



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels Ares(2023)7649571

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Dear President, Dear Chancellor,

Thank you for your letter informing me that, after an in-depth analysis, the Federal Council concluded that the Common Understanding constitutes a basis for the drafting of a negotiating mandate.

In its meeting of 21 November 2023, the European Commission discussed the results of the exploratory talks and endorsed the Common Understanding. On this basis, and once the Swiss Federal Council has taken an equivalent decision, the Commission will seek a mandate from the Council of the European Union to enter into negotiations with Switzerland.

The Common Understanding records the result of the exploratory talks conducted over the past 18 months between representatives of the Swiss Federal Council and of the European Commission. It sets out in detail their understanding of a balanced outcome to a future negotiation and, as such, sets the frame for the negotiations to come.

The conclusion of the exploratory talks is a first and important step towards placing the EU-Switzerland bilateral relationship on a better footing. I trust we will keep up the momentum and conclude the negotiations in the course of 2024.

Yours faithfully,

Ursula von der Leyen