

THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

Berne, August 28, 1991

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Dear Mister Chairman

**Original direkt weitergeleitet**

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that the Swiss Government has decided today to restore full bilateral relations between Switzerland and the independent and sovereign Republic of Lithuania. The following press release has been issued:

Quote. Der Bundesrat hat beschlossen, dass die Schweiz volle diplomatische Beziehungen zu den drei unabhängigen baltischen Republiken Litauen, Lettland und Estland aufnehmen wird. Der Bundesrat hat das Recht auf Selbstbestimmung der Völker gegenüber den Ansprüchen der Balten wiederholt bekräftigt. Nach dem Durchbruch für die Reformkräfte in der Sowjetunion ist nun klar, dass der Unabhängigkeit der baltischen Republiken nichts mehr im Wege steht. Der Bundesrat ist überzeugt, dass nun alle noch anstehenden Probleme auf dem Verhandlungsweg gelöst werden. Er heisst die baltischen Völker und ihre demokratisch gewählten Vertreter unter den unabhängigen Staaten herzlich willkommen. Unquote.

The Political Director for European Affairs at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Jenö Staehelin, has been named special envoy of the Swiss Confederation to the Baltic States. He would like to visit the three capitals in the immediate future in order to discuss all practical steps to be taken

His Excellency  
Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis  
Chairman of the Supreme Council  
of the Republic of Lithuania

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after the restoration of full bilateral relations as well as eventual projects of bilateral cooperation. Ambassador Staehelin will be accompanied by his assistant. A possible date for such a visit could be between September 3 and 5. The Swiss Foreign Department has asked the Swiss Embassy in Stockholm to propose these dates and to discuss the program of this visit with your office in that city.

The Federal Council has furthermore asked me to invite a delegation of two high representatives of your country, accompanied by their spouses, to attend the "Europe Day" on September 6 to 8, 1991, in Sils (Switzerland) (see enclosures). This important event takes place in the context of the 700-years-celebration of Switzerland and assembles delegations of all European countries. Several Ministers of Foreign Affairs will attend. I would be very grateful if you could let know our Embassy, which has received all relevant informations and documentation on this event, who will represent your country in Sils, in order to enable the Swiss side to organize the venue of your representatives.

Looking forward to be able to meet you personally very soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Flavio Cotti,  
President of the  
Swiss Confederation

Enclosures mentioned

Kopie mit Beilage: - JAC  
- SIN, JE, BAD  
- Sekr. BP Cotti

DG 29. Aug. 91 - 16

LE CHEF  
DU DÉPARTEMENT FÉDÉRAL  
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Bern, 14th May 1991

Dear

This year our country is commemorating the 700th anniversary of its foundation by the first three allied Cantons of Central Switzerland, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden. The Swiss Confederation has evolved in the course of the centuries through its pragmatism and its ability to balance the interests of ethnic groups, whose cultural and institutional relations are often very complex. The federal structure created by history has enabled Switzerland to establish close ties with the world, and Europe in particular.

To celebrate the birth of our Confederation numerous events and meetings are scheduled to take place throughout the year in various parts of the country. Some of the events planned at federal level are dedicated to international solidarity which implies, among other things, an increasingly perceptible desire for openness towards Europe.

In this context a "Europe Day" will be held at Sils-Maria, near St Moritz (Upper Engadine, Canton of Grisons), on Saturday 7th September 1991. This site, with its natural and refreshing charm, has been chosen in deference to the Rhaeto-Romanic region of Switzerland, an integral part of our country's multi-cultural heritage.

We have invited the participants in this major commemorative event to arrive at St Moritz in the late afternoon of Friday 6th September. After settling into their hotels, the Federal Council's special guests will have the opportunity to talk to Swiss or other European personalities of their choice or to spend the evening as they wish.

On behalf of the Federal Council, I have the honour to invite you to Europe Day and would ask you kindly to reserve the above dates.

A summary of the plans for Europe Day is enclosed. The final programme, with more details, will be sent to you as soon as

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A summary of our plans for Europe Day is enclosed. The final programme, with more details, will be sent to you as soon as possible, together with all the necessary information about the journey, accommodation, security measures etc. Later you will receive a list of the principal European and Swiss personalities whose participation in Europe Day has been confirmed. The various groups of persons invited to the event are indicated in the enclosure.

The President of the Confederation, the other members of the Federal Council and myself would be very pleased to welcome you to Europe Day and to have the opportunity of talking to you on this occasion.

We very much hope therefore that you will honour us with your presence at this occasion.

An early reply would be greatly appreciated.

Yours .....

René Felber

EUROPE DAY, Sils-Maria, 7th September 1991

I. OUTLINE PROGRAMME

- a) The "Europe day" will begin at 10 o'clock with an official ceremony in a large marquee specially created for the 700th anniversary by the Ticinese architect Mario Botta. The President of the Government of the Grisons will deliver a welcoming address, which will be followed by a message from a representative of European Youth;
- three eminent European personalities will then express their vision of the future Europe;
  - after these three messages the President of the Confederation, Mr Flavio Cotti, will outline the role Switzerland intends to play in tomorrow's Europe;
  - a performance of a musical work ("3 X 1 = CH + X") - choir and percussion - composed by Rolf Liebermann for the 700th anniversary, will end the official part of the Day.
- b) After lunch offered in an adjacent tent the participants will be free to go for a walk, or to return to their hotels until the start of a show devised by the writer Jacques Pilet, "The European Epic" (a survey of the salient features of our continent's history during the last seven centuries).
- c) After this performance the Federal Council will invite its guests to an official dinner to mark the close of Europe Day. It is assumed that the official guests will depart on the following day, Sunday 8th September.

II. GROUPS OF GUESTS

There will be approximately 1'200 participants in Europe Day. About two thirds of those will be Swiss and one third foreigners from the 32 European countries.

In addition to politicians and various authorities of our country, there will be personalities from other fields of Swiss public life such as culture, arts, science, economy and sport.

In order to encourage meetings between the participants, the European guests have also been chosen according to various criteria. For that purpose, Marco Solarì, the Federal Council's Delegate for the 700 years of the Confederation, plans to associate with Europe Day:

- about 150 European individuals who are being invited in their capacity as friends, professional or business partners, by a hundred Swiss who have been designated by an independent jury;
- about 50 parliamentarians of the Council of Europe's Committee of the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities (this Committee will be meeting for a regular session in this region from 4th to 7th September 1991).

- a delegation of some 50 young people (aged between 16 and 25) who will have participated in the European Festival of Youth in the Engadine (which will be attended by about 500 young people from all the countries of Europe).

To these three categories of Europeans invited on a rather informal basis will be added some 120 official guests of the Federal Council, chosen by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Embassies in Europe.

Our diplomatic missions were also eager to be diverse in this regard. Thus, several delegations will include, in addition to persons of ministerial rank, representatives of royal families (heirs to the throne), members of the national parliaments, representatives of science, the economy and the media and a few well-known artists or writers.

Finally, the ambassadors of the European countries accredited to Berne are, of course, invited to join their national delegations on arrival in Switzerland.

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For the Federal Council's official European guests, all travelling expenses and the cost of accommodation in the Engadine will be covered by the Swiss authorities.