



Europe Division 11.02.2026

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

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2026	
11.02.2026	(DE) Der Bundesrat hat am 11. Februar 2026 Anpassungen am inländischen Massnahmenpaket zur Sicherung des Lohnschutzes im Rahmen des Pakets Schweiz - EU (Bilaterale III) beschlossen. Betroffen ist die «Massnahme 14», welche die Sozialpartnerschaft im Betrieb stärkt. Die Anpassungen stützen sich auf die Resultate der Vernehmlassung und sind das Resultat intensiver Gespräche mit den Sozialpartnern in den letzten Monaten. Sie fliessen in die Botschaft zum Paket Schweiz - EU (Bilaterale III) ein. Press release, 11.02.2026
2025	
05.12.2025	At its meeting on 5 December 2025, the Federal Council discussed the results of the consultation on the 'Stabilisation and further development of Swiss-EU relations' package (Bilaterals III). The Federal Council noted that a clear majority of consultation participants were in favour of the Swiss-EU package. Several clarifications and improvements were called for regarding how the agreements would be implemented domestically. After careful consideration of these concerns, the Federal Council decided to make certain adjustments. Press release, 05.12.2025
10.11.2025	Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and EU Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva signed the Switzerland-EU programmes agreement in Bern on 10 November 2025. This part of the Switzerland-EU package can be provisionally applied with retroactive effect from the beginning of 2025. Switzerland is thus associated to Horizon Europe, the Euratom programme and the Digital Europe programme. The agreement also paves the way for association to ITER, Erasmus+ and EU4Health. Press release, 10.11.2025
15.10.2025	At its meeting on 15 October 2025, the Federal Council discussed measures to strengthen the involvement of the cantons and Parliament in Switzerland's foreign policy on the Swiss-EU package. Next steps for concluding an arrangement with the cantons and expanding information mechanisms for the parliamentary committees were also set out. These proposals will be included in the Federal Council dispatch expected to be submitted to Parliament in March 2026. Press release, 15.10.2025

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13.06.2025	<p>At its meeting on 13 June 2025, the Federal Council approved the agreements in the new package to stabilise and develop Switzerland's bilateral approach with the EU and opened the domestic consultation process. After Switzerland brought the negotiations with the EU to a successful close in December 2024, the Federal Council finalised the implementing legislation and accompanying measures. Previously unresolved issues concerning wage protection, immigration, electricity and the type of referendum to be held have since been settled and presented to the public over the last five months. The consultation process will last until 31 October 2025. With this package, the Federal Council is aiming for customised sectoral participation in the EU single market as well as cooperation in selected areas. Given the current global unrest, maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries is key.</p> <p><u>Press release, 13.06.2025</u></p>	
21.05.2025	<p>The chief negotiators of Switzerland and the EU, Patric Franzen and Richard Szostak, and the Swiss co-negotiators from the relevant federal offices initialled the agreements of the Switzerland–EU package in Bern on 21 May 2025. The initialling formally concluded the negotiation process with the EU. The Federal Council will decide before the summer whether to approve the agreements and open the consultation process, and publish the texts.</p> <p><u>Press release, 21.05.2025</u></p>	
14.05.2025	<p>Nachdem der Bundesrat die Schutzklausel in den Verhandlungen mit der EU konkretisiert hatte, nahm er am 14. Mai 2025 deren inländische Umsetzung zur Kenntnis. Er muss die Auslösung der Schutzklausel im Personenfreizügigkeitsabkommen (FZA) prüfen und geeignete Schutzmassnahmen vorschlagen, wenn etwa die Nettozuwanderung, die Arbeitslosigkeit oder der Sozialhilfebezug gewisse Schwellenwerte überschreiten. Zudem kann der Bundesrat die Auslösung der Schutzklausel prüfen, wenn weitere Indikatoren darauf hindeuten, dass die Personenfreizügigkeit mit der EU zu schwerwiegenden wirtschaftlichen oder sozialen Problemen in der Schweiz führen. Diese inländische Umsetzung der Schutzklausel soll in die Vernehmlassungsvorlage für das Gesamtpaket mit der EU aufgenommen werden.</p> <p><u>Press release (DE), 14.05.2025</u></p>	
30.04.2025	<p>On 30 April 2025, the Federal Council took stock of the ongoing work on the Swiss–EU package. It decided to call an optional referendum on the agreements with the European Union (EU). In taking this decision, the Federal Council is signalling political continuity and coherence and giving Parliament and the cantons room for manoeuvre. Parliament will ultimately determine the nature of the referendum in the course of its deliberations.</p> <p><u>Press release, 30.04.2025</u></p>	

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10.04.2025	<p>At its meeting on 9 April 2025, the Federal Council approved the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA) along with the associated protocols on education, research, innovation and health. It also authorised Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin to sign the agreement. Signature of the EUPA will enable Swiss association in Horizon Europe, the Euratom programme and the Digital Europe Programme to be applied retroactively from 1 January 2025. The agreement will come into effect following ratification of the Switzerland-EU package</p> <p>Press release, 10.04.2025</p>	
21.03.2025	<p>At its meeting on March 21, 2025, the Federal Council approved a package of measures to safeguard wage protection. Fourteen measures are to be included in the consultation draft for the overall package with the EU. The social partners and the cantons have agreed on 13 of these measures. The Federal Council is proposing a further measure as part of the overall package.</p> <p>Press release, 21.03.2025 (DE)</p>	
2024	Switzerland	EU
20.12.2024	<p>At its meeting on 20 December 2024, the Federal Council took note with satisfaction the material conclusion of negotiations between Switzerland and the European Union (EU). It noted that the Swiss delegation, led by chief negotiator Patric Franzen, has met the objectives set under the negotiating mandate. The Federal Council has instructed the relevant departments to undertake the preparatory work needed to formally conclude negotiations.</p> <p>Press release, 20.12.2024</p>	
06.11.2024	<p>At its meeting on 6 November 2024, the Federal Council held an in-depth discussion on the status of negotiations with the EU and internal implementation of the package. In most dossiers, negotiations are well advanced. Negotiations on the free movement of persons, electricity and Switzerland's contribution to cohesion within the EU are continuing apace, with the aim of achieving a convergence of positions. Internal work and discussions with the cantons, the social and economic partners and interest groups have enabled progress to be made on a number of fronts.</p> <p>Press release, 06.11.2024</p>	
26.06.2024	<p>At its meeting on 26 June 2024, the Federal Council took stock of the negotiations with the EU and the internal implementation of the package. Meanwhile parallel discussions continue in Switzerland with interest groups on key sectors. The Federal Council has also begun work to transpose the various elements of the package into Swiss law.</p> <p>Press release, 26.06.2024</p>	

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18.03.2024	<p>On Monday, 18 March, President Viola Amherd and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen officially opened negotiations between Switzerland and the EU in the presence of the chief negotiators from both sides.</p> <p>Press release, 18.03.2024</p>	
08.05.2024	<p>At its meeting on 8 March 2024, the Federal Council approved the negotiating mandate with the EU in its definitive form. The mandate adopted takes account of the results of the consultation with the foreign affairs committees (FACs) and other interested parliamentary committees, the cantons and the views of the social and economic partners.</p> <p>Press release, 08.03.2024</p>	
2023	Switzerland	EU
15.12.2023	<p>At its meeting on 15 December, the Federal Council approved the draft negotiating mandate with the EU. The mandate sets out guidelines for the negotiations, which will get under way once the mandate is definitively adopted, after consultation with Parliament and the cantons.</p>	
14.12.2023 (nur DE)	<p>The transitional solution with the European Railway Agency (ERA) will be extended until the end of 2024. It enables joint vehicle approvals and safety certificates for cross-border passenger and freight transport.</p>	
05.12.2023 (nur DE)	<p>On December 5, 2023, the 18th meeting of the Joint Committee on the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment (MRA) took place in Bern. Switzerland and the EU discussed the implementation of the agreement and developments in EU legislation.</p>	
29.11.2023 (nur DE)	<p>At its meeting on November 29, 2023, the Federal Council decided to reinforce the Swiss contingent in KFOR with 20 additional members of the armed forces from April 2024. The contingent will be increased to replace the transport unit that Austria is withdrawing from the mission in spring 2024. The additional costs for increasing the maximum number of troops will be covered by the DDPS budget.</p>	
22.11.2023	<p>At its meeting on 22 November, the Federal Council decided to extend for a further year the safeguard clause provided for in the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons for Croatian nationals coming to work in Switzerland. The number of new work permits for 2024 will remain at the same level as 2023.</p>	
21.11.2023	<p>State Secretary Alexandre Fasel was received by the secretary-general of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Stefano Sannino, in Brussels on 21 November for the biannual consultations on foreign and security policy. In this context, Mr Fasel and Mr Sannino agreed to establish a structured dialogue on security and defence, with the aim of strengthening cooperation in this area. They also discussed the topic of cooperation and solidarity in response to current crises, and exchanged views on various multilateral issues.</p>	

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13.11.2023	On Monday, 13 November 2023, State Secretary Alexandre Fasel travelled to London for the annual strategic dialogue between Switzerland and the United Kingdom . He met with Christian Turner, political director, and Peter Wilson, director general for Europe, at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The discussions centred on the intensive and diverse bilateral relations between Switzerland and the UK, current international affairs, and European matters. The primary objective of the discussions was to enhance political, economic and scientific cooperation between the two nations.	
08.11.2023	At its meeting on 8 November 2023 , the Federal Council reviewed the outcomes of internal discussions and the exploratory talks with the EU. On this basis, it decided to draw up a negotiating mandate. Before the end of the year, it will decide whether or not to adopt it and submit it to the foreign affairs committees (FACs) and the Conference of Cantonal Governments (CCG) for consultation.	
21.09.2023	11th and final round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission.	
18.07.2023	Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis meets Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič in Brussels. Talks focus on the progress made in the exploratory talks at the technical and diplomatic level as well as the outstanding issues and next steps to be clarified in the coming months.	
21.06.2023	The Federal Council takes stock of its European policy and adopts the parameters of a negotiating mandate with the EU.	
30.05.2023	10th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission, in Brussels.	
20.04.2023	9th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission, in Brussels.	
29.03.2023	The Federal Council decides on the further procedure with a view to a negotiating mandate .	
15.03.2023	Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis meets the Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič in Bern.	
07.03.2023	8th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission, in Brussels.	
20.01.2023	7th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission, in Brussels.	

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2022	Switzerland	EU
22.12.2022	<p>Switzerland and France have agreed on a solution for taxing income generated while working from home: From 1 January 2023, up to 40 per cent of working time per year can be performed at home without affecting the country of taxation on income from employment – especially for cross-border commuters.</p>	
22.12.2022	<p>Today in London, Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer met his British counterpart and the United Kingdom's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt. The two finance ministers welcomed the progress made in the negotiations on a mutual recognition agreement in the financial sector, and looked forward to its finalisation by the end of summer 2023.</p>	
21.12.2022	<p>Croatia will be part of the Schengen area from 1 January 2023. This was decided by the Council of the European Union (EU) on 8 December 2022. The Federal Council has adopted this decision.</p>	
21.12.2022	<p>The Federal Council held a debate on the measures adopted and planned by the EU to reduce electricity consumption and curb electricity prices. It decided to adopt the EU's electricity savings target in Switzerland on a voluntary basis.</p>	
14.12.2022	<p>The 17th meeting of the Joint Committee on the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment (MRA) took place on 14 December 2022.</p>	
09.12.2022	<p>At its meeting on 9 December, the Federal Council discussed the draft report 'Assessment of Swiss–EU relations. The Federal Council concludes in the report that the bilateral approach remains the most favourable solution for Switzerland.</p>	
08.12.2022		<p>Croatia will be part of the Schengen area from 1 January 2023. This was decided by the Council of the European Union (EU) on 8 December 2022.</p>
02.12.2022	<p>The Federal Council has adopted the dispatch and the draft bill on the partial revision of the Posted Workers Act. This is intended to create the legal basis in terms of data protection for the platform for electronic communication between the bodies responsible for implementing the accompanying measures.</p>	
23.11.2022	<p>On 23 November 2022, the Federal Council met to discuss Switzerland's relations with the European Union (EU). The main item on the agenda was the progress made in exploratory talks held thus far with the European Commission.</p>	
17.11.2022	<p>The Joint Committee of the Agreement on Agriculture between Switzerland and the European Union (EU) has signed two decisions updating the agreement. These include a decision that extends the protection of further designations of origin (PDOs) and geographical indications (PGIs) protected in Switzerland to the EU.</p>	

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16.11.2022	Access to the Swiss labour market is to be restricted again for Croatian nationals in 2023. The Federal Council decided to invoke the safeguard clause provided for by the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.	
11.11.2022	6th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič, in Brussels.	
12.10.2022	5th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič, in Brussels.	
08.09.2022	4th round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič, in Brussels.	
31.08.2022	On 31 August 2022, the Federal Council decided to establish an organisational structure to ensure better management of policy and content for Switzerland's exploratory talks with the EU. This consists of a steering group involving all departments and a sounding board with representatives from the cantons, social partners and the business community.	
31.08.2022	The Federal Council approved the bilateral implementation agreements for cohesion under the second Swiss contribution in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Malta, Romania and Poland.	
30.06.2022	Switzerland and the EU signed in Brussels a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states. The signing of this MOU marks another important milestone towards a swift implementation of the contribution.	
30.06.2022	3rd round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič, in Brussels.	
17.06.2022	At its European policy meeting on 17 June 2022, the Federal Council was informed of the status of the exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU. Based on this, the Federal Council decided to step up the exploratory talks with the EU.	
27.04.2022	2nd round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič, in Brussels.	
31.03.2022	1st round of exploratory talks between Switzerland and the EU Commission: Livia Leu, State Secretary of the FDFA, meets Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the EU Commission Maroš Šefčovič, in Brussels.	
28.02.2022	In view of Russia's continuing military intervention in Ukraine, the Federal Council took the decision to adopt the packages of sanctions imposed by the EU on 23 and 25 February. Switzerland reaffirms its solidarity with Ukraine and its people; it will be delivering relief supplies for people who have fled to Poland.	

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25.02.2022	At its retreat dealing with European policy on 23 February 2022, the Federal Council continued to debate the issues at hand and adopted a set of guidelines for its negotiating package with the EU . This will be the basis for initiating exploratory talks with the EU.	
2021	Switzerland	EU
21.12.2021	Director of Land Transport at the European Commission Kristian Schmidt and Director of the Federal Office of Transport (FOT) Peter Füglisalder have signed a decision on Switzerland's continued cooperation with the European Railway Agency (ERA) .	
24.11.2021	Switzerland cooperates with the European Defence Agency in selected areas. The Federal Council has approved an agreement governing the mutual protection of classified information.	
24.11.2021	On 24 November, the Federal Council approved the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the EU regarding the second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states. Negotiations with partner countries on the relevant implementation agreements can now go ahead.	
17.11.2021	The Federal Council has amended the Drivers Ordinance . With a view to the integration of the new EU law into the Land Transport Agreement, it is thus creating equivalent regulations with the EU on the working, driving and rest times of professional drivers. Most of the amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2022.	
15.11.2021	On 15 November 2021, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis travelled to Brussels to meet with Maroš Šefčovič , Vice-President of the European Commission. Mr Šefčovič is Switzerland's new point of contact at the European Commission. The talks focused on relations between Switzerland and the European Union.	
01.11.2021	The new social security agreement with the UK will be applicable provisionally from 1 November 2021. It coordinates the social security systems of the two contracting states as the CH-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons is no longer applicable as a result of Brexit.	
20.10.2021	Switzerland is currently a non-associated third country in terms of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon Europe' and related programmes and initiatives. The Federal Council instructed the EAER to provide direct funding to the players concerned and approved the necessary credit reallocations.	
11.08.2021	The Federal Council approved a new social security agreement between Switzerland and the UK. This is intended to ensure the coordination of the social security systems of both states in the longer term following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.	

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11.08.2021	The Federal Council adopted the dispatch on the new frontier workers agreement between Switzerland and Italy. The agreement significantly improves the current regulation on the taxation of frontier workers and contributes to maintaining the good bilateral relations between the two countries.	
19.07.2021	The Swiss-EU Joint Air Transport Committee has decided on the adoption of various EU regulations by Switzerland. In view of the COVID 19 pandemic, the requirements for air carriers on the entitlement to slots will be eased. And various provisions on flight and aviation security will be adopted. The new regulations will enter into force on 1 August 2021.	
01.07.2021	Switzerland and the EU recognise the equivalence of passenger rights in public transport. The Swiss/EU Joint Committee on Land Transport has included the corresponding regulations in the Annex to the Agreement on Land Transport.	
30.06.2021	The Federal Council adopted a dispatch on the agreement between Switzerland and the UK on the mobility of service providers (Services Mobility Agreement, SMA). The agreement ensures reciprocal facilitated access for service providers between Switzerland and the UK following the expiry of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP).	
26.05.2021	The Federal Council undertook an overall evaluation of the outcome of the negotiations on the institutional framework agreement (InstA) . It concluded that there remain substantial differences between Switzerland and the EU on key aspects of the agreement. The conditions are thus not met for the signing of the agreement. The Federal Council today took the decision not to sign the agreement, and communicated this decision to the EU. This brings the negotiations on the draft of the InstA to a close. The Federal Council nevertheless considers it to be in the shared interest of Switzerland and the EU to safeguard their well-established cooperation and to systematically maintain the agreements already in force. It therefore wishes to launch a political dialogue with the EU on continued cooperation.	
04.01.2021	Due to its withdrawal from the EU, the UK has signed an agreement with Switzerland that re-regulates trade in organic products between the two countries. Until now, this was part of the agricultural agreement between Switzerland and the EU. The bilateral agreement came into force at the beginning of the year.	
2020	Switzerland	EU
29.12.2020	The Switzerland-EU bilateral agreements will cease to apply to the UK at the end of the Brexit transition period. These agreements will be succeeded by a series of follow-up agreements that Switzerland negotiated with the UK as part of its Mind the Gap strategy (including Mind the Gap+). Most of the existing rights and obligations between the two countries will continue to apply.	

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18.12.2020	The State Secretary of the FDFA, Livia Leu, and Italian Deputy Minister at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ivan Scalfarotto, signed an agreement to simplify radiometric checks on the export of metal products. This will eliminate the need for radiation protection measurements at the border when exporting metal products.	
14.12.2020	Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, the UK's Secretary of State for International Trade, signed the Services Mobility Agreement (SMA). The agreement secures reciprocal, facilitated market access for service providers from Switzerland and the United Kingdom from 1 January 2021.	
04.12.2020	The Federal Council approved an agreement between Switzerland and the UK on the mobility of service suppliers, which will close the imminent gap as of 1 January 2021 when the agreement on the free movement of persons between CH and the UK will cease to apply.	
27.09.2020	In a popular vote, 61.7% of the Swiss people and the majority of the Cantons have voted against the popular initiative 'For moderate immigration (Limitation Initiative)'. Participation: 59.47%.	
01.07.2020		Germany takes on the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term.
11.06.2020	Parliament approved a credit necessary for the further development of the Schengen acquis. This investment in information systems aims at strengthening security in the Schengen area.	
31.01.2020		The United Kingdom withdraws from the EU; a transitional period runs until 31.12.2020.
01.01.2020	Entry into force of the agreement on the linking of the Swiss and EU emissions trading schemes (ETS), allowing Switzerland and the EU to trade CO2 emission rights.	
01.01.2020		Croatia takes on the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term.
2019	Switzerland	EU
31.10.2019	Switzerland and the United Kingdom have signed an agreement on the coordination of social security schemes.	
04.09.2019	The Federal Council has sent a bill to parliament in order to secure a credit necessary for the further development of the Schengen acquis. This investment in information systems aims at strengthening security in the Schengen area.	

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16.07.2019		The European Parliament appointed Ursula von der Leyen of Germany as the new president of the European Commission. The European People's Party (EPP) member was elected with 383 votes for, 327 against and 22 abstentions.
27.06.2019	Switzerland and the EU have signed an agreement furthering police cooperation (Prüm decision) and a protocol giving Swiss authorities access to the Eurodac database.	
07.06.2019	In its bill to the Parliament the Federal Council rejects the initiative "for a moderate immigration" without a counter proposal.	
07.06.2019	The Federal Council approves the report on the consultations on the institutional agreement Switzerland – EU and demands clarifications.	
25.02.2019	As part of the Federal Council's Mind the gap strategy, State Secretary Mario Gattiker and his British counterpart, Parliamentary Under-Secretary Christopher Heaton-Harris, signed an agreement on citizens' rights, in order to safeguard the existing rights of their citizens for the time after the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Brexit).	
13.02.2019	The Federal Council decided on arrangements for the admission of British citizens in the event of the United Kingdom's disorderly withdrawal from the European Union. It aims to safeguard its close bilateral relations with the United Kingdom after its withdrawal from the EU (Brexit).	
11.02.2019	Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and the British Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox, signed a bilateral trade agreement in order to ensure the continuation of economic and trade relations between Switzerland and the United Kingdom after the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Brexit) is assured.	
31.01.2019		The EU has adopted definitive safeguard measures in the form of tariff quotas on imports of steel products from third countries. Steel imports from Switzerland into the EU are also affected by these measures.
30.01.2019	The Federal Council has decided that the new data protection provisions for the processing of personal data in the area of Schengen cooperation in criminal matters will apply from 1 March 2019. It thus fulfils Switzerland's obligations with regard to the further development of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> and continues to enable an efficient fight against international crime and terrorism.	

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25.01.2019	President Ueli Maurer signed an agreement on direct insurance other than life assurance with the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, as well as a road traffic agreement with Jane Owen, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Switzerland. This will ensure the seamless continuation of the current regulations in these areas even after the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Brexit).	
01.01.2019		Romania takes on the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term.
2018	Switzerland	EU
17.12.2018		The European Commission decided to grant the recognition of the equivalence of Swiss legislation according to article 23 MiFIR (Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation) for six more months.
17.12.2018	Federal Councilor Doris Leuthard and her British counterpart, Transport Minister Chris Grayling, have negotiated a new air traffic agreement. The agreement is aimed at safeguarding the existing traffic rights in order to guarantee a smooth continuation of the current regulations between Switzerland and the UK after its withdrawal from the EU (Brexit).	
14.12.2018	The Federal Council approved the text of a trade agreement with the UK aiming to maintain existing economic and trade relations with the country after its withdrawal from the EU (Brexit).	
7.12.2018	The Federal Council took note of the end of the negotiations on a future institutional agreement and decided to gather the opinions of the concerned circles.	
30.11.2018	The Federal Council has adopted the message to amend the Therapeutic Products Act and the Human Research Act. This should improve the safety for patients and quality of medical devices in Switzerland.	
31.10.2018	The Federal Council passed an agricultural regulation package, which, among other things, brings with it a new system for the control of agricultural businesses.	
28.9.2018	The Federal Council sets quotas for third countries and service providers of the EU / EFTA states, which will apply from 1 January 2019.	
28.9.2018	Following a consultation procedure during which a large majority of those consulted backed a second Swiss contribution, the Federal Council approved the dispatch on a second contribution to a number of EU member states.	

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15.9.2018	The Federal Council has adapted the regulations on co-operation with other European states for the protection of the external Schengen borders and on the execution of evictions and expulsions.	
5.9.2018	The Federal Council has adopted an additional report on the overall presentation on the medium-term development of agricultural policy. The hypothetical scenarios of the border openings had led to misinterpretations and misunderstandings. The additional report clarifies these scenarios.	
22.8.2018	The Federal Council has decided to supplement the cooperation agreement between Switzerland and Europol with the expanded Europol catalog of delicts.	
17.7.2018	Switzerland has ratified the supplementary agreement on participation in the European Internal Security Fund (ISF). It contributes to the improvement of the efficiency of controls and the protection of external Schengen borders.	
1.7.2018		Austria takes on the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term.
1.7.2018	Entry into force of the law and regulations implementing the constitutional article on the regulation of immigration (Article 121a of the Constitution). The obligation to communicate vacancies publicly is key for its implementation. This affects job categories with an unemployment rate of at least 8%. This threshold will be lowered to 5% from 1 January 2020.	
25.5.2018	Switzerland has initiated with the EU a participation in police cooperation established by the Prüm decisions. This will improve the fight against international crime and terrorism.	
18.4.2018	The Federal Council activates the safeguard clause for Bulgaria and Romania. Starting from 1 June 2018 and for one year, the access to the Swiss labour market for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens applying for a new B-type residence permit will be restricted.	
1.1.2018		Bulgaria takes on the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term.
2017	Switzerland	EU
22.12.2017	Switzerland and the EU updated the Agreement on dismantling technical barriers to trade (MRA). This update enables both sides to maintain the mutual market access in the sectors of medical devices, personal protective equipment, gas appliances and cable cars.	
21.12.2017		The European Commission decided to limit the recognition of the equivalence of Swiss legislation according to article 23 MiFIR (Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation) to one year.

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20.12.2017	The Federal Council adopted the report in response to the Bourgeois postulate of 20 December 2011 concerning "Impacts of the EU states' energy policy on supply security by electricity and on Switzerland's competitiveness".	
8.12.2017	The Federal Council adopted the amendments to the ordinances related to the implementation of Art. 121a of the Federal Constitution.	
23.11.2017	Switzerland and the EU signed an agreement on emissions trading, enabling Switzerland and the EU to link their CO2 emissions trading systems (ETS).	
23.11.2017	The Federal Council pronounced itself in favour of another autonomous Swiss contribution to certain EU member states in order to reduce the economic and social disparities. During a period of 10 years, 1.302 bn CHF will be invested in specific projects.	
23.11.2017	President Doris Leuthard met with the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker in Bern. They both positively assessed the progress achieved this year in the bilateral relations Switzerland–EU and determined the next common steps.	
22.11.2017	Switzerland and the EU initialled the Eurodac protocol, allowing the Swiss criminal prosecution authorities to access data from the Eurodac database, which has an automated system for the recognition of digital fingerprints of asylum seekers in the Dublin Area states.	
6.10.2017	Switzerland signed a declaration on eGovernment jointly drawn up by the EU and EFTA. The declaration contains five core principles for eGovernment and is intended to be a guide for further development.	
29.9.2017	The Federal Council sent a pragmatic solution for the implementation of the EU firearms directive to parliament for consultation. The suggested solution exploits the existing scope and takes into account the Swiss gunnery tradition.	
12.9.2017	Switzerland signed in Lisbon an agreement to deepen the cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). It provides Switzerland direct access to the European expert network.	
6.9.2017	The Federal Council initiated the consultation on tax proposal 17. The proposal will make a significant contribution to having an appealing location and thus to added value.	
23.8.2017	The Federal Council adopted an amendment of the regulation on workers posted to Switzerland. The minimum number of controls regarding the respect of pay and working conditions (accompanying measures) will be increased.	
28.7.2017	The Agreement on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment (MRA) between Switzerland and the EU is updated, thereby maintaining market access in sectors in which the Swiss and EU technical standards have been revised.	
1.7.2017		Estonia assumes the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term.

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

1.6.2017	The Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe (Eastern Europe Cooperation Act) came into force. The act was passed by Parliament on 30 September 2016.	
10.5.2017	The Federal Council activates the safeguard clause for Bulgaria and Romania. Starting from 1 June 2017 and for one year, the access to the Swiss labour market for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens applying for a new B-type residence permit will be restricted.	
28.4.2017	Signing of an administrative agreement providing for a more intensive cooperation in the area of humanitarian aid and civil protection in Switzerland and abroad	
26.4.2017	The Federal Council waives a counterproposal to the initiative 'Get us out of the dead end! Don't reintroduce immigration quotas' (Rasa initiative).	
6.4.2017	President Doris Leuthard and the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker have agreed in Brussels to resume negotiations on all pending dossiers.	
1.4.2017	Pascale Baeriswyl has taken over the coordination of Switzerland's negotiations with the EU from Jacques de Watteville.	
29.3.2017		The United Kingdom formally notified the EU of its intent to leave, triggering art. 50 TEU. The two-year time frame during which the UK and the EU must complete the withdrawal negotiations has begun.
12.2.2017	59.1% of the Swiss voters have rejected the «Corporate Tax Reform Act III».	
1.1.2017	Entry into force of Protocol III of the AFMP on extending the free movement of persons to Croatia and of the AEOI Agreement between Switzerland and the EU	
1.1.2017		Malta assumes the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term
2016	Switzerland	EU
21.12.2016	The Federal Council resolved to draw up two versions of a counter-proposal to the Rasa initiative ('Get us out of the dead end. Don't reintroduce immigration quotas!') for consultation. The initiative seeks to overturn the results of the vote on 9 February 2014 and remove the provisions on immigration (Art. 121a and Art. 197 no. 11) from the Federal Constitution, without substitution.	
16.12.2016	The Federal Council has ratified the Protocol III extending the free movement of persons to Croatia. This also means the precondition has been met for Switzerland to participate fully in the «Horizon 2020» research framework programme of the EU from 1.1.2017 on.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

19.10.2016		The Slovakian Presidency of the Council of the EU confirmed receipt of the letter in which Switzerland informed it that its 1992 application for EU membership should be considered withdrawn.
19.9.2016	The President of the Swiss Confederation, Johann Schneider-Ammann, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, have met in Zurich. President Schneider-Ammann stressed that Switzerland was not able to accept a legal link between the dossiers on immigration and an institutional agreement.	
7.9.2016	The Federal Council has extended the 2014–2016 interim solution for Swiss participation in individual projects of the European mobility programme Erasmus+ by one year.	
27.7.2016	Switzerland informed the Council of the EU in a letter that the application for accession to the EU that Switzerland submitted in 1992 should be considered as withdrawn.	
16.7.2016	At a meeting, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, decided to intensify the technical discussions on a mutually acceptable solution to implementing Article 121a of the Federal Constitution.	
5.7.2016	The SECO Observatory Report on the free movement of persons shows a small decrease in immigration in 2015 down to 71,000 (67% of whom are from the EU).	
23./24.6.2016		The electorate of the United Kingdom has decided in a referendum to leave the European Union.
25.5.2016	The Federal Council has approved the complete revision of the Goods Carriage Ordinance and has put them into effect together with the Goods Carriage Act on 1 July 2016. Refunds of the performance-related heavy vehicle charge (LSVA) for pre- and onward carriage in combined traffic will be reduced by 10% as per 1 January 2017.	
12.5.2016	According to a SECO report in 2015, activities to monitor the implementation of the accompanying measures on the free movement of persons between Switzerland and the EU have been further intensified and national monitoring targets have been clearly exceeded. Most of the companies that were inspected complied with the salary and working conditions applicable in Switzerland.	
4.5.2016	The Federal Council has taken note of the report on the results of the consultation procedure carried out from October 2014 to January 2015 on the federal decree concerning the full opening of the electricity market. Because of controversial responses during the consultation procedure, the Federal Council plans to wait with the full opening of the electricity market.	
13.4.2016	On 1 June 2016 the transitional provisions concerning the free movement of persons for citizens of Bulgaria and Romania cease to apply. The Federal Council has adopted the partial revision of the relevant ordinance.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

13.4.2016	Switzerland and the EU have signed two agreements on Switzerland's participation in EUCAP Sahel Mali, the EU's civilian mission for the reform of the security sector in Mali, and in EUAM Ukraine, the EU advisory mission for civilian security sector reform in Ukraine.	
4.3.2016	Switzerland and the EU have signed Protocol III regarding the extension of the Free Movement of Persons Agreement to Croatia.	
4.3.2016	The Federal Council submitted to Parliament several pieces of draft legislation to implement the constitutional provisions on immigration. The Federal Council is continuing to push for a mutually agreed solution with the EU. Since it has not yet been possible to reach an agreement with the EU, however, the Federal Council is now proposing a unilateral safeguard clause.	
1.3.2016	The agreement with the EU for Switzerland's participation in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has entered into force.	
28.2.2016	In a popular vote, 58,9% of the Swiss people and the majority of the Cantons have rejected the popular initiative «On the enforcement of the expulsion of foreign criminals (the enforcement initiative)». Voter participation amounted to 63,1%.	
17.2.2016	As part of the Dispatch on International Cooperation, the Federal Council has submitted the renewal of the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe to Parliament for approval.	
25.1.2016	Switzerland and the EU have concluded the negotiations on linking their emissions trading schemes and initialled the agreement.	
1.1.2016		The Netherlands have taken over the presidency of the Council of the EU from Luxembourg for a six-month term.
2015	Switzerland	EU
18.12.2015	In connection with the implementation of the Federal Constitution's article 121a on immigration, the Federal Council adopted additional measures to combat abuses in the labor market and to make better use of potential within the domestic specialised labour force.	
4.12.2015	The Federal Council made a number of preliminary decisions, taking account of the results of consultations on the draft of new legislation on foreign nationals: it is looking to apply a safeguard clause in order to control the immigration of persons covered by the Agreement on the free movement of persons with the EU. To do so, it will seek a mutually acceptable solution with the EU. In the event that it is unable to reach agreement with the EU in time, the Federal Council has, in a parallel move, instructed the FDJP to draft a dispatch on a unilateral safeguard clause.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

14.10.2015	The Federal Council adapted the Inland Navigation Ordinance (INO) and Ordinance on Exhaust Emissions from Ship Engines on Swiss Waterways (SEO) to the new EU directive on recreational craft and personal watercraft. This ensures that recreational craft and personal watercraft from the EU will continue to be admitted to Switzerland from 2016 with the simplified procedure.	
12.10.2015	Led by Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, representatives of the states of the Functional Aerospace Block Europe Central (FABEC) adopted a ministerial declaration on a safer and more efficient surveillance of airspace in Central Europe at their meeting in Luxemburg.	
18.9.2015	The Federal Council decided that Switzerland would accept 1500 persons in need of protection within the framework of the EU relocation programme.	
September 2015		Claude Maerten is Switzerland's new EU contact person in Brussels. He succeeds Gianluca Grippa as Head of the Western Europe Division in the European External Action Service (EAS). Among other things Grippa has been negotiating the institutional questions with Switzerland.
12.8.2015	The Federal Council has established a structure for the overall conduct of its negotiations with the European Union. This structure is meant to increase the chances of achieving an overall outcome that is balanced and clearly in the interests of Switzerland. State Secretary Jacques de Watteville, as chief negotiator, is responsible for ensuring an overall outcome of negotiations that corresponds to the objectives set out in the existing mandates.	
1.7.2015		Luxembourg has taken over the presidency of the Council of the EU from Latvia for a six-month term.
24.6.2015	The Federal Council tasked the FDFA to develop a new structure during the summer with regard to negotiations with the EU and to propose a chief negotiator.	
24.6.2015	The Federal Council took note of the outcome of the consultation procedure on extending the validity of the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe (Eastern Europe Cooperation Act). The corresponding dispatch is expected to be submitted to Parliament by the end of February 2016.	
5.6.2015	The Federal Council presented two dispatches to Parliament. The first concerned the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters between the Council of Europe and the OECD; the second the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

27.5.2015	The Federal Council opened the consultation on the agreement between Switzerland and EU on automatic exchange of information in tax matters.	
19.3.2015	Switzerland and the EU initialled an agreement regarding the introduction of the global standard for the automatic exchange of information in tax matters. Switzerland and the 28 EU member states intend to collect account data from 2017 and exchange it from 2018 once the necessary legal basis has been created.	
13.3.2015	The Federal Council wants to negotiate Switzerland's participation in the Prüm cooperation. This cooperation simplifies the information exchange for the purposes of combating cross-border crime between the EU states. The Federal Council therefore adopted a mandate to negotiate with the EU.	
13.3.2015	The Federal Council adopted an amendment of the regulation on the implementation of the free movement of persons, which entered into force on 1 April 2015. EU and EFTA Citizens who search for a job in Switzerland will only get a residence permit if they have the financial means to meet their subsistence.	
11.2.2015	The Federal Council took various decisions on the implementation of the new constitutional provisions of the initiative against mass immigration. It launched the consultation on the draft of the new legislation on foreign nationals and adopted additional measures to make better use of the potential workforce within Switzerland. It also made a final decision on the negotiating mandate with the EU on the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.	
2.2.2015	The president of the Swiss Confederation Simonetta Sommaruga met the president of the EU Commission Jean-Claude Juncker for talks in Brussels. The meeting focused on the relations between Switzerland and the EU. Furthermore, Sommaruga met the president of the European Council Donald Tusk and the president of the European Parliament Martin Schulz for discussions.	
1.1.2015		Latvia has taken over the presidency of the Council of the EU from Italy for a six-month term.
1.1.2015		Lithuania joins the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). There are now 19 EMU Member States.
2014	Switzerland	EU
11.12.2014	After the Council of States, also the National Council voted in favor of a contribution to Croatia. It approved the framework credit of CHF 45 million.	
7.12.2014	The commitment period for Bulgaria and Romania, which acceded to the EU in 2007, has ended. In the framework of the Enlargement Contribution, Switzerland is involved in specific projects in Romania and Bulgaria.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

5.12.2014	Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann has signed an agreement on Switzerland's participation in the European framework programmes with representatives of the EU in Brussels. The agreement sets out the conditions for Switzerland's partial association to Horizon 2020 until the end of 2016.	
30.11.2014	In a popular vote, 76% of the Swiss people and all the cantons have rejected the popular initiative «Stop over-population – safeguard our natural environment» (Ecopop initiative). Voter participation amounted to 49.4%.	
22.10.2014	The Federal Council approved an agreement on Switzerland's partial association with Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. This means that until 31 December 2016, researchers from Switzerland can fully participate in various areas of Horizon 2020 and apply for grants from the European Research Council.	
14.10.2014	In Luxembourg, Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf and representatives of the 28 EU member states signed a mutual understanding in the form of a joint statement on business taxation.	
19.9.2014	The Federal Council decided that if Switzerland cannot reach its objective of joining the EU education programme Erasmus+, it will extend the transitional solution for the programme, which was originally approved for 2014, for the next two years. This solution aims to ensure the mobility of Swiss participants in the programme.	
25.7.2014		Bern received a letter from Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, containing answers from the EU commission and EU member states to questions posed by Switzerland in a request dated 7 July to adapt the Free Movement of Persons Agreement (FMA).
15.7.2014		The European Parliament appointed Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg as the new president of the European Commission. The top candidate of the European People's Party (EPP) was elected with 422 votes for, 250 against and 47 abstentions.
4.7.2014	Switzerland and the EU signed an agreement on Switzerland's participation in the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya). This agreement provides the basis for deploying a Swiss civilian border control specialist to Libya.	
1.7.2014	The heads of delegation of Switzerland and the EU initialled a mutual understanding on business taxation. The understanding brings an end to a dispute that has strained relations between the two parties for almost a decade.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

20.06.2014	The Federal Council approved the concept for implementing the new article of the Federal Constitution on immigration. The concept outlines how the Federal Council will set the quantitative limits and quotas for controlling migration to Switzerland from February 2017.	
10.06.2014	Signing of the agreement on Switzerland's participation in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).	
28.5.2014	The Federal Council has decided on a two-year extension of the transitional period for Bulgarian and Romanian labour. National priority, quotas and control of the working and wage conditions are therefore maintained until 31 May 2016.	
22.5.2014	The negotiations on an institutional agreement between Switzerland and the European Union have begun. With the planned agreement the Federal Council wishes to reconfirm and strengthen the bilateral approach, and so continue to guarantee Switzerland's prosperity and independence.	
30.4.2014	On 30 April, the Federal Council has issued a declaration setting out several measures, including a solution for quotas granting Croatian citizens access to the Swiss labour market. The Federal Council has also confirmed the enlargement contribution to Croatia.	
30.4.2014	The safeguard clause for employed persons from 25 EU countries has expired on schedule. On 30 April, the Federal Council has passed a resolution on the revision of the Freedom of Movement Introduction Ordinance (FMIO), rescinding the quotas for EU-17 and EU-8 citizens. Consequently, unrestricted movement of persons applies to members of these states.	
28.4.2014	Switzerland and the European Union have signed the agreement on Switzerland's participation in the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali). Based on this agreement, Switzerland can support the EUTM Mali with civilian experts.	
16.4.2014	The Federal Council has adopted a draft mandate for negotiations on Switzerland's participation in the EU Culture Programme 2014-2020.	
16.4.2014	The Federal Council has adopted the principles of a transitional solution for the Erasmus+ student exchange programme for 2014.	
15.4.2014		The Council of the European Union has extended the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) by two years.
26.3.2014	The Federal Council has approved the signing of the agreement with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and opened a consultation procedure until 3 July 2014.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

24.3.2014		The Council of Ministers has approved the revision of the taxation of savings. One of the aims of the revision is to extend the scope of application to combat tax fraud and tax evasion more effectively.
21.3.2014		The European Council has welcomed the report of the Commission on the status of negotiations with Europe and third states (Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Andorra and San Marino) on the taxation of interest from savings.
7.3.2014	The Federal Council has charged the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) with the elaboration of transitional solutions for the Erasmus+, Horizon 2020 and MEDIA programmes.	
26.2.2014:		The EU Commission has announced that negotiations regarding research («Horizon 2020») and education («Erasmus+») would not be continued until Switzerland has signed Protocol III on the extension of the free movement of persons agreement on Croatia.
12.2.2014	The Federal Council has taken initial decisions concerning implementation of the new constitutional provision on immigration.	
9.2.2014	In a popular vote, 50.3% of the Swiss people and the majority of the Cantons have voted in favour of the popular initiative «Stop mass immigration». Participation: 56.57%.	
17.1.2014	Switzerland and the EU have officially started negotiations on revising the taxation of savings agreement	
15.1.2014	The Federal Council has taken further measures to fight abuse related to the free movement of persons, for example with regard to social welfare.	
1.1.2014		Greece has taken over the presidency of the Council of the EU from Lithuania for a six-month term.
1.1.2014		Latvia joins the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). There are now 18 EMU Member States.
2013	Switzerland	EU
13.12.2013	The Federal Council approves the cooperation agreement with the EU in terms of the participation of Switzerland in the European programs of satellite navigation Galileo and EGNOS.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

25.11.2013	Three federal councillors Simonetta Sommaruga, Johann Schneider-Ammann and Didier Burkhalter, and the president of the Conference of Cantonal Governments, Cantonal Councillor Pascal Broulis present the position of the Federal Council about the «Stop mass immigration» Initiative, which is being put to a popular vote on 9 February 2014.	
23.10.2013	The Federal Council has issued a dispatch on the federal popular initiative entitled «Stop overpopulation - safeguard our natural environment». Parliament is requested to put the initiative to the vote among the electorate and cantons, with the recommendation to reject the proposal.	
13.09.2013	The Federal Council approves the negotiating mandates to pursue the Swiss participation to the framework programs of the EU in the fields of research and innovation, education, vocational training, youth and sport as well as film promotion (MEDIA).	
01.07.2013		Croatia joins the EU. There are now 28 Member States.
01.07.2013		Lithuania takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union from Ireland for a six-month term.
28.06.2013	Switzerland and the EU initial an agreement on participation in the activities of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).	
26.06.2013	The Federal Council decides to pursue a medium-term strategy with regard to the institutional questions and appoints the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) to create a draftnegotiation mandate.	
01.06.2013	Introduction of quotas for category B residence permits for nationals of the EU-17 member states (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Spain and Cyprus) for one year.	
17.05.2013	Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann and Competition Commissioner Joaquín Almunia, Vice President of the European Commission, sign a competition agreement in Brussels.	
14.05.2013		The European Commission receives a mandate from the EU Council of Finance Ministers to conduct negotiations with Switzerland on the taxing of interest payments.
01.05.2013	Prolongation of the safeguard clause for nationals of the EU-8 member states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary) with residence permit B.	
29.01.2013	Meeting in Brussels between the FDFA State Secretary, Yves Rossier, and the Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service, David O'Sullivan, at which they primarily discuss Switzerland's institutional proposals.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

01.01.2013		Ireland takes over from Cyprus the presidency of the Council of the European Union for a six-month term.
2012	Switzerland	EU
21.12.2012		EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso replies to Switzerland's proposals on institutional issues in a letter to the President of the Confederation, Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf.
20.12.2012		The Council of the European Union adopts the conclusions of the EU countries on relations with the EFTA states, including Switzerland.
19.11.2012	State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Yves Rossier, meets the Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service, David O'Sullivan.	
12.10.2012		The Nobel Prize Committee awards the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union.
10.10.2012	Start of the negotiations on the participation of the Schengen associated States in the new IT agency	
27.09.2012		The Treaty Establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) comes into effect.
18.06.2012	The Federal Council informs the EU Commission on his institutional proposals.	
15.06.2012	The Federal Council adopts the principles for institutional solutions for the attention of the EU. The Federal Council sees the principles as a proactive and substantial step to renewing the bilateral way and unblocking current dossiers and expects them to create favorable conditions for concluding future agreements such as the electricity dossier: institutional solutions could be sought within this framework that could also be applied to future treaties on market access.	
21.05.2012	Start of the negotiations on Switzerland's participation in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).	
25.04.2012	At its meeting on European matters, the Federal Council adopts principles for institutional solutions and submits them for consultation.	
18.04.2012	The Federal Council invokes the safeguard clause in the EU-Switzerland Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons with respect to the EU-8 states.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

17.04.2012		EU Tax Commissioner, Algirdas Šemeta, declares that the tax agreements negotiated by Switzerland with the United Kingdom and Germany are in full compliance with EU law.
20.03.2012		The President of the Confederation, Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, and Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter hold talks in Brussels with the President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, the EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso, and the President of the EU Parliament, Martin Schulz. They agree to pursue current dossiers in the framework of a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach and to develop solutions to institutional questions.
16.03.2012		Representatives of Switzerland and the European Defence Agency (EDA) sign a non-binding cooperation agreement in Brussels.
01.03.2012		Serbia receives candidate status at the EU Summit in Brussels.
01.02.2012		The Federal Council decides to continue pursuing a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to the conduct and further development of the bilateral way.
30.01.2012		The EU states approve a fiscal pact at the EU Summit in Brussels, providing for stricter budgetary discipline.
2011	Switzerland	EU
13.12.2011		The ministers of justice and of home affairs of the EU member states agree accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Schengen area which came into force with a ceremony on 19 December 2011.
09.12.2011		At the EU summit, Croatia signed the accession treaty for membership of the European Union. After the accession has been ratified, Croatia will become a member of the EU as of the middle of 2013.
25.11.2011		Switzerland and the EU have started negotiations on cabotage law. This cabotage would permit Swiss airlines to operate flights within a single EU state (for example on the Paris to Nice route). The airlines of EU member states would also have the same rights for domestic flights within Switzerland
06.09.2011		Because of the massive overvaluation of the Swiss franc, which poses an acute threat to the Swiss economy, the Swiss National Bank sets a minimum exchange rate at CHF 1.20 per euro.
17.05.2011		Switzerland and the EU sign the Bilateral Agreement on Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs) of agricultural products
25.03.2011		Start of negotiations on the area of co-operation between competition authorities
08.03.2011		Start of negotiations on the area of linking their systems for the trading of CO2 emissions allowances

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

08.02.2011	The President of the Swiss Confederation, Micheline Calmy-Rey meets the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, the President of European Commission José Manuel Barroso and the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek in Brussels to discuss current issues. She agreed with the President of the EU Commission to define in greater detail the holistic and coordinated approach in the continuation and further development of relationship between Switzerland and the EU.	
26. 01.2011	The Federal Council decides to adopt an holistic and coordinated approach in the continuation and further development of the bilateral way.	
2010	Switzerland	EU
14.12.2010		Conclusions of the Council of the EU on relations with Switzerland
01.12.2010		The European External Action Service (EEAS), which is supported by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security, begins its activities.
16.11.2010	Representatives of Switzerland and of the European Defence Agency initial an agreement in Brussels on enhanced cooperation.	
15.11.2010	The Swiss Mission to the EU in Brussels celebrates 50 years of existence.	
15.10.2010	Boring completed: breakthrough of the Gotthard Base Tunnel.	
21.09.2010	Launch of Swiss-EU negotiations on Swiss participation in the Satellite Navigation Programme Galileo und EGNOS.	
17.09.2010	The Federal Council adopts its report on the evaluation of European Policy 2010.	
18.08.2010	During its close-doors meeting on Europe, the Federal Council decides that Switzerland will continue to shape its relations to the EU on the basis of bilateral sectoral agreements.	
01.08.2010	The agreement on Switzerland's participation in MEDIA 2007 enters into force.	
19.07.2010	First meeting between Swiss President Doris Leuthard and the President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy.	
01.07.2010	New law on product safety enters into force, thus bringing the level of protection for technical installations and appliances up to the EU level.	
01.07.2010	New Swiss law on the technical trade barriers enters into force and unilaterally introduces the "Cassis de Dijon" principle.	
29.06.2010		The Council of the EU adopts its mandate of the negotiations about Swiss participation in the satellite navigation systems Galileo and EGNOS

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

15.02.2010	Switzerland and the EU sign the Bilateral Agreement on education, vocational training and youth in Brussels	
01.01.2010	Entry into force of the law on information exchange with Schengen States	
01.01.2010	Entry into force of the modification of the ordinance on posted employees	
2009	Switzerland	EU
21.12.2009	Entry into force of the extended and modified Agreement on mutual recognition (MRA)	
16.12.2009	The Federal Council approves mandates to commence negotiations on cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA) as well as on linking of existing Swiss and EU emissions trading schemes	
07.12.2009	Enlargement Contribution for Bulgaria and Romania accepted by Parliament	
01.12.2009		Entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon
01.07.2009	Preliminary application of the Agreement on customs facilitation and security	
25.06.2009	Signing of the Agreement on customs facilitation and security	
01.06.2009	Entry into force of the Protocol II of the Agreement on free movement of persons	
17.05.2009	The population of Switzerland approves the Federal Decree on introduction of electronically stored biometric data in the Swiss passport and the travel documents for foreigners (development of Schengen law) by 50.1%. Participation: 38%	
08.04.2009	Early implementation of the Agreement on fight against fraud	
13.03.2009	The Federal Council approves a mandates to commence negotiations on participation to EU navigation satellite system programs Galileo and EGNOS	
08.02.2009	The population of Switzerland approves the continuation and extension to Bulgaria and Romania of the agreement on free movement of persons by 59.6%. Participation: 50.9%	
01.01.2009		Slovakia joins the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). There are now 16 EMU Member States.
2008	Switzerland	EU
12.12.2008	Start of the operational cooperation between Switzerland and the European Union in the field of security, visas and asylum.	
04.11.2008	Start of negotiations on the area of free-trade in the agricultural sector and health	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

17.10.2008	Request for a referendum on the Federal Decree on the introduction of new biometric passports is successful with 63'733 valid signatures on the referendum petition.	
06.10.2008	Request for a referendum on the Federal Decree on the continuation of Agreement on free movement of persons and its extension to Bulgaria and Romania is successful with 51'348 valid signatures on the referendum petition.	
14.08.2008	Connection to Schengen Information System (SIS)	
25.06.2008	Signing of the political declaration of intent concerning the enlargement contributions for Bulgaria and Romania	
27.05.2008	Signing of the protocol II (extension of the bilateral agreement free movement of persons)	
09.04.2008	Start of negotiations on the area of education	
01.03.2008	Formal enactment of the Agreement on Schengen/Dublin	
01.01.2008		Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus join the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). There are now 15 EMU Member States.
2007	Switzerland	EU
20.12.2007	Enlargement contribution: the ten framework agreements signed in Bern	
13.12.2007		Signature of "Treaty of Lisbon" in Lisbon
08.11.2007	Start of negotiations on the area of electricity	
11.10.2007	Signature, in Brussels, of the renewed agreement on MEDIA	
10.07.2007	Start of negotiations on the extension of the Agreement on the free movement of persons to Romania and Bulgaria.	
25.06.2007	Switzerland and the EU sign the Agreement which grants Switzerland's full participation in the 7th EU Framework for Research. The renewed agreement is applied retroactively to the 01.01.2007.	
01.06.2007	Free movement of persons: abolition of quotas for citizens from the 15 old EU member states	
01.01.2007	Entry into force of the Agreement on statistics	
01.01.2007		Bulgaria and Romania join the EU. There are now 27 Member States.
2006	Switzerland	EU
26.11.2006	The population of Switzerland approves Eastern Europe Cooperation Act by 53.4%.	
01.04.2006	Entry into force of the Agreement on MEDIA	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

01.04.2006	Entry into force of the Agreement on environment	
01.04.2006	Entry into force of the extension of the Agreement on the free movement of persons and the revision of the accompanying measures.	
24.03.2006	The Swiss Parliament approves the Eastern Europe Cooperation Act.	
27.02.2006	Switzerland and the EU sign in Brussels the Memorandum of Understanding on the Swiss contribution to enlarged EU.	
2005	Switzerland	EU
26.10.2005	The Federal Council approves the opening of a EU Commission representation in Berne.	
25.09.2005	The population of Switzerland approves the extension of the agreement on free movement of persons and the revision of accompanying measures by 56%. Participation: 53.8%	
01.07.2005	Entry into force of the Agreement on taxation of savings	
05.06.2005	The population of Switzerland approves the Schengen/Dublin association agreement by 54.6%. Participation: 56%	
31.05.2005	Entry into force of the Agreement on pensions	
22.04.2005	Request for a referendum on the Federal Decree on the extension of the free movement of persons and the revision of the flanking measures is successful with 92'901 valid signatures on the referendum petition.	
06.04.2005	Request for a referendum on the association of Switzerland with Schengen and Dublin is successful with 86'732 valid signatures on the referendum petition.	
30.03.2005	Entry into force of the Agreement on processed agricultural products	
2004	Switzerland	EU
17.12.2004	The Federal chambers approve the Bilateral Agreements II in the final votes, as well as the extension of the Agreement on the free movement of persons and the revision of the accompanying measures	
29.10.2004		Signature of Constitutional Treaty in Roma.
26.10.2004	In Luxembourg, Switzerland and the EU sign the Bilateral Agreements II as well as the protocol for the extension of the Agreement on the free movement of persons to the new EU Member States.	
01.10.2004	The Federal Council passes the message on the Bilateral Agreements II.	
25.06.2004	Switzerland and the EU paraph the Bilateral Agreements II in Brussels.	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

19.05.2004	On the occasion of a summit in Brussels, Switzerland and the EU reach an political agreement on the bilateral negotiations II, on the extension of the free movement of persons as well on other bilateral topics.	
01.05.2004	Extension of the Bilateral Agreements I to the ten new EU Member States, with the exception of the Agreement on the free movement of persons, which is the subject of new negotiations.	Extension of the EU to ten new Member States (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus).
2002–2003	Switzerland	EU
16.07.2003	Start of negotiations on the extension of the Agreement on the free movement of persons to the ten new EU Member States.	
17.06.2002	Switzerland and the EU start new bilateral negotiations on the following areas: taxation of savings, Schengen/Dublin, services, MEDIA, education/occupational training/youth and pensions. The bilateral negotiations are so in course in all ten areas.	
01.06.2002	Entry into force of the Bilateral Agreements I	
01.06.2002	Entry into force of the accompanying measures to the free movement of persons	
01.01.2002		The Euro replaces the national currencies of twelve member states
2000–2001	Switzerland	EU
05.07.2001	Switzerland and the EU start new bilateral negotiations on the following areas: customs fraud, processed agricultural products, environment, statistics.	
04.03.2001	The popular initiative "Yes to Europe!" is rejected in a referendum by 77% of the voters, approved by 23%. All the cantons vote for its rejection. Participation: 55.1%	
21.05.2000	The population of Switzerland approves the seven bilateral agreements by 67.2%. Participation: 48%	
16.02.2000	Request for a referendum against the decision of the government on the approval of the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU is successful with 66'733 valid signatures on the referendum petition.	
1997–1999	Switzerland	EU
08.10.1999	In the final vote the Swiss Parliament approves the seven agreements by a overwhelming majority: the National Council (lower house) with 183 in favour and 11 votes against, the Council of States (upper house) without any vote against.	
21.06.1999	Signing of the Bilateral Agreements I in Luxembourg	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

28.04.1999	The Federal Council adopts the provisional draft for the approval of the Bilateral Agreements I Switzerland-EU for submission to the Parliament.	
27.01.1999	The Executive Federal Council poses the Message to the popular initiative "Yes to Europe!" on to the Parliament. The Federal Government makes a counter proposal to the initiative in form of a simple federal decree.	
11.12.1998	The negotiators of Switzerland and of the EU conclude the bilateral negotiations I in Vienna.	
27.09.1998	The population of Switzerland approves "federal law on the taxation of heavy goods vehicles on the basis of performance" by 57.2%. Participation: 51.8%	
09.06.1997	The "Born on the 7th of December 1992" committee decides not to go ahead with its initiative "For our future in the heart of Europe".	
08.06.1997	The Lega/Social Democrat party initiative "EC membership negotiations before the people!" is rejected in a referendum by 73.9% of the voters, approved by 26.1%. All the cantons vote for its rejection. Participation: 35.4%	
1994–1996	Switzerland	EU
30.07.1996	Official registration of the "Yes to Europe!" initiative (106'442 valid signatures)	
23.08.1995	Message of the Federal Council recommending rejection of the two popular initiatives "EC membership negotiations before the people!" and "For our future in the heart of Europe", without making any counter-proposals.	
12.12.1994	Switzerland and the EU open formally the bilateral negotiations I.	
31.10.1994		EU Council issues instructions covering five areas of negotiations (free movement of persons, research, agricultural products, technical barriers to trad, public procurement).
16./17.05.1994		EU Council decides to seek clarification from Switzerland with regard to implementation of the Alps initiative, prior to issuing negotiating instruction for road transport sector.
20.02.1994	Alps initiative accepted in referendum by 51.9% of the voters. Participation: 40.8%	After approval of Alps initiative, the EU decides to take time for further reflection.
21.01.1994	Lega/Social Democrat party popular initiative "EC membership negotiations before the people!" (101'337 valid signatures).	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

1992–1993	Switzerland	EU
8./9.11.1993		<p>The General Council of the EU announces the following decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agreement to begin negotiations in four sectors (road transport, free movement of persons, research, free market access for agricultural products) and as far as possible in two other sectors (technical barriers to trade, public procurement) - negotiating instructions to be prepared by the Commission - appropriate parallelism. The various dossiers are to be negotiated and completed together. They will be valid only as a whole.
03.09.1993	The "Born on 7 December" committee makes an official presentation of its popular initiative "For our future in the heart of Europe" (110'703 valid signatures).	
05.02.1993	<p>Proposal made to open negotiations with EU in 15 sectors. Sectors linked to the Free Trade Agreement of 1972:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - country of origin rules - outward processing of textiles - processed agricultural products - technical barriers to trade (TBTs) - public procurement markets (in the context of GATT/WTO regulations) - product liability - animal protection legislation - plant protection legislation; - intellectual property (above all geographical designations and labels of origin). <p>Sectors not linked to the Free Trade Agreement of 1972:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - civil aviation - overland transport - research - MEDIA audio-visual programme - statistics - education, vocational training, youth 	
13.01.1993	The Federal Council states that until further notice Switzerland will not start membership negotiations with the European Community.	
01.01.1993	Entry into force of the the Insurance Agreement	
06.12.1992	<p>The population of Switzerland refuses to join the European Economic Area (EEA) with 50.3 % No-votes.</p> <p>Participation: 79%</p>	

Chronology of relationships between Switzerland – EU

26. 05.1992	Switzerland requests the commencement of membership negotiations with the European Community.	
1951–1989	Switzerland	EU
10.10.1989	Switzerland and the EC sign the Insurance Agreement	
1989		To prevent competitive disadvantages for their companies, the EFTA states negotiate with the EU about a uniform European Economic Area (EEA).
03.12.1972	The population of Switzerland approves the Free Trade Agreement Switzerland-EEC by 72.5%. Participation: 52.9%	
1961	Switzerland applies for associate status with the EEC.	
25.03.1957		France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany sign the Treaties establishing a European Economic Community (EEC) and a European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) ECSC, EEC and Euratom form the European Community (EC).
18.04.1951		France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany, sign the Treaty establishing the ECSC.