

How do our MPs vote on issues concerning the Swiss Abroad?

The legislative period which is coming to an end saw a particularly high number of proposals that affect the Swiss Abroad either directly or indirectly.

Thanks to the electronic voting procedure in the National Council and, since 2014, also in the Council of States, the voting behaviour of every member of the Federal Assembly can be followed. A look back can also provide guidance in making a decision for the forth-

Proposals concerning the Swiss Abroad

Subject	Vote	SP	The Greens	GLP	CVP/E	BDP	FDP	SVP
Retaining the embassy in Guatemala (FAC-NC motion)	NC 16.04.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Retaining the consulate general in Chicago (FAC-NC motion)	NC 16.04.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cooperation between federal government and WOSA on the election of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (FAC-NC motion)	NC 03.06.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Comprehensive e-voting for the Swiss Abroad by 2015 (Fässler motion)	NC 18.09.13		■	■	15:14	■	17:9	■ ■
Moratorium on consulate closures (Büchel motion)	NC 19.09.13	■	■	■	■	5:3	■	■
Against the taxation of real estate in Switzerland by France (CEAT-NC motion)	NC 19.06.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Inheritance tax agreement with France Introduction	NC 12.12.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Federal Act on the Provision of Swiss Education Abroad Overall vote	NC 10.03.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	29:22
Final vote	NC 21.03.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Act on the Swiss Abroad Introduction	NC 05.06.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Compulsory enrolment requirement (Romano minority motion)	NC 05.06.14	■	■	■	7:4	■	■	■
Article concerning federal support for OSA (Bugnon deletion motion)	NC 05.06.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Maintaining the Soliswiss default guarantee (Flury motion)	NC 05.06.14	■	■	■	■	■	15:9	■
Overall vote	NC 05.06.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Direct election of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (Masshardt motion)	NC 15.09.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Final vote	NC 26.09.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	36:18
Basic payment transactions provision for the Swiss Abroad (Büchel motion)	NC 11.09.14	■	■	■	■	17:9	■	■
Strengthening of the Swiss network of representations abroad (FAC-NC motion)	NC 06.05.15	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

coming elections. Not everyone who claims to represent the interests of the Swiss Abroad actually votes accordingly when it comes down to it.

The following table shows the voting behaviour of parliamentary groups on se-

lected proposals between 2011 and 2015. It lists bills that concern the Swiss Abroad directly as well as individual proposals that may have implications for our compatriots abroad. Parliamentary groups often do not vote uniformly. If the ratio between yes and

no votes is 2:1 or less, the exact voting figures are indicated. Individual abstentions are not counted. The results of all votes can be found in the Federal Assembly's official bulletin at www.parlament.ch > Official Bulletin.

Proposals with implications for the Swiss Abroad

Subject	Vote	SP	The Greens	GLP	CVP/E	BDP	FDP	SVP
Popular initiative "Against mass immigration" Recommendation for approval	NC 20.06.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Fatca Agreement between Switzerland and the USA Approval of the agreement	NC 27.09.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Approval for implementation	NC 27.09.13	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Grants initiative Recommendation for approval	NC 19.03.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Popular initiative "Stop overpopulation" (Ecopop) Approval	NC 12.06.14	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Parliamentary groups:

- SP = Social Democratic group
- The Greens = Green group
- GLP = Green-Liberal group
- CVP/EVP = Christian Democratic/Evangelical group
- BDP = Swiss Conservative Democratic Party group
- FDP = Free Democrat/Liberal group
- SVP = Swiss People's Party group.

Abbreviations:

- FAC Foreign Affairs Committee
- CEAT Committee for Economic Affairs and Taxation

- Approval
- Rejection
- Abstention

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National elections of October 18th, 2015

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