



European Policy & Open Markets

Analysis of the Increase in Seats Regarding the Bilateral Agreements III

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At a glance

- A study, conducted by Sotomo on behalf of economiesuisse, examines what impact a potential majority of the cantons would have on the referendum on the Bilateral Agreements III.
- The study is based on historical referendums on European policy since 1992 as well as on current survey data regarding the Bilateral Agreements III.
- economiesuisse commissioned the study to gain a detailed understanding of the starting point with a view to running a successful campaign on the Bilateral Agreements III.

A look at past votes shows that proposals on European policy often receive less support from the cantons than from the general public. Historically, proposals of an institutional nature—such as the Schengen/Dublin Agreement—have been particularly affected by a high cantonal majority threshold.

The expected average cantonal majority threshold is 54.7 percent of “yes” votes. This means that with just under 55 percent approval, the cantonal majority would be achieved in only about half of the cases. Only with a “yes” vote of around 58 percent would achieving the two-thirds majority be very likely, and it would be guaranteed at 59 percent.

A double majority reduces the chances of success for Bilateral Agreements III. Even if, according to polls, Bilateral Agreements III had a good chance of winning a popular majority, they could still fail to secure a cantonal majority.

Economiesuisse commissioned the study to gain a detailed understanding of the current situation with a view to running a successful campaign on the Bilateral Agreements III. The issue of the cantonal majority is a matter of constitutional policy and must ultimately be decided by Parliament.

On Sotomo's majority-of-states analysis



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