

## AIDE-MÉMOIRE

### Switzerland's Participation in the EC Research Framework Programmes

Switzerland and the EC have a long tradition of fruitful cooperation in the field of research. Since 1990, the main goal of the Swiss science and research policy has been full participation in the research framework programmes of the European Community. In spite of the fact that the Swiss people voted not to join the European Economic Area (EEA) in a referendum held on December 6, 1992, this goal remains unchanged. The Swiss Parliament, in fact, confirmed this commitment when it voted unanimously on December 18, 1992 a credit of 477 million Swiss francs (270 million ECU) to finance Switzerland's participation in the research framework programmes and the education programmes of the EC from 1993 to 1996.

This significant contribution bears witness to the country's feeling of solidarity with the common European effort. It is based on the strong belief that Switzerland, as a research and technological site of the first order, can make an important contribution to the future development of European research. With an R & D expenditure of 3% of the GNP, Switzerland, along with Japan, is in this respect at the top of the list.

The Joint Committee for research, established by the 1986 framework agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the EC and Switzerland, met again on March 3, 1993 in order to examine possibilities for further cooperation. The two parties emphasized their common interest in strengthening this cooperation. Switzerland told the EC Commission that it wanted to obtain full and equal participation in the research framework programmes, a gesture of solidarity in the area of research, since the country has only a limited interest in some of the programmes.



The EC Commission took note of this position and it stated that it was ready to examine Switzerland's request to participate in the fourth framework-programme (1994 - 1998). Finally, Switzerland and the Commission decided to discuss the country's participation in the educational programmes of the Community in an *ad hoc* working group.

The meeting held on March 3, 1993 can be considered as a first step in a process which Switzerland foresees as follows:

- The successive phases leading to Switzerland's full and equal participation in the framework programmes must be cleared rapidly.
- It is, therefore, in the interest of both parties that Switzerland should be allowed to participate, in one way or another, in the committees responsible for the preparatory work, the management committees of the various programmes and the advisory committees at a higher level, CREST in particular.
- In the meantime, cooperation within the third framework programme which is now running must be developed as much as possible.

On March 3, the Joint Committee for research decided to resume discussion after the next meeting of the Council of EC ministers of research (scheduled for April 29, 1993), that is, before its meeting on June 30.

In Switzerland, we are at present actively considering the possibilities for our future cooperation with Europe after the result of the referendum held on December 6, 1992. We fully understand the fact that the European Community has decided to give itself time to think before expressing its views on the Swiss proposals.

Switzerland very much hopes that the authorities of the EC and of its member states will approve the steps outlined here which are designed to strengthen cooperation in research and that they will give the necessary political support to the work of the Joint Committee.

## Aide-mémoire

Liberalization and harmonization in the field of land transport are important elements of the Internal Market and of the European Economic Area.

After the referendum in Switzerland on the 6th December, 1992 it is clear that the Swiss will not be joining the European Economic Area (EEA). The Swiss authorities have therefore proposed to the EC that negotiations begin immediately with a view to conclude a bilateral agreement on the reciprocal access to transport markets. It has to be noted that this procedure has already been outlined in article 13 and annex 8 of the transit agreement between Switzerland and the European Community.

Switzerland is in no doubt that the Community will respect its commitments as outlined in the transit agreement and indeed EC-Commissioner Matutes who met with the President of the Swiss Confederation on the 29th March, 1993 confirmed this to be the case.

The Council meeting in June 1993 is expected to discuss the matter further. In the meantime, experts from both sides will continue their exploratory work.

Switzerland is confident that the EC and its Member States will take the necessary steps for the adoption of the negotiation directives in the near future so that formal negotiations can be concluded early in 1994.

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International civil aviation today is more than ever interconnected and interdependent. Therefore a harmonized, liberal system in Western Europe is in the common interest.

After the referendum in Switzerland on the 6th December, 1992 it is clear that the Swiss will not be joining the European Economic Area (EEA). The Swiss authorities have therefore proposed to the EC that negotiations begin immediately so that a bilateral agreement based on the "acquis communautaire" can be reached. It should be noted that this procedure has already been outlined in the Common declaration to the protocol of the transit agreement between Switzerland and the European Community (see annex).

Switzerland is in no doubt that the Community will respect its commitments as outlined in the transit agreement and indeed EC-Commissioner Matutes who met with the President of the Swiss Confederation on the 29th March, 1993 confirmed this to be the case.

On March 15th, 1993 the Council of the EC Transport Ministers discussed bilateral negotiations in relation to air transport with Switzerland. The next Council meeting in June 1993 is expected to discuss the matter further. In the meantime, experts from both sides will continue their exploratory work.

Switzerland is confident that the EC and its Member States will take the necessary steps for the adoption of the negotiation directives in the near future so that formal negotiations can be concluded early in 1994.