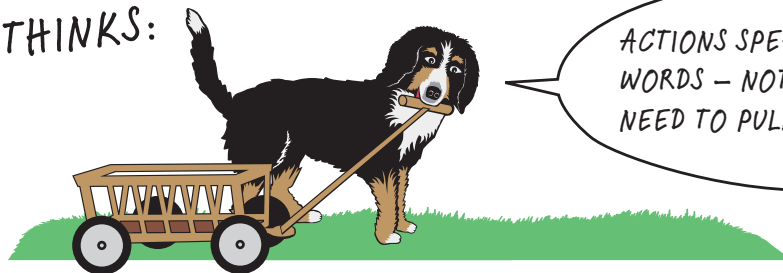
- backs maintenance of the Patrouille Suisse aerobatic squadron as a proud symbol of the abilities of our army;
- demands an end to the ostracism and harassment of shooters, hunters and collectors of historical weapons, and gunnery in general. The SVP supports the maintenance of autonomous, liberal weapons legislation.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a citizen more security;
- ✓ as a family member the certainty that our country can be protected;
- ✓ as a member of the army the resources required to fulfil the mission for our country and its people;
- ✓ as a responsible member of a public authority the right tools to deal with crises and disasters at all times;
- ✓ as a parent the certainty that my children will not be required to take part in foreign wars.

WILLY THINKS:



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN
WORDS – NOT ONLY DOGS
NEED TO PULL THEIR WEIGHT!

Practice-based education, not an obsession with reform

An effective education system is the foundation stone of development and prosperity in Switzerland. The focus in this regard must be on the well-being of the child and their holistic development into an individual with responsibility for themselves and others. The SVP supports a high-quality, efficient and performance-oriented education system. Schools should focus systematically on practice by promoting the concept of «head, heart and hands». Quality depends less on the use of public finances and more on strong teaching staff who are willing – and free – to lead. The dual education system must be maintained and reinforced.

Putting a stop to starry-eyed reforms

The education system must be oriented towards the practical world of work. If more doctors, engineers and technical professionals are needed, these should be trained in Switzerland. When company directors and colleges of further education complain about the lack of basic knowledge among school-leavers, primary and secondary schools should return their focus to mathematics, the local national language and the natural sciences, forgetting the two foreign languages in primary school, ideological gender and sex education and anticommercial environmental and consumer protection education. Instead of ensuring an increased orientation towards practice, all of the experimental reforms of recent years – be they Bologna, HarmoS, Lehrplan 21, integrative teaching, team teaching, skills orientation, etc. – have led to more bureaucracy, more centralism, academisation and therapeutisation, and have hugely increased the costs of the education system without the associated benefits.

Performance orientation

Affirmation of performance must be part of the school day. Commerce and industry must be able to hold their own in a tough competitive environment, demanding commitment, motivation and performance from their workforce. The sovereignty of the cantons over primary and secondary schools is a basic pillar of our education system. Cantonal curricula must define clear and binding learning objectives, with performance and quality to be expected and encouraged at every level of primary and secondary education. Without order, discipline and motivation, there will be no success. Performance should be assessed with grades, and behavioural assessments should take the form of written evaluations. The uniform report card must be straightforward and understandable to parents and vocational trainers.

Reinforcing the teaching profession

Teachers must be given more freedom in terms of methods and teaching

materials, and there must be a return to the tried and tested class teacher system in primary school. Teachers should be able to focus all of their time and energy on teaching and on the children, not on «school development», meetings and administration. The SVP advocates the local autonomy of schools vis-à-vis cantonal administrations, with those who are directly affected being in a position to shape their own school system.

Reinforcing vocational education and the technical professions

There should be a return to more practice-based vocational education for young people. An increase in the numbers of pupils obtaining the Matura qualification as a route to higher education is nothing more than a sign of levelling down. Vocational education has been shown to be the best guarantee of low youth unemployment, and provides the necessary link between business and education. Our education system should teach children and young people in such a way that they are able to find a job later on. The process of academisation of recent decades, however, is leading in precisely the opposite direction. Many university graduates are unable to find work, or only in public-sector jobs, because of insufficient demand in the humanities and the legal and social sciences. At the same time, there is a severe lack of young people training in the technical professions or natural sciences, as engineers, computer scientists or doctors, for whom there is evidently a high level of demand in Switzerland.

Research for top performance

While research is not a core responsibility of the state in principle, the state should provide conditions that are beneficial to researchers. Research should not be an end in itself, but should take place in a results- and application-oriented context in competition with the best. Switzerland's universities and institutes of technology must focus on teaching theoretical skills, academic working methods and cutting-edge research. The courses they offer should be geared more closely to the needs of the labour market. The SVP wants to see top-class universities, not universities for the masses.

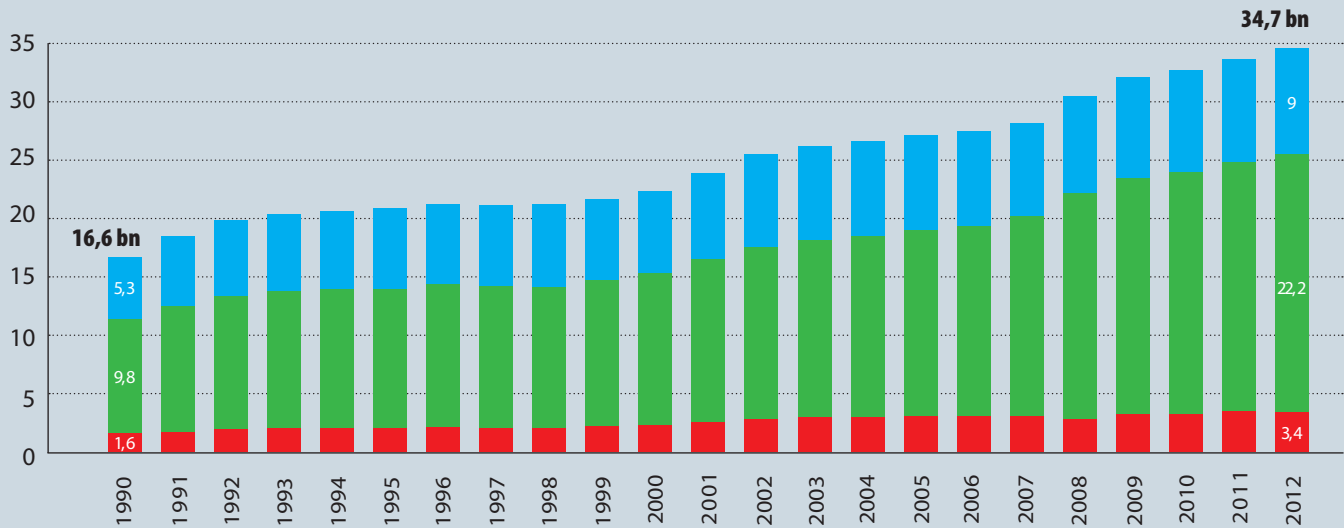
No money for questionable programmes

It is scandalous that Swiss taxpayers finance the education of thousands of foreign students who leave the country once they have completed their studies and put their education to the service of another nation's economy. Tuition fees for foreign students should therefore be set at a much

higher level. Switzerland does not need to align itself again with the astronomically expensive EU education programmes, which involve a vast amount of bureaucracy and are a waste of money and time. Student exchange can be undertaken worldwide and directly between universities, even without expensive EU programmes.

Development of education expenditure (in CHF billion)

■ Federal government ■ Cantons ■ Municipalities



VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- believes that bringing up children is fundamentally a matter for parents and education is fundamentally a matter for schools;
- calls for the cantons and thereby the citizens to determine their school system in a directly democratic approach;
- supports a return to a focus on the core subjects of the local national language (German/French/Italian/Romansh), mathematics and natural sciences in compulsory education;
- is against the therapeutisation, centralisation and bureaucratisation of school through a range of experimental reforms, HarmoS and Lehrplan 21;
- is in favour of the class teacher system, and calls for teaching staff to be trained to lead a class instead of coach it;
- supports discipline and order in the classroom and on school premises;
- calls for grades to be awarded from the first class at primary school;
- believes that preference should be given to the national languages when it comes to learning a first foreign language;
- wants the current national anthem to be retained and taught at public schools;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- calls for more quality not quantity in higher education, and more qualified engineers, natural scientists and doctors in Switzerland instead of a surplus of social and humanities scientists;
- is opposed to the further academisation of education, and rejects the concept of Matura quotas;
- combats youth unemployment by reinforcing practice-based vocational education;
- rejects wasteful involvement in EU education and research programmes that lack relevance to the public and the economy.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a pupil or student a practice-based education and a good chance in the labour market;
- ✓ as a parent the certainty that my children are being prepared for the challenges of working life while at school;
- ✓ as a schoolteacher the opportunity to concentrate on passing on knowledge instead of wasting time on administrative work;
- ✓ as a vocational trainer apprentices who emerge from compulsory education with a solid educational background;
- ✓ as a HR manager well-trained professionals from Switzerland.

WILLY THINKS:



Safeguarding the social security system, combating abuse

With the structural problems and potential for abuse of the social security system having always been papered over with tax income in the past, today it is all the more urgent to put things right in terms of balance and solidarity between young and old, between the truly needy and the payers of premiums and tax. Responsible solutions call for a systematic policy.

Problems papered over with money

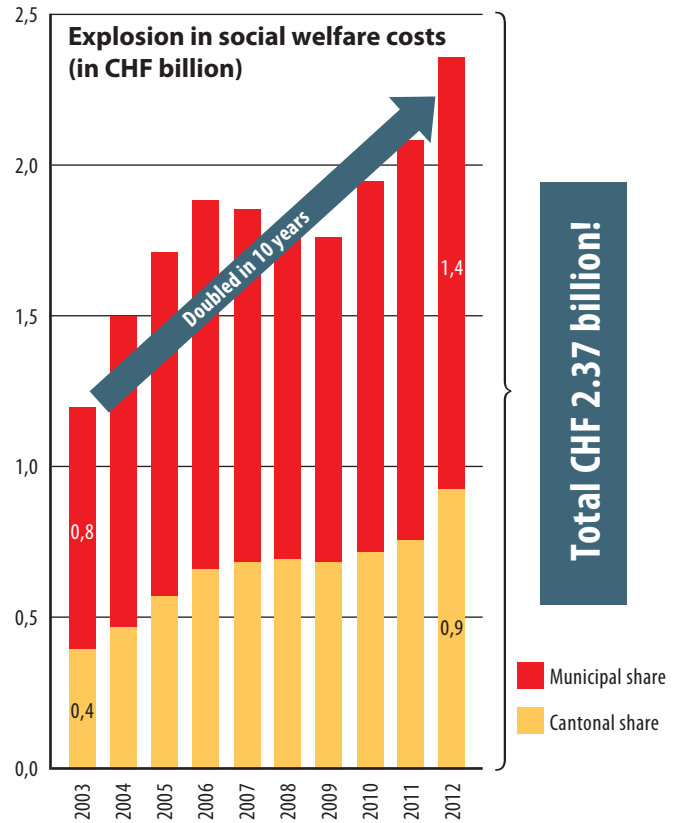
The policy of the centre-left has meant that obvious shortcomings in the social security system, abuse and structural underfunding have not been tackled in an honest manner. Eyes have been closed to the real problems. Shortcomings were usually just papered over with more money – money that had been obtained from individuals and companies through additional taxes and duties. Value added tax (VAT), for example, was raised by 1 per cent in 1999 for old-age and survivors’ insurance (OASI) and by 0.4 per cent in 2011 for disability insurance (DI), with further increases planned.

A struggling pension system

We are living longer, and spending longer in retirement as a result, which means that a smaller and smaller workforce has to cover for growing numbers of pensioners. While in 1970 five people paid in contributions for each pensioner, today this number is three, and in 2040 it is likely to be down to just two. It is now already the case that OASI takes in less than it pays out. The numbers simply no longer add up. As with the DI system, OASI now plans to grab more money from contributors in advance through a VAT increase instead of tackling the promised and urgently needed reforms to the system.

The limits of the welfare state

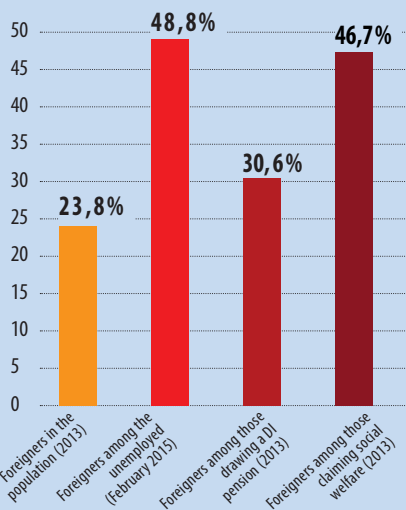
The welfare state is increasingly reaching its limits. While in 1950 welfare spending in Switzerland amounted to less than 2 billion Swiss francs, by 1990 it had risen to 62 billion Swiss francs, and in 2012 spending by the social security system had reached 163 billion Swiss francs. Social welfare is costing us more than we can afford, and it is future generations who will have to pick up the bill. Fewer and fewer people are being expected to pay for more and more others. The future of the entire welfare state is in doubt. It is true that supplementary benefits, social welfare and health and accident insurance are being supported by rising tax revenue and premi-



Explosion in social welfare spending (SFSO)

ums. However, OASI, unemployment insurance, occupational pension schemes, income replacement, DI, maternity insurance and, as the ultimate safety net, social welfare – none of these are on a firm financial footing. Spending on social welfare, for example, has doubled to 2.4 billion Swiss francs in the last 10 years. Social welfare has lost its original function as a stopgap, and as a way of helping people to help themselves. What is more, trends towards centralisation and professionalisation have resulted in systems becoming more and more removed from the people affected,

Proportion of foreigners in the Swiss social welfare system (in per cent)



Sources: SFSO/SECO/social welfare statistics 2014, FSIO

and have made it more difficult to provide effective and dignified support. This applies not only to social welfare but also to child and adult protection, for example, the centralisation of which in the form of the KESB (child and adult protection authority) has made the situation worse.

Reforms essential

The SVP is committed to safeguarding the social welfare system financially over the long term, and is fully aware that every Swiss franc that can be used for it first has to be earned. This means that reforms must be based on facts and realistic scenarios, which is why the SVP believes that a retirement age of 65 should be introduced for both women and men. In the context of occupational pension schemes,

the SVP advocates the depoliticisation of technical parameters such as the minimum conversion rate or minimum interest rate to enable the actual circumstances to be taken into account.

Eliminating misdirected incentives

The announced reforms to DI must be put into practice. Certain nationalities (Turkey and the Balkan states) account for a disproportionate share of disability benefit recipients. The pension scale needs to be refined. Exports of DI pensions to countries abroad without adjustment for purchasing power should be halted. There needs to be an improved examination of the psychological disorders being diagnosed so frequently nowadays. Performance capacity and commitment tests must be part of the process if abuse and misdiagnosis are to be avoided.

Social welfare must not become a gravy train

The cantons must draft their social welfare legislation in such a way that benefits can no longer be exploited and abused. Anyone who refuses to integrate or look for work should be refused assistance. Work must be made to pay once again. The guidelines issued by the Swiss Conference for Social Welfare (SKOS) are to be seen as recommendations or as nonbinding guidance for implementing agencies and labelled accordingly in cantonal social welfare and assistance legislation and ordinances. The rates calculated on an ideological basis by the SKOS are too high. Anyone who refuses to take on suitable employment or fails to comply with the requirements of the authorities in any other way should have their benefits significantly reduced. Any further professionalisation in the social welfare system is to be strongly opposed in favour of the militia principle. Families, local associations, churches and companies should be in a position to make their valuable contribution.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- is committed to safeguarding the social welfare system financially and rejects the extension of welfare benefits;
- rejects any increase in taxes and duties, especially a VAT increase, for use in the restructuring of the social welfare system, as structural deficiencies must not be papered over with tax revenue;
- demands that OASI be safeguarded by:
 - introducing a retirement age of 65 for women and men;
 - full use of the additional VAT percentage levied since 1999 for OASI;
 - repayment of the debts of the DI system to OASI;
 - a moderate and gradual increase in the retirement age, adjusted in line with constantly increasing life expectancy or the coverage shortfall in OASI reserve fund;
- supports the overdue restructuring of the DI system, as promised to voters;
- opposes overregulation in occupational pensions and calls for the removal of technical parameters from the Occupational Pensions Act;
- demands a change of thinking in the social welfare system:
 - militia principle before professionalization. Municipal autonomy in the social welfare system must be reinforced;

VIEWPOINTS

- integration before social welfare. Social welfare is a stopgap;
- the binding nature of SKOS guidelines must be eliminated from all cantonal social welfare legislation;
- calls for the guarantee of co-determination by the municipalities in the area of child and adult protection and a move away from professionalisation and centralisation in the legal guardianship system;
- favours family-based solutions over residential home solutions in child and adult protection;
- combats the unaffordable consequences in social welfare resulting from bad asylum policy.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a pensioner a safe pension;
- ✓ as a young person the prospect of a secure social security system in future;
- ✓ as a person in need the certainty that I will not be disadvantaged due to abuse of the system by others;
- ✓ as a consumer the certainty that VAT will not be increased for the sake of the social security system;
- ✓ as a local politician the opportunity to respond in an appropriate manner based on individual situations.

WILLY THINKS:

HOW ILL IS OUR
HEALTH CARE?



Quality through competition

Our health-care system is one of the best, but also one of the most expensive in the world. The increasing nationalisation of the health-care system is causing both demands and premiums to rise constantly. Spectacularly misdirected incentives in the current system must be eliminated. Personal responsibility is to be reinforced. Paternalism of the state under the banner of health care is becoming ever more grotesque, and must be stopped. The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) is getting out of hand, and needs to be reined in.

An overregulated health-care sector

A society that is living longer and the medical progress that is opening up more and more possibilities for treatment are factors that are resulting in ever-increasing consumption of medical services. In the context of mandatory insurance, it is clear that demand for health-care services will remain high in future. Even more state intervention is not the cure, however. Regulation, bureaucracy and state interventionism in health care are placing increasing restrictions on personal responsibility and the development of an innovative private sector.

List of services out of control

Today, we no longer have individual contracts between patients and their insurance companies, but a list of services defined by the authorities. It is not the doctor and the patient but rather the state that decides what treatment is «effective», «expedient» and «economic». And the politicians, who are out of their depth in this field, can think of nothing better than to constantly add new and appealing services to the list. The problem is also that patients, doctors, the pharmaceutical industry and medical technology companies all want to see their wishes and services included in the list. This excessive coverage of every disease risk and every individual need makes for a comprehensive insurance mentality in which any sense of personal responsibility goes out of the window.

An expensive obsession with prevention

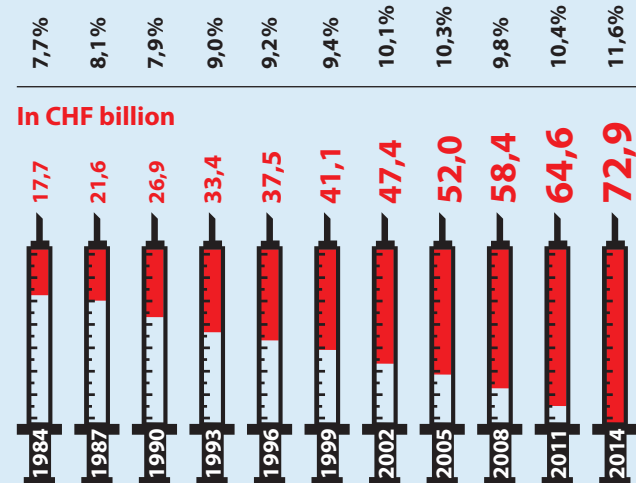
The nationalisation of the health-care system and the resulting bureaucracy are leading to ever-increasing costs. According to a financial plan by the FOPH, spending will increase by 418 million Swiss francs to 3.1 billion Swiss francs between 2014 and 2018. This increase is due among other things to the general prevention activities of the FOPH. With their laws and expensive campaigns, the health functionaries and self-appointed experts from the FOPH claim to want to help people to lead a good and healthy life. After tobacco and alcohol come laser, light and noise,

which are likely to be followed by sugar, fat and meat as the targets of a full-blown obsession with prevention. More and more money is flowing into dubious and ideologically motivated studies and information campaigns.

Eliminating misdirected incentives

The SVP is against the further centralisation and nationalisation of the health-care system. More state intervention, new laws, supervisory bod-

Health expenditure as a percentage of GDP



ies and central powers that lie with the federal government must be prevented, as they already hamper competition and create misdirected incentives. Instead of trusting the responsible citizen, the apostles of health at the FOPH want to interfere in the powers of the cantons when it comes to determining health policy. This cannot be. The role of the cantons must at the same time be redefined and limited to the essential responsibilities of supervision and control. The SVP therefore advocates a clear division of roles and a reduction in conflicts of interest. In this regard, hospitals should be made independent, collective agreement issues should be negotiated by the parties involved and, if appropriate, approved by an independent judicial authority.

Reinforcing personal responsibility

Competition and freedom of contract must also be applied as basic principles in the health-care system and therefore reinforced. The personal responsibility of policyholders, including their contribution to costs, must be increased and an overblown entitlement mentality prevented. The personal relationship and the resulting direct responsibilities between doctor and patient, between pharmacist and customer or between insurance company and policyholder must have priority. The SVP is therefore in favour of the creation of a list of services that is limited to essential health needs in compulsory basic health insurance and can be supplemented by freely chosen services that are however financed through supplemental insurance. Asylum seekers and provisionally admitted foreigners must be treated outside the health insurance system and directly at the cost of the federal government or the cantons.

Putting a stop to the academisation of the caring professions

The current shortage of nursing staff is also a result of bad decisions in the education system. For the SVP, it is unfathomable how the academisation of the caring professions can achieve higher quality and quantity. While an academic title provides proof of theoretical training, it says nothing at

all about quality in the interest of the patient. The availability of practice-based training opportunities in nursing should be improved, and the training of new doctors from Switzerland should be promoted among other things by the abolition of the absurd *numerus clausus*.



VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- supports competition in the health-care sector, which guarantees high-quality health care for both town and country;
- calls for more transparency in terms of quality and prices in the health-care sector in order to strengthen patients' right to choose and therefore their well-being;
- demands a slimmed-down list of services provided under basic health insurance, and a list based on positives. Sex changes, cosmetic surgery, etc., must not be paid for by the community as a whole;
- demands the immediate abolition of the officially imposed upper limit for the voluntary deductible in compulsory health insurance;
- believes that palliative care should be officially recognised within the health-care system as a holistic care concept for people with incurable, life-threatening or chronic illnesses;
- is opposed to absurd and expensive self-satisfying campaigns under the guise of prevention, and places its trust in the personal responsibility of citizens;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- demands that people living illegally in Switzerland (undocumented immigrants and rejected asylum seekers) no longer have any entitlement to compulsory health insurance;
- calls for the academisation of the caring professions to be reversed and for the shortage of nursing staff in Switzerland to be tackled through an increase in training opportunities;
- rejects the legalisation and trivialisation of drugs.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a patient high-quality care;
- ✓ as a family member affordable health insurance premiums;
- ✓ as a resident of a peripheral region health-care provision in the surrounding area;
- ✓ as a doctor the freedom to practise my profession without being increasingly dictated to by the state.



In support of domestic production

The SVP is committed to productive agriculture that provides the population with healthy foods produced near to where they are sold. Farming families must earn a reasonable income for the important services they provide on behalf of the general public. The planning security and innovativeness of an entrepreneurial agricultural sector is to be reinforced. What is more, excessive ecologisation is to be scaled down to a reasonable level, with cultivated agricultural land being preserved in return.

The decline in farming continues

A century ago, there were still more than 243 000 farms in Switzerland; by 1990, that number had fallen to 108 000, and in 2013, it was just 55 000. The population backs the farmers, who are entrusted with important tasks by the Federal Constitution and the Agriculture Act. This includes safeguarding and maintaining the basis of production, as well as producing healthy foods near to where they are sold.

In view of current agricultural policy, however, farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their constitutional obligation: a significant amount of farmland has been lost in recent years, and many farms have had to be closed due to falling incomes, thereby calling into question the country’s ability to sustain a high level of self-sufficiency and to manage and preserve the cultivated landscape.

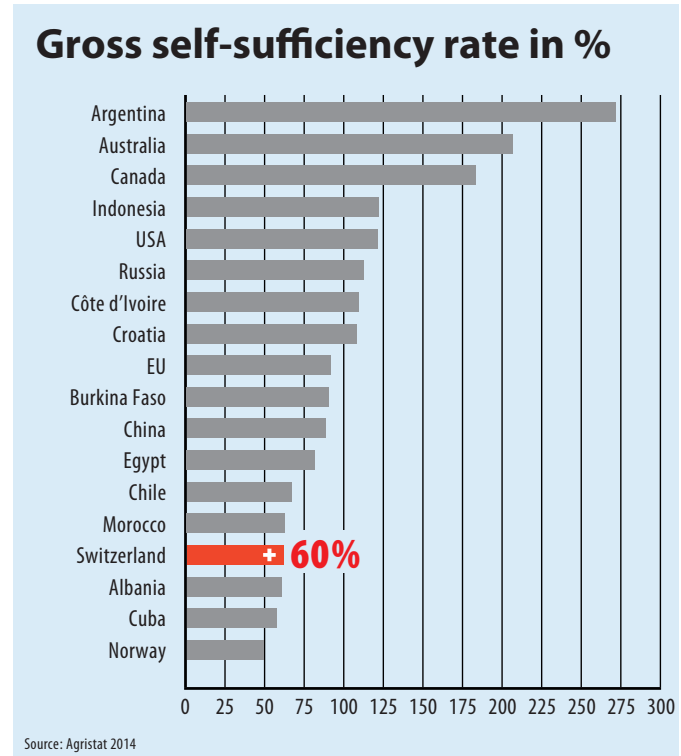
The level of self-sufficiency must not fall further

Switzerland is already one of the world’s biggest net importers of food per capita. While we import food worth around 600 Swiss francs per person per year, this value is approximately 10 times lower in the EU. The net level of self-sufficiency (minus imported feed for domestic animal production) was only 53 per cent in 2014 (in the year 2000 still 59%). Switzerland is far from being able to provide for itself. The SVP therefore believes that productive agriculture and hence family-run farms should be reinforced in a targeted manner. This also means a rejection of land contributions in favour of product-based direct payments such as premiums for the cultivation of corn, wheat, potatoes and vegetables.

Personal responsibility, not a flood of regulation

Unfortunately, the numerous regulations, forms and checks that farmers have to deal with make their job more difficult and undermine their sense of responsibility. Too much time is spent on paperwork and administration. Too much government money is swallowed up by bureaucracy rath-

er than benefiting farmers. Farmers are highly qualified specialists in food production, and they should be allowed to decide for themselves when, where and what they want to produce.



Food security in Switzerland must be improved.

Productive agriculture

Our productive agricultural sector is the cheapest and most efficient way to maintain a diverse and well-structured cultivated landscape. This is better for the environment than transporting agricultural produce from one continent to another. With the current agricultural policy, however, Switzerland is going in precisely the opposite direction, which means that extensive farming is being promoted at the expense of productive agriculture. We are therefore doing exactly what we should not be doing: firstly importing more and more food of questionable origin, and secondly increasing our dependence on other countries. What is more, larger and larger areas of valuable agricultural land are falling victim to forestation and the renaturation of watercourses, and high levels of immigration mean that settlement areas are growing at the expense of cultivated land.

Promoting more efficient farms

Productive farms must not be placed at a financial disadvantage vis-à-vis farms engaged in extensive farming. The SVP aims to secure a return to a net level of self-sufficiency of at least 60 per cent for Switzerland. This aim can, however, only be achieved if farming families are offered future prospects that enable them to invest in sustainable production, thereby also ensuring job security in upstream and downstream sectors (industry, commerce, tourism).

No sacrifice of agriculture at the altar of the EU

The free trade agreement on agriculture targeted by the Federal Council with the EU and the treaty with the World Trade Organization (WTO) envisage an opening of borders that goes much too far in terms of agriculture and would pose a threat to the survival of farming families. The reduction of food prices to EU or even global market levels – with unchanged production costs – would destroy the existence of domestic agriculture. This would in turn have a negative impact on decentralised

settlement, the preservation of the cultivated landscape and the security and quality of our food. The SVP therefore rejects uncontrolled free agricultural trade with the EU and the WTO. With existing food imports, the same requirements should apply as for food produced domestically.

Meaningful spatial planning

Spatial planning law should be designed in such a way that entrepreneurial farmers can develop their farms in a forward-looking and market-oriented manner. The SVP believes that it should be possible for existing buildings located outside of building zones to be put to the fullest, most flexible possible use and converted. This would protect cultivated land, preserve the appearance of the landscape and ensure value creation in rural areas. The SVP advocates an economical approach to the use of agricultural land.



Productive agriculture in Switzerland must be strengthened.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- wants to reinforce productive farms and minimise administrative regulations;
- calls for the maintenance of food security in Switzerland through a net level of self-sufficiency of at least 60 per cent;
- fights to safeguard the existence of family-run farms and to ensure an appropriate income from agriculture;
- places its trust in regional production, processing and marketing, and rejects free trade in agriculture with the EU;
- is committed to a spatial planning law that allows for flexible and full use of existing buildings and facilities outside the building zone;
- opposes new directives and regulations in animal, water and environmental protection, which lead to higher costs and administrative hurdles;
- campaigns for the protection of investments by ensuring that buildings and installations constructed in accordance with the latest findings and regulations are not required to be altered for at least 30 years;
- demands the same requirements for imported foods as for domestic produce;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- favours the targeted promotion of livestock farming and exports and the breeding of young livestock to strengthen productive grassland farms, especially in hilly and mountainous areas;
- calls for primarily Swiss agricultural produce and wines to be served in Swiss representations abroad.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a consumer healthy food from domestic production;
- ✓ as a member of a farming family good prospects for the future;
- ✓ as a farmer the necessary entrepreneurial freedom;
- ✓ as a hiker or tourist a well-maintained cultivated landscape;
- ✓ as a nature-lover a beautiful and unspoiled landscape.



Smoothly flowing traffic without obstacles

A needs-based, well-developed and well-maintained transport infrastructure is an important prerequisite for prosperity and free development. The limited funds available for infrastructure should be used efficiently and without ideology. Roads must not be neglected in favour of the rail network, as has often been the case in recent decades. Each carrier should receive the funds it generates. Redistribution, cross-subsidisation and misappropriation must be halted, together with daylight robbery of car drivers through new and ever-increasing duties, charges and fines.

Traffic network on the brink of collapse

The tremendous growth in the volume of traffic in recent decades has placed great demands on our infrastructure. There are many points, particularly on the roads, where bottlenecks are an issue, and gridlock is a real possibility. This is also illustrated by the increase in the number of hours of congestion in the road network as a whole. Most often, however, traffic jams, obstructions and accidents occur on the main transport axes, as evidenced by the rates of congestion in the national road network.

One-sided transport policy

This situation is both the result of the one-sided transport policy pursued by the Federal Council and parliament in recent decades and the consequence of economic growth, rising mobility and high levels of immigration. While optimisation of traffic flows by means of traffic management measures (use of hard shoulders, temporary speed reductions, temporary overtaking bans for HGVs) helps to alleviate the problem, expansion of the road infrastructure is vital in view of the drastic growth rates that have been forecast.

Eliminating congestion

The top priority must be to use the funds available to eliminate the key bottlenecks immediately, and to implement expansion throughout the network. Road and rail must be treated equally in this regard, and there must be no financial discrimination of individual carriers. The only relevant criteria here are cost-effectiveness and demand from transport users.

Existing structures a rip-off

The key principle of a new and functioning transport policy will be the continuous elimination of misdirected incentives and discrimination. Currently, for example, there are systematic delays in the planning and

expansion of infrastructure, and financing mechanisms are one-sided and non-transparent. This is particularly clear in the context of income from roads at the federal level. Currently, roads receive just below one-third of the funds that they generate via duties and taxes.

Terrorising motorists with an onslaught of fines

It is no wonder, therefore, that the expansion of road infrastructure is stagnating, and that motorists justifiably see themselves as cash cows as a result. Added to this is the fact that motorists are being well and truly ripped off by an excessive fining regime. The ostensible increase in safety for road users turns out to be a poor excuse given that income from fines is budgeted for in advance. The trend over the years shows a constant increase in this form of income – and motorists being terrorised by a veritable onslaught of fines.

As if this were not enough, further projects are planned by the administration for even more duties and charges in road transport: tunnel charges, mobility pricing, higher fuel charges, etc. This daylight robbery must finally come to an end.

Transport policy without obstacles

Solving the problems of the transport system calls for a rethink of transport policy, in a process that focuses on the optimum use of transport, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. This means that the financing structures that have evolved over the years with misappropriation and cross-subsidisation finally have to be broken up and replaced with transparent and nonideological instruments. Overall, the population must continue to enjoy a completely free choice of the mode of transport they use – with no misdirected incentives.

The principles of such a transport policy can be summarised as follows:

- Each form of transport receives the funds it generates (through existing taxes, duties, etc.). This principle will eliminate misappropriation and cross-subsidisation.
- Any increase in existing duties and introduction of new ones must be the subject of an optional referendum.
- The individual carriers must practise transparent and comprehensible financial reporting.
- The economic viability of the carriers must be improved. The aim must be for carriers to be able to finance themselves over the medium term, without the need for state subsidies.

Efficient expansion

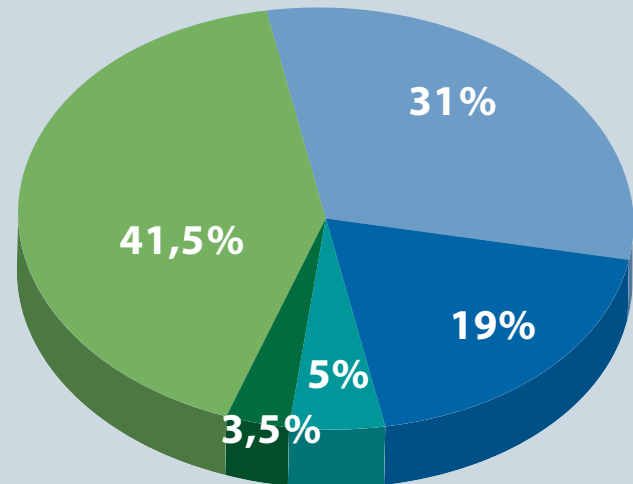
The introduction of such a model will result in the following improvements on the current system:

- The expansion of the future transport infrastructure will be based on the principle of cost-effectiveness. Each project will be oriented towards demand and the balance between costs and benefits. This will also include future running costs, which are currently being massively underestimated.
- The inclusion of cost-effectiveness must, by definition, lead to the prioritisation of future projects. This procedure has the benefit that the public is not constantly being promised new projects that have to be postponed or abandoned altogether due to a shortage of funds.

It is, therefore, not about playing the individual carriers off against each other, but about an ideal combination and the use of the existing network. The policy of recent decades with one-sided promotion of rail transport at the expense of other carriers must therefore come to an end. The SVP believes that all carriers must be used on the basis of their individual strengths, thereby contributing to the free development of citizens and safeguarding prosperity.

Planned use of federal road and motor vehicle taxes in 2015

(total of CHF 9.4 billion)



General federal treasury

Cantonal treasuries

Roads (incl. IF)

Protective measures/miscellaneous

FinPTO/rail (incl. IF)

Source: strassschweiz

IF: infrastructure fund

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- is opposed to any discrimination of carriers and advocates free choice of mode of transport;
- calls for an end to cross-subsidisation of the rail network by charges and duties on the roads;
- rejects the onslaught of fines that focus not on the safety of the public but on generating income for the state;
- calls for the abolition of Via sicura provisions;
- categorically rejects higher or new charges and duties in private transport, and therefore says no to tunnel charges at the Gotthard and mobility pricing;
- rejects politically motivated increases in petrol prices and the increasing number of speed traps that serve only to rip off the public;
- urges speedy completion of the national road network to eliminate bottlenecks, and the building of a second road tunnel under the Gotthard;
- demands higher cost coverage in rail transport, in association with a moderate increase in ticket prices;
- calls for transparency in the construction and running costs of infrastructure projects through the inclusion of cost-effectiveness as a top priority;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

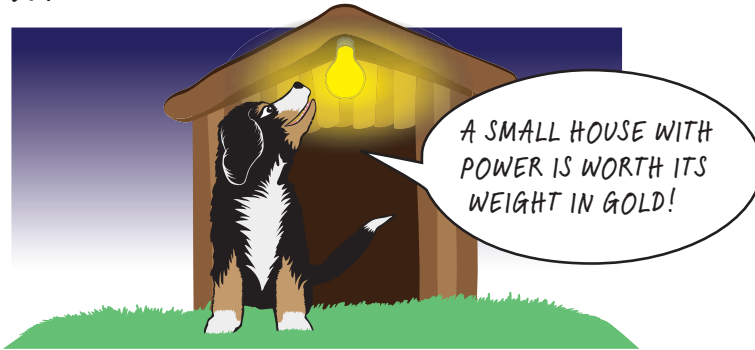
- is committed to improving the framework conditions in air transport through meaningful and business-friendly measures and agreements, as well as a reduction in requirements and regulations;
- calls for a fund, similar to the FABI (funding and expansion of rail infrastructure), intended exclusively for road transport at the constitutional level;
- calls for the completion of the extension to the Lötschberg tunnel (second tunnel).

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a motorist improved safety, less congestion and no new taxes and duties;
- ✓ as a train passenger fewer overcrowded trains;
- ✓ as a transport company sufficient capacity on the roads and rails and the guarantee that my products will arrive with the customer on time;
- ✓ as an employee of an international company reliable connections with the rest of the world.

WILLY THINKS:



For a safe and affordable energy supply

Without energy, nothing works. So far, Switzerland has a functioning, safe and affordable energy supply with strong domestic electricity production. Duties and charges, as well as regulations, are at a tolerable level. The federal Energy Strategy 2050, however, intends to abandon this tried and tested approach in favour of a nebulous vision with no secure basis. But there is simply too much at stake for random, ideologically driven experiments. As a country poor in natural resources, Switzerland is dependent on safe and affordable energy.

Energy demand continues to increase

Energy consumption is constantly rising, despite savings and improved efficiency. This will continue to be the case in future, as in addition to a growing population, economic growth and prosperity in particular ensure that our energy requirements remain high.

Further improvements in comfort and the constant introduction of new applications (in communications, in the household, etc.) will ensure that this development continues.

Energy is becoming more expensive

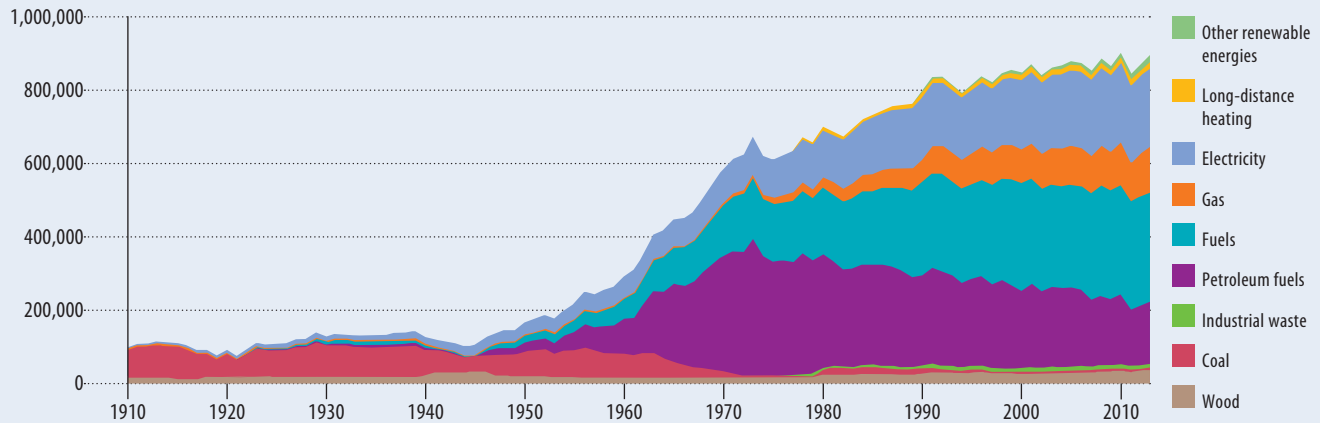
Rising energy prices are inimical to business and prosperity, causing production costs to rise, damaging competition and leaving the public with

less money in their wallets. Instead of keeping the burden to a minimum, however, energy is currently being abused as a welcome source of taxation. Charges and duties are being increased, or new ones created, in an approach that is usually justified with environmental objectives or most recently with the exit from nuclear power.

Massive redistribution

The billions in duties flow for the most part into the federal budget, and a certain proportion is redistributed with little success to other energy sources. The federal Energy Strategy 2050 exacerbates this misguided approach, especially in view of the fact that production levels will be lower than before. At the same time, it is highly questionable whether the de-

Energy consumption of Switzerland since 1910 in terajoules (TJ)



Source: Swiss overall energy statistics 2013 (excerpt)

sired environmental objectives can be achieved. The target should in fact be to ensure fewer duties and charges, and better framework conditions for households and businesses. Existing financing instruments should be examined and called into question in the interests of investment and legal security. Energy policy must be based on the principles of demand, cost-effectiveness, independence and environmental friendliness.

Security of supply as top priority

The main priority of a reasonable energy policy is to ensure affordable, independent, plentiful and environmentally friendly energy. This principle is respected with the current energy mix. The proportion of fossil fuels in the system as a whole should be reduced with a view to reinforcing the country's independence. This, however, calls for electricity that is available at all times and in all weather conditions. Alongside fossil fuels, these requirements can otherwise only be met by hydroelectric and nuclear power.

However, these two main pillars of our electricity supply are under significant political pressure. With the planned exit from nuclear power, around 40 per cent of our electricity production would be lost. Hydroelectric power, with its share of approx. 55 per cent, is also at risk due to highly subsidised wind and solar energy both in Switzerland and abroad. Investments in these energy sources are being delayed or abandoned altogether due to the uncertain situation.

Just a small contribution from renewables

The new renewable energies such as wind and solar energy lauded with so much enthusiasm by the media and the centre-left parties have no chance of offsetting this loss. On the contrary – their share of the energy mix is shockingly low despite billions in subsidies.

Today, an infinitesimal 0.6 per cent of total Swiss electricity production is attributable to the renewable energy sources of wind and solar energy. It is currently completely unknown how this small proportion should com-

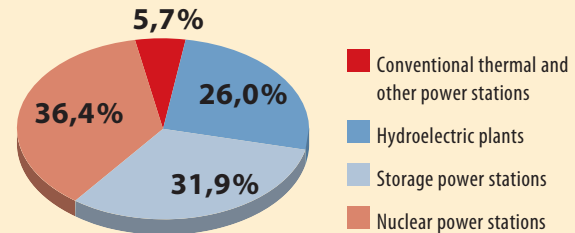
pensate for the loss of nuclear energy. Security of supply in Switzerland and hence economic power and prosperity are recklessly being put on the line.

No to a change of system – no to the Energy Strategy 2050

The points mentioned above make one thing clear: the federal Energy Strategy 2050 does not meet the requirements for supplying our country with affordable and secure energy. Instead of realistic assumptions and measures, this approach is dominated by ideological and utopian wishful thinking as well as state and regulatory intervention. Combined with an increase in existing duties and charges and the creation of new taxes, this makes for an energy policy that will cause lasting damage to our country.

The SVP has a different strategy: Instead of politically motivated deterioration in conditions for individual energy sources, they should each receive equal treatment. Instead of new duties and charges, we need a reduction in such measures. Instead of more state regulation, subsidisation and control, the number of provisions should be scaled back.

The Swiss energy mix 2014



Source: Swiss electricity statistics 2013

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- is opposed to the interventionist federal Energy Strategy 2050, which is detrimental to business;
- demands that energy supply be guided by the principles of demand, cost-effectiveness, independence, environmental friendliness and low emissions;
- categorically rejects new or higher taxes and duties that make energy more expensive;
- opposes state incentive taxes as well as further regulations and provisions in the energy sector, in particular those that are detrimental to trade and to peripheral regions;
- advocates the expansion of domestic electricity production, particularly for hydroelectric power;
- is opposed to bans on technology;
- favours the maintenance of the existing, tried and tested energy mix and strongly rejects the politically motivated decommissioning of existing nuclear power stations and the deterioration in framework conditions for energy sources;
- welcomes private research and implementation of projects involving new renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind and solar power as well as biomass.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a consumer access to enough energy at all times and at affordable prices;
- ✓ as an entrepreneur a secure and affordable energy supply with a high level of planning security;
- ✓ as an environmentally conscious citizen low-emission and independent energy production;
- ✓ as a home owner the certainty that I am not subjected to new regulations, bans or constraints;
- ✓ as a resident of a peripheral region access to jobs nearby;
- ✓ as a citizen greater independence from other countries and international prices, as well as less opportunity for extortion against Switzerland.



An intact environment for us and our children

Our lives are shaped by the environment. A healthy environment is an essential foundation for well-being and quality of life, both now and in future. Based on its farming origins, the SVP is strongly rooted in nature. Care should be taken of the environment. A holistic, practice-oriented policy should be pursued that is in touch with the people and is not guided by green fundamentalism and state coercion. Moderation is also a good approach here.

An excellent situation

Our environment is in a good way. The level of pollutants and emissions has not been so low since before industrialisation, and our rivers and lakes are also cleaner than ever. The continuous application of insights from science and technology has enabled us to clean up formerly acidic soils and polluted air.

Despite a massive increase in population due to immigration (+1.4 million people), 34 per cent more vehicles since 1990 and greater economic output and prosperity, Switzerland has not only succeeded in meeting its international obligations in terms of the environment – it is also, despite poor geographical and climatic prerequisites, one of the industrialised countries with the lowest level of emissions per capita. This development is attributable above all to scientific progress and the voluntary measures implemented by industry.

Practice before idealistic theory

These facts are all too easily ignored or disputed by green ideologists and environmental theorists. Constant alarmism is used to give us a guilty conscience, paving the way for the implementation of a policy of educational measures, state coercion, excessive bans, daylight robbery and a prescription for gloom and doom.

End the obsession with regulations and bans

Switzerland already has a dense network of environmental laws and regulations. Additional provisions and bans do nothing to help the environment – on the contrary, they even weaken it. After all, only a country with high prosperity and a healthy economy even has the means to implement the application of new technologies and hence to achieve improvements for the environment. The concept of federalism should be reinforced in spatial planning, and the cantons should be given back their freedom to implement policies that are close to the people and relevant in practice.



Switzerland is the recycling world champion thanks to a well-functioning system of private and public disposers.

No new duties and charges

Overregulation also generates financial disadvantages. Over a period of years, new duties and charges were introduced and existing ones increased in the name of environmental protection. The population already spends some 10.5 billion Swiss francs every year on duties and charges relating to the environment. This corresponds to 6.3 per cent of total federal, cantonal and municipal income from taxes and social contributions.

Duties on fuel and heating oil, as well as on waste, water and electricity, plus recycling charges, are a direct result of state regulation. Further charges or increases in these areas are planned or are being dealt with by parliament, despite often being completely without justification. One example is the fact that Switzerland is already a world champion in recycling thanks to a well-functioning system of private and public disposers. There is no need for new, state-prescribed systems based on deposits and charges.

Meaningful, practicable solutions for our children

Our positive environmental situation can be attributed to the fact that businesses and the population apply the insights provided by technical progress and live according to these principles. This process has resulted in many private initiatives, innovations, products, companies and even new job descriptions, and has been more effective than any state coercion, threat of punishments or bans, which are much more likely to cause prosperity and jobs to suffer. There is also no need for new laws, regulations and hence more bureaucracy, but merely the systematic implementation of existing law. And ultimately, there is also no need for one-sided objectives or a solo flight by Switzerland – after all, emissions and pollutants do not stop at the border. However, international efforts and decisions are needed, provided they are supported and implemented by all states.

Acting together – with no finger wagging

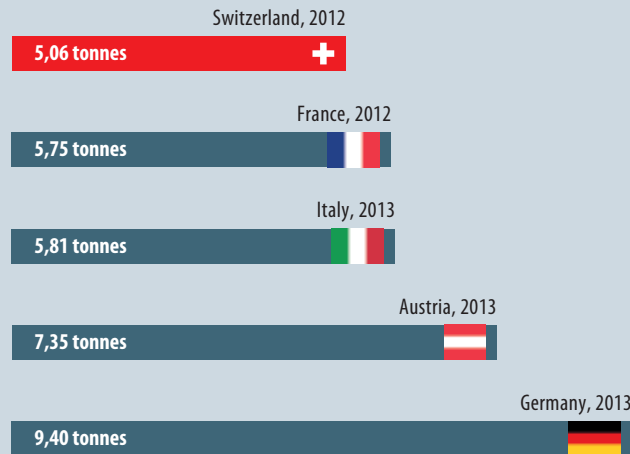
Equally important is the principle of voluntary action, which has enabled

Switzerland to improve its position even further in terms of environmental quality. Industry and commerce, as well as the general public, have ensured that our country identifies problems in a timely manner and solves them by creative means, because it makes economic sense to implement projects without subsidies, new taxes and charges.

We must not leave the field to the alarmists, theorists and green ideologists. Environmental practitioners in industry, commerce and agriculture are a guarantee of a liveable environment.

CO₂ emissions (tonnes per capita)

(Switzerland and surrounding countries)



Source: UN Statistics Division: Millennium Development Goals Database

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- favours sensible efforts to preserve, restore and improve the natural foundations upon which our lives depend;
- places its trust in the constant stream of innovations and achievements of science, technology and industry to manage the problems of the environment;
- supports appropriate measures in the area of spatial planning, water protection, air monitoring and an independent, economic and environmentally friendly energy policy;
- combats environmental hysteria and scaremongering by the media, politicians, parties, organisations and international committees, and rejects any resulting demands and measures;
- supports not the theorists but environmental practitioners, for example in agriculture and forestry, recyclers and tradespeople;
- opposes the creation of subsidised national parks and other state interventions that impose bureaucratic regulation on farmers, business and tourism;
- demands that full compensation be exacted for any unjustified opposition to important construction and infrastructure projects and that the right of appeal for associations be restricted;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

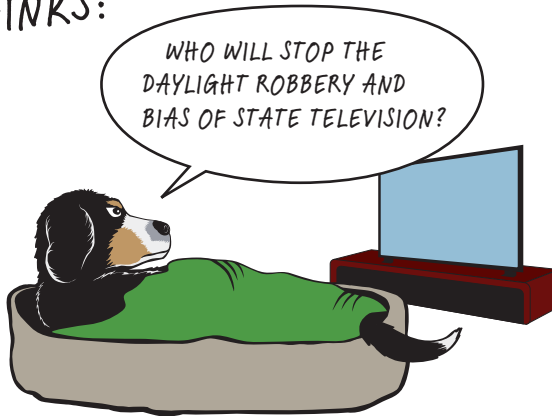
- calls for a revision of the Spatial Planning Act based on the spirit of federalism in order to restore power over spatial planning to the cantons;
- rejects one-sided environmental and climate policy objectives without binding international decisions by all states;
- opposes any new duties and charges and any increase in existing ones in the area of environmental and climate policy.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a citizen less ideology and scaremongering;
- ✓ as a family member an intact and clean environment, including for our children and grandchildren;
- ✓ as an investor greater planning security and less bureaucracy in projects;
- ✓ as a business owner or farmer less regulation and more opportunities in my entrepreneurial activities.

WILLY THINKS:



More diversity, less state

Free, independent media (press, radio, TV, Internet, social media) and competition between individual media companies are the guarantee for a lively, functioning democracy. State interference and overregulation are inimical to freedom and diversity of opinion, and lead to a monopoly. More competition, a strict definition of public service, greater transparency and fewer statutory shackles for private broadcasters are the predominant features of a free media policy.

State support and subsidies create dependencies

The media landscape is constantly changing and so are, along with it, the habits of media consumers. Increasingly popular free offers in the print and Internet segments do not just lead to greater diversity and competition; they also put pressure on traditional media products.

You may regret or even demonise this development, as left-wing intellectuals do, but it remains a fact. Generous subsidies and support measures do nothing to change this either. Quite the contrary: they lead to greater state dependence and, in the final instance, to a whittling down of media diversity as many broadcasters – true to the motto «He who pays the piper calls the tune» – pass on their «benefactor's» message without any filtering or critical appraisal. They then basically become state media organs.

Misuse of the term «public service»

This development can be observed not only in the print sector with the outdated government support for the press but also in the TV and radio segments. The quasi-monopolist broadcasting corporation SRG has practically no competitors as a consequence of various statutory amendments. More than 92 per cent of licence fees go to the SRG. The Swiss probably pay the highest radio and television licence fees in the world.

Given this market power, it is hardly surprising that the SRG has soundly invested the generously forthcoming funds in furthering its aims. Under the woolly heading «public service», the radio and TV segments have been massively expanded. Each niche has been filled with a special interest programme; each target group, no matter how small, has been tempted with of-



fers. The SRG now owns 17 radio and 7 TV stations and various websites – no other state broadcaster in a country of a similar size in Europe has more programmes. This volume cannot be explained away by multilingualism or the challenges it brings either. Now the SRG wants to further spread its wings on the Internet.

For more freedom and independence in the media sector

A diverse, independent media landscape is the key to a functioning democracy. The laws and regulations which had largely been tailored to the SRG up to now must be revoked and rewritten for the future. This path should not involve additional licence fees for private broadcasters or further state dependence. The goal must rather be a massive improvement in the current framework conditions for private broadcasters. This means, among other things, that radio and TV broadcasters that do not receive any licence fees must be immediately released from state control and bureaucracy. Furthermore, state media support measures are to be dismantled and not further extended. Misuse of the term «public service», which has been going on for years, must be stopped. A strict definition should ensure a basic offer, especially in the information segment, and the other programmes or themes should be left to the free market.

The dual system is the best solution

The previous system is in need of a fundamental overhaul in terms of licence fees. The radio and TV fees must be cut back drastically. The practice whereby public broadcasters receive fees and advertising income must be halted and replaced by what is known as a «dual system». In practice, this means that public broadcasters will continue to receive licence fees but will no longer be allowed to advertise. This is reserved for private broadcasters, which, in return, do not receive any licence fees.

The split between fees for state broadcasters and advertising for private ones is not only reasonable but fair. This avoids the one-sided and monopoly-like positioning of one of the two groups. It leads to increased competition between state and private broadcasters and to improved quality, more choice and better programmes for consumers.

Greater transparency, more freedom and lower licence fees

The introduction of transparency in the SRG accounts is long overdue, too. All the state broadcaster's expenditure items must be disclosed – people have a right to know what their broadcasting fees are being spent on. This same transparency should be the standard in any case for all state and quasi-state institutions. Copyright associations such as SUIISA and ProLitteris and other companies active in this segment such as Billag, who received too much in the past or who should not have been allowed to demand any money in the first place given the lack of a legal basis, should also be called on to completely disclose their accounts. This would result in improved control.

Greater transparency has another positive effect: it reduces costs. In this way and by limiting the basic offer to the information segment on radio and television, state media expenditure could be massively reduced. This would be done without further concessions in terms of topic choice, without any quality loss, with greater freedom and less state intervention – for an independent, lively and strong democracy.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- rejects state media promotion and a further expansion of the SRG – in particular in the Internet segment;
- wishes to strengthen private media companies: private radio and TV broadcasters with no fee income are to be immediately freed from state control and bureaucracy;
- advocates a dual system (licence fees for public broadcasters, advertising for private broadcasters) and is opposed to a state media tax;
- demands a strict definition of «public service» for radio and television. The aim is to secure a basic offer, particularly in the information segment, in the four national languages;
- demands that fee-financed TV programmes be produced in Switzerland and that the money gained from such fees be invested in Switzerland;
- calls for a massive cut in licence fees, the abandonment of the splitting model (fee payment to the SRG and private broadcasters) and the setting of fees by parliament;
- demands comprehensive transparency and disclosure of the SRG accounts, broken down by broadcaster, segment, administration, events, marketing, lobbying, etc.;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- supports a ban on SRG opinion polls on elections and referendums;
- is opposed to advertising bans. Advertising should be allowed for all legally available products.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a consumer more choice and better programmes for lower fees;
- ✓ as a responsible citizen less state paternalism and interference;
- ✓ as a media representative less state interference and more freedom and independence;
- ✓ as an entrepreneur reasonable advertising opportunities for my products at better conditions.

WILLY THINKS:



Good for mind and body

There are only a few areas in life that stand for joy, performance and fairness, and sport is one of them. Sporting activities are a source of physical and mental well-being and enhance people's willingness to perform. The SVP supports popular, school, youth and disabled sport and especially voluntary work in sports clubs and top-level sporting activities. The framework conditions for sports clubs are to be improved through, for example, non-bureaucratic, reasonably priced access to public infrastructures.

Meaningful, healthy leisure time

Sporting activities give both younger and older people access to meaningful and healthy leisure pastimes. Whereas the left bemoans the inadequate integration of foreign youngsters, numerous SVP members and sympathisers proactively tackle this challenge by offering their services as trainers and club staff in individual and team sports. In the clubs and as-

sociations, young people learn early on to assume responsibility, develop leadership skills and enjoy success as a team. Sport is a meaningful leisure pastime and a valuable school of life. It promotes motivation and endurance, and gets some young people off the streets. This reduces the risk of them becoming drug addicts or slipping into crime.



In the clubs and associations, young people learn early on to assume responsibility, develop leadership skills and enjoy success as a team, as here at the 2014 Swiss Popular Gymnastics (Vereinsturnen) Championships in Lyss.



Sporting activities give both younger and older people access to meaningful and healthy leisure pastimes.

Sport as a school subject

The aim of proper sports lessons conducted by qualified teachers is to awaken pupils' enjoyment of, and interest in, perseverance, exercise and games. School sport offers a break from sedentary school lessons which only engage children intellectually rather than physically, while team sports offer a way to counteract the stress of the working day. Apart from school lessons and infrastructure, sport is not primarily the responsibility of the state.

Amateurs inspired by top athletes

Outstanding performances by elite and top athletes encourage large parts of the population and young people in particular to take up sporting activities. Sporting talents are to be promoted through a training programme which combines in-school and/or vocational training with professional sports training. The SVP advocates fairness and opposes game manipulations, doping and violence.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- supports sporting activities that promote joy, performance and fairness;
- recognises that sport is an important tool to encourage the early assumption of responsibility in clubs and associations;
- supports school sport as an important way to find a balance between physical and mental activity;
- supports elite and top-level sport and the positive influence it has on large parts of the population and young people in particular;
- calls for non-bureaucratic and reasonably priced access to existing public infrastructure (sports grounds, halls, etc.) for the important work of sports clubs;
- supports fairness and opposes doping, betting fraud and violence in and around stadiums;
- recognises the integrative impact of sport in clubs and associations.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a leisure sports enthusiast the opportunity to practice sport with access to the necessary infrastructure;
- ✓ as an elite or top-level athlete professional training and funding;
- ✓ as an employee of a club or association the possibility of actively contributing to the interests of sport;
- ✓ as a parent the certainty that children are encouraged to pursue sporting activities in schools and clubs and are not loitering in the streets.

WILLY THINKS:

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE
STATE SUBSIDIES?



Culture is a matter of culture

Culture is the multifaceted expression of a diverse society. Man has always been the driving force behind cultural activities. Culture is, therefore, first and foremost the expression of private initiative. State-funded culture runs the constant risk of pandering to short-term fashions and the personal preferences of the culture bureaucrats rather than creating more durable values that retain their worth beyond the everyday. That is why state cultural policy should at best enhance the private offer and have a federal structure.

No imposed state culture

The more state culture grows, the more the living, breathing folk culture is lost. State cultural policy often results in political decision-makers focusing support on the kind of culture that most closely corresponds to their own political views. This increases the risk of cronyism and wheeling and dealing. Or cultural policy becomes very «one size fits all» instead of focusing on where funds could be best used. In any case, culture is a matter of taste. The state should stay out of it.

More money – more dependence

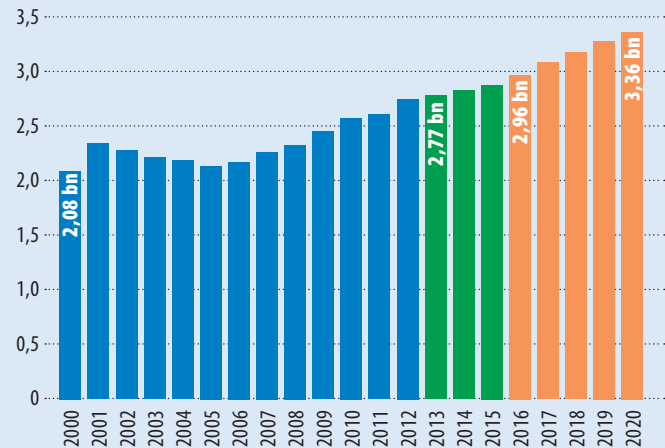
The new cultural message, set out in the federal government's guidelines for cultural policy for the period from 2016 to 2019, indicates the centralist and paternalistic direction state cultural promotion is expected to keep heading in. Federal expenditure is set to increase to more than 1 billion Swiss francs. This growth triggers demands and claims on the state, creates dependencies although artists and cultural professionals should be privy to a culture of diversity which is independent, initiative-driven and full of passion. The federal government is now even striving for a national cultural policy. It also wants to coordinate the contents of urban and cantonal cultural policy and give clear «contours» to all levels of support policy. However, this means constant standardisation of and central interference in federalist cultural promotion.

Against the EU culture bureaucracy

The federal government's culture bureaucrats are now even seeking to get on board the EU's bureaucratic monster Creative Europe. This programme is a billion-euro prestige project of the Brussels bureaucracy. The objective is to provide funding across Europe for 250,000 artists and cultural professionals, 2,000 cinemas, 800 films and 4,500 book translations. This centralist support policy is the height of state culture. Ultimately, the citizen is asked to put his hand in his pocket but will scarcely benefit from any additional cultural offer. Cultural bureaucracy has long since become a creature in its own right. It is no longer dependent on an audience.

Development of cultural expenditure 2000 – 2020

(federal government, cantons, municipalities), in CHF billion



- Previous cultural expenditure according to the Swiss Federal Statistical Office.
- Cultural expenditure with average annual growth in spending of 1.54 per cent pursuant to the cultural message for 2012 – 2015.
- With planned average annual growth in spending of 3.4 per cent pursuant to the cultural message for 2016 – 2020.

Individual initiative creates culture

In the opinion of the SVP, culture does not, in principle, fall within the remit of the federal government, the cantons or the municipalities. Culture is a matter of culture. The state should only play a supporting role in the context of individual initiative and private funding. Public support for one project invariably means discrimination against all those that do not receive backing. That is why the SVP is fighting, on the one hand, the spread of this culture bureaucracy and, on the other, the one-sided politically driven support in today's cultural policy.

Living, breathing culture means diversity

When we talk about culture, we mean in very broad terms what people create by their actions. Culture needs to be nurtured if it is to be maintained. In particular, the free, federalist state should pursue the goal of creating an intellectual climate conducive to cultural diversity. Unfortunately, current cultural policy is doing exactly the opposite. Cultural policy should not strive for uniformity but leave room for diversity. That is exactly why a cultural policy must reflect our country's federalist, decentralised structures. It is if at all first and foremost the cantons

and the municipalities and not the federal government which are responsible for cultural promotion.

Appreciating private initiative

Instead, private patronage or sponsoring are better suited to facilitating diverse developments. Diversity, competition, individual initiative and passion are the values that culture thrives on. The rules of a market economy and the dictates of supply and demand also apply to the world of culture. Competition between ideas should also have its place in culture. Productions that are out of touch with their audience make no sense. Commercial success should be the reward for culture that audiences like. State culture distorts this competition and promotes politically and ideologically motivated projects. Today, our folk culture hardly receives any state funding. It draws on voluntary commitment and the contribution by individuals, associations or foundations.

Culture forges a feeling of cohesion

In the cultural world, a willingness to perform and enjoyment are seen as two complementary parts – exactly what society needs today. Amateur dramatic and choral societies, amateur orchestras, musical ensembles, yodelling clubs and costume groups, bands of carnival musicians and rock bands: all of them are less interested in the plaudits of art critics than they are in what constitutes the essence of culture, namely the need to put your heart and soul into creating something together that gives you and the audience enjoyment. This form of culture does not need any subsidies but it does need recognition and an even playing field. This is also the core of our «militia culture». It is not a coincidence that Switzerland's diverse associations, almost unparalleled in the world, are seen as schools of democracy thanks to their promotion of individual and joint responsibility and democratic participation. This should be emphasised.



La Compagnia Rossini at one of their approximately 100 concerts a year.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- calls for strict adherence to the principle of subsidiarity in cultural policy; the federal government should only supplement the work of the municipalities and cantons;
- believes that cultural policy at federal level should limit itself strictly to its core tasks;
- calls for a slimming down of the misdirected cultural bureaucracy, which is spread across a number of departments, in accordance with the constitutional mandate. The savings potential of around half a billion Swiss francs of annual tax revenues for what is, in some instances, questionable cultural promotion is to be exploited;
- calls for an end to uniform distribution of cultural funding;
- rejects any further centralisation of cultural policy within the framework of a national cultural policy;
- calls for the targeted support and massive tax relief or tax exemptions for private cultural foundations and donations as well as statutory relief for the establishment of foundations;
- supports folk culture in associations and private structures which is not dependent on the state but creates local and national culture for citizens by citizens on their own initiative and on their own responsibility;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- demands that indigenous traditional culture be given precedence over international, prestige cultural projects that are out of touch with people;
- rejects wasteful involvement in EU culture programmes that lack relevance to the public and the economy.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a culture buff a diverse instead of a monotonous offer;
- ✓ as an artist or cultural professional more scope and protection from state interference and monopolisation;
- ✓ as a folk musician or amateur performer an even playing field in culture competitions.

WILLY THINKS:



REMAINING FREE –
THAT'S WHAT I AM
FIGHTING FOR!

Defending our values

The SVP is committed to upholding Switzerland's Western Christian culture. It forms the basis of our identity and our coexistence. It is not a coincidence that our country's national emblem contains a cross and that our national anthem is a prayer. Freedom of religion and conscience accords everyone in our country liberty of thought, writing, speech and religion.

Cultivating our own roots

The separation of church and state should not conceal the fact that the image of society and people shaped by the Christian faith is of major importance for Switzerland's culture and political landscape. The loss of these roots would be disastrous. Individual freedom in particular is the result of the Christian image of man. The development of democracy from ancient ideas can only be understood with the transition to individual responsibility. Furthermore, the Protestant work ethic is the foundation for an entrepreneurial and also performance-driven society. We derive reasonable thought, creativity and innovation from Western Christian principles. After all, entrepreneurship and progress are rooted in the hope of a prosperous future. In the same way, the Catholic principle of subsidiarity and the stressing of the value of the individual within Creation had and continue to have a substantial influence on Switzerland and Swiss federalism. Individuals should assume responsibility for their problems and, if possible, resolve them themselves.

Respecting the legal system

Tolerance and openness are also part of our Christian heritage. However, this should not prevent us from critically appraising certain developments. Today, it is taboo to take a closer look and engage in a reasoned criticism of Islam. It is estimated that over 400,000 Muslim believers live in Switzerland today. Clearly, only a small minority sympathises with extreme Islamist ideas. But Muslim immigrants often come from countries in which there is no democratic rule of law. They bring with them ideas of law and order that are incompatible with our legal system and our democratic rules. Radicalisation and isolation trends are problems that should not be underestimated. In our country, too, there are individuals and groups who sympathise with a radical Islam. At the same time, Islamic communities are raising their voices and calling for recognition as legal entities under public law or training for their spiritual leaders at our universities. These challenges and the demand for special legal treatment should not be naively accepted without criticism.

Upholding freedom of religion and conscience

Our roots, which are not only of spiritual but also of historical and cultural nature, must be preserved and cultivated. The task of the churches is to



The separation of church and state should not conceal the fact that the image of society and people shaped by the Christian faith is of major importance for Switzerland's culture and political landscape.

offer people support and genuine assistance in their lives by preaching and providing pastoral care. In this way, the churches make a major contribution to a social Switzerland. Neither a party nor a state should impose religious convictions on individuals or dictate the «true» faith. Freedom of religion and conscience accords everyone in our country liberty of thought, writing, speech and religion. Under the Constitution, churches and religious communities therefore are free to promulgate their beliefs and conduct their religious activities. But the limit of this tolerance is reached when religious communities hold it in contempt or even openly oppose it.

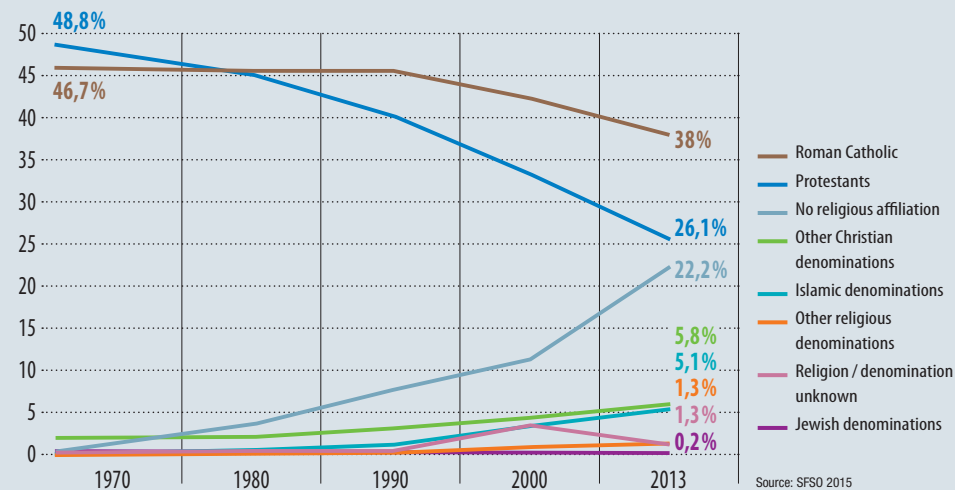
Insisting on the rules

Just as we adapt to the rules of Islamic states when we are guests there, we must systematically insist on the upholding of our laws here. Parallel societies with their own legal systems cannot be tolerated. Our legal order based on freedom must on no account give way to sharia law; our courts must not accept an Islamic cultural background as a reason for imposing a milder sentence. Toleration or even encouragement of practices such as forced marriages, honour killings, blood feuds, female circumcision, marriages involving minors or polygamy is totally unacceptable in our country. Our rule of law is duty-bound to call for the complete respect of our legal system by immigrants, too, and to avoid granting even what are seen as minor concessions.

No parallel societies

Our legal system has to take suitable steps to ensure that the problem of Islamism does not become more acute. It must be made clear that our rules apply to all members of religious communities and that anyone who wishes to live in this country must adapt to them. Equality before the law always applies. Dispensations from swimming lessons, cancelling Christmas carols in kindergartens or special funeral arrangements are therefore unacceptable. Anyone who fails to support our free and democratic basic rights without reservation must not be granted Swiss citizenship.

Residential population of Switzerland from 15 years of age according to religious affiliation, 1970–2013



VIEWPOINTS

Die SVP

- is committed to upholding the Western Christian foundations of our state, legal system and culture;
- demands, for instance, that crosses and crucifixes be respected and tolerated everywhere, including public spaces, as symbols of our Western Christian culture and religion;
- rejects all forms of special religious law that conflict with our legal system;
- calls for a ban on the wearing of veils by those working in the public services, such as the health-care system, the police, at public counters or in the teaching professions;
- rejects any claim to special burial rules in public cemeteries;
- is opposed to special holiday arrangements for religious communities that are not officially recognised;
- wants all schoolchildren to attend compulsory lessons, especially sport and swimming;
- demands that the ban on minarets approved by the people be implemented unconditionally;
- wants any Swiss citizens who have been active abroad as terrorists or jihadists to be severely punished on their return to Switzerland;

VIEWPOINTS

- calls for foreigners or Swiss citizens with dual nationality who are active as terrorists or jihadists to immediately lose their residence permit or their Swiss citizenship and to be immediately deported;
- rejects the recognition of non-Western religious communities as legal entities under public law and the state training of the religious leaders of these religious communities.

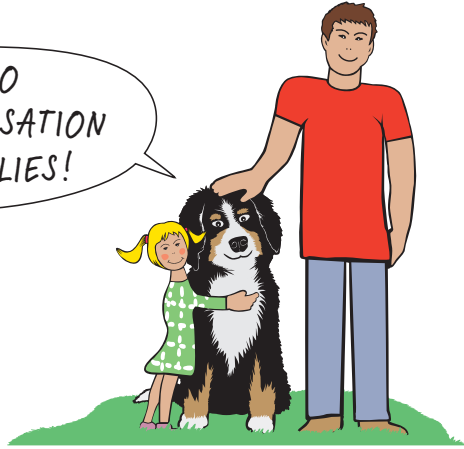
BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as a believer the freedom to pursue my faith;
- ✓ as a parent the certainty that my children can orient themselves in school, too, towards Western Christian values;
- ✓ as a teacher clarity about my pupils' participation in school lessons;
- ✓ as a citizen protection from violence and public incitement to hate.

WILLY THINKS:

NO TO
NATIONALISATION
OF FAMILIES!



Individual responsibility instead of paternalism

The SVP favours each individual's pursuit of happiness and satisfaction. Individuals must assume responsibility for their decisions. It is not acceptable for the state to be the final decision-making body about the success or failure of private lifestyles. In future, too, the family must play its role as the main pillar of society. For this, it needs considerable scope and, if possible, limited state intervention.

No nationalisation of the family

The state is increasingly intervening in family life by favouring certain types of family. For instance, state subsidies and tax relief for nursery care discriminate against the traditional family. The state also intervenes



In Switzerland, hundreds of millions of hours of time are volunteered annually, ranging from caring for relatives to helping out in the neighbourhood, or running clubs and societies.

where society functions smoothly and pays, for instance, for day nurseries for parents who do not need this financial support. This prompts the suspicion that these measures are designed to help change society. The state is increasingly interfering in children's upbringing instead of restricting itself to its education remit.

Schools are being misused

Because of alleged ills, schools are often the preferred arena for solving problems, whether it is in the field of sexual education, handling the media and consumption or for political education. Free thinking assumes that parents are responsible for their children's upbringing.

Levelling down

The planned reforms of marital and family law lead to arbitrariness and are nonbinding in character. The state of marriage between a man and a woman is to be weakened by placing all possible forms of cohabitation on a par with it. For instance, equal status for polygamy is being discussed. The same-sex partnership, which is already recognised and legally equated with marriage, is to be deemed to be marriage. Furthermore, mechanisms are to be put in place that automatically qualify the cohabitation of adults with children after a specific period as a family. This opens the door to misuse and arbitrariness. Problems with inheritance law, social insurance, divorce law, maintenance payments or tax law are bound to arise.

Reforms of this kind do not lead to a liberal society but to nationalisation of private life. They threaten important social concepts such as the family, associations, foundations, churches, neighbourhoods and village and local communities that exist independently of the state.

No muzzling of freedom of expression

The criminal offence of racial discrimination, narrowly accepted by the electorate in 1994, should be repealed. The constant widening of its scope

in court decisions highlights the absurdity of this criminal offence. Recourse to criminal law to condemn opinions or intimidate people who defend them is profoundly undemocratic.

Strengthen families

The family and, along with it, marriage between a man and a woman constitute the foundation of our society. Parents and children deserve special protection provided by the state. Parents – be they couples or singles – bear responsibility for their children’s upbringing and development, and for giving them a sense of security and being loved. In this environment, children learn to help, show consideration for others and deal with conflicts.

Higher esteem for volunteering

Valuable work is undertaken not only at the paid workplace but, day in, day out, in private circles, too, in the form of neighbourhood assistance, care for family members or children. This work is being increasingly devalued and pushed onto the fringes under the key word «professionalisation». State institutions such as day nurseries or lunchtime groups cannot replace parental love and care. From the moment children are born until they become adults, their upbringing is the responsibility of their parents and cannot be delegated to the state. Our young people need not only good professional opportunities to develop, train and educate themselves, but also an environment which accords them esteem and allows them to further develop their personality. The SVP therefore also supports clubs and youth associations and recognises their importance in helping people organise their lives and leisure time sensibly, and appreciates volunteering.

No battle of the sexes

Men and women should complement each other. Decisions on who takes what job or office should be based solely on suitability and not on gender.

The SVP is firmly committed to equal rights and equal pay for equal work and performance, for both men and women. However, government-appointed gender equality offices or other bureaucratic regulations such as policing of wages or quotas do not serve this purpose. The SVP opposes levelling down and places its trust in personal responsibility and partnership between men and women in the family, in society, at work and in politics.



Individual responsibility and self-determination within families need to be strengthened. The nationalisation of families and children must be stopped.

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- advocates individual responsibility and self-determination in families and opposes the increasing nationalisation of families and children;
- demands that the smallest and most important unit in our society, the family, be able to live in freedom without any state paternalism;
- is not in favour of polygamy or the absolute equating of same-sex partnerships with marriage;
- is against the adoption of children by same-sex couples;
- rejects state-dictated paternity or parental leave;
- recognises that men and women are equal partners at work and in society;
- rejects state quotas and what are known as gender policies;
- calls for the abolition of gender equality offices and other bodies that aim to enforce state regulation of private life and re-educate society;
- does not want any centrally imposed day centres but useful offers on the municipal level for which there is a need and which are mainly funded from private sources;

VIEWPOINTS

The SVP

- supports cohabitation in the family, associations, neighbourhoods, churches, village and local communities;
- defends the strengthening of freedom of expression by the repeal of the criminal offence of racial discrimination.

BENEFITS +

This will afford me

- ✓ as an individual as much freedom and as little state paternalism as possible;
- ✓ as a family member scope for personal development and protection from state influence on children's upbringing;
- ✓ as a child love and security in the family;
- ✓ as a single person the certainty of not having to pay more and more for others;
- ✓ equality in relations between men and women.

**Stand up for Switzerland together
with the SVP!**

Support the SVP by making a contribution to
PC 30-8828-5 or **IBAN CH80 0900 0000 3000 8828 5.**

Thank you.





I am committed to a free, independent and sovereign Switzerland.

- I would like to become a member of the SVP in my place of residence/district/region. Party membership is comparable to being a member of an association.
- Please send me the party programme of the SVP Switzerland.
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