



European Policy & Open Markets

Bilateral Agreements III: For Switzerland, it's the total package that counts

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At a glance

- The APK-N has concluded its deliberations on the Bilateral Agreements III.
- It is important not to lose sight of the big picture during the plenary debate.
- Stable relations with the EU are crucial for the Swiss economy.

The National Council's Foreign Affairs Committee (APK-N) has concluded its deliberations on the Bilateral Agreements III. This means that the National Council's plenary session, as the second chamber, will now take up the matter during the winter session. It is crucial to keep the big picture in mind. It is important to carefully review the individual provisions and ensure that the overall package remains in compliance with the agreement.

Improvements Must Strengthen the Overall Package

Switzerland has achieved a positive outcome in the negotiations on the Bilateral Agreements III. This outcome deserves recognition. This does not preclude improvements in domestic implementation. On the contrary: where there is room for maneuver, Parliament should ensure the best possible practical solutions. It is crucial that such adjustments comply with the agreements, create legal certainty, and strengthen the overall package. They must not undermine the carefully negotiated balance of the Bilateral Agreements III.

The Status Quo Is Not an Alternative

Amid all the discussions about possible improvements, one thing must not be forgotten: Abandoning the Bilateral Agreements III would have consequences. Without stabilization, existing bilateral relations risk gradually eroding. Agreements could no longer be reliably updated, new technical barriers to trade would arise, and important cooperation would become more difficult. The Bilateral Agreements III represent the best existing arrangement between a third country and the EU. The real alternative, therefore, is not the current situation, but growing uncertainty.

The bilateral approach needs a stable foundation

Stable relations with the European Union are crucial for the Swiss economy. Companies depend on unimpeded access to the European single market, reliable rules, and predictable operating conditions. This is especially true at a time when geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties are on the rise. Switzerland needs stable relations with its most important trading partner, democratic participation, and reliable rules. That is exactly what the Bilateral Agreements III stand for.



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