



European Policy & Open Markets

The Council of States says ***Yes to the Bilateral Agreements III***

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At a glance

- economiesuisse welcomes the broad support from the Council of States for the Bilateral Agreements III.
- For Swiss companies, legal certainty, predictable framework conditions, and access to the European single market that is as free of barriers as possible are of central importance.
- With an eye toward the deliberations in the National Council, the business community will continue to strongly advocate for the Bilateral Agreements III and the long-term safeguarding of the bilateral approach.

By voting in favor of the Bilateral Agreements III, the Council of States has taken an important first step. *economiesuisse* welcomes the broad support for the package of agreements. The decision sends a strong signal regarding stable and reliable relations with Switzerland's most important trading partner.

The economy relies on predictable framework conditions, legal certainty, and access to the European single market that is as unimpeded as possible. Stabilizing the bilateral approach strengthens Switzerland as a business location at a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and growing protectionist tendencies. The importance of stable relations with the EU and of the bilateral approach as a tailor-made solution for Switzerland was most recently highlighted by more than 130 business leaders in a [joint letter to the members of the Council of States](#).

It's now the National Council's turn

Following the debate in the Council of States, the National Council will now take up the Bilateral Agreements III. Certain decisions made by the Council of States will need to be reexamined. In particular, *economiesuisse* is critical of the incentive tax adopted as part of the safeguard clause. Such a tax would place an additional burden on companies, impair their international competitiveness, and significantly increase administrative burdens and bureaucracy.

It is crucial for the Swiss economy to prevent the erosion of existing agreements and to secure long-term access to the European single market. With an eye toward the deliberations in the National Council, the business community will therefore continue to strongly advocate for the package.



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