

Parliamentary cooperation and High-level dialogue between the EU and Switzerland

The broad package of agreements creates two fora of discussion, notably as regards the implementation of the package and on further avenues of development of EU-Swiss relations: a Joint Parliamentary Committee and High-level dialogue.

Protocol on parliamentary cooperation

The Protocol between the Swiss Confederation and the European Union on parliamentary cooperation provides a legal basis and mechanisms for political cooperation between the parliamentary assemblies of the EU and of Switzerland.

It establishes a Joint Parliamentary Committee which will be a forum for dialogue and debate between members of the European Parliament and the Swiss Federal Assembly. It will be informed on a regular basis of the decisions and recommendations of the Joint Committees established under any of the agreements that form part of the broad package. It may request any relevant information regarding the implementation of any agreement within the broad package and may make recommendations to the Parties.

The aims of the Joint Parliamentary Committee will be:

- to encourage better mutual understanding on the broad bilateral package; and
- to provide an opportunity for reflection about the possible further development of the broad EU-Switzerland relationship.

High-level dialogue

The Joint Declaration by the Switzerland and the European Union on the establishment of a High-level dialogue on the broad bilateral package and the possible further development of the bilateral relations between the European Union and Switzerland will provide a framework for political discussions between the European Commissioner in charge of EU-Switzerland relations and her or his counterpart within the Swiss Federal Council.

The aims of the High-level dialogue will be:

- to promote the mutual understanding and cooperation on the negotiated broad bilateral package and the possible further development of their bilateral relations;
- to discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular Switzerland's participation in the internal market and possibilities to strengthen their partnership; and
- to evaluate the implementation of the broad bilateral package, the work of the Joint Committees and the possible further development of their bilateral relations.