



Switzerland Withdraws Application to Join the European Union. Impacts on Brexit Campaign?

Par [RT](#)

Mondialisation.ca, 16 juin 2016

[RT](#)

Région : [Europe](#)

Thème: [Global Economy](#)

The upper house of the Swiss parliament on Wednesday voted to invalidate its 1992 application to join the European Union, backing an earlier decision by the lower house. The vote comes just a week before Britain decides whether to leave the EU in a referendum.

Twenty-seven members of the upper house, the Council of States, voted to cancel Switzerland's longstanding EU application, versus just 13 senators against. Two abstained.

In the aftermath of the vote, Switzerland will give formal notice to the EU to consider its application withdrawn, the country's foreign minister, Didier Burkhalter, was quoted as saying by [Neue Zürcher Zeitung](#).

The original motion was introduced by the conservative Swiss People's Party MP, Lukas Reimann. It had already received overwhelming support from legislators in the lower house of parliament in March, with 126 National Council deputies voting in favor, and 46 against.

Thomas Minder, counsellor for the state of Schaffhausen and an active promoter of the concept of "Swissness," said he was eager to "close the topic fast and painlessly" as only "a few lunatics" may want to join the EU now, he told the newspaper.

Hannes Germann, also representing Schaffhausen, highlighted the symbolic importance of the vote, comparing it to Iceland's decision to drop its membership bid in 2015.

"Iceland had the courage and withdrew the application for membership, so no volcano erupted," he said, jokingly.

Switzerland's longstanding application to join the EU has not had a significant impact on the country's politics for more than 20 years, as its accession negotiations have been suspended since 1992 in the wake of a referendum to join the European Economic Area, when the Swiss voted down the idea of closer ties with the EU.

Some politicians even argued that the vote was an unnecessary formal procedure that didn't make much sense as Switzerland is no longer regarded by the EU as an official candidate to join the bloc.

Filippo Lombardi, from the Christian Democratic People's Party, said that it was "not very clever to discuss it once again," calling the debate about Switzerland's accession at this stage "a bit ridiculous," *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reported.

Switzerland, never a member of EU, shares free trade with the union and free movement of people as part of the Schengen zone.

The timing of Switzerland's reassurance of its sovereignty and independence from the EU institutions, if accidental, may come in handy for campaigners in the UK advocating a British exit from the EU. Polls show the UK's referendum on EU membership, to be held in a week on June 23, as being extremely close, with Leave slightly in the lead.

[Посмотреть изображение в Твиттере](#)



La source originale de cet article est [RT](#)
Copyright © [RT](#), [RT](#), 2016

Articles Par : [RT](#)

Avis de non-responsabilité : Les opinions exprimées dans cet article n'engagent que le ou les auteurs. Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation se dégage de toute responsabilité concernant le contenu de cet article et ne sera pas tenu responsable pour des erreurs ou informations incorrectes ou inexactes.

Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation (CRM) accorde la permission de reproduire la version intégrale ou des extraits d'articles du site [Mondialisation.ca](#) sur des sites de médias alternatifs. La source de l'article, l'adresse url ainsi qu'un hyperlien vers l'article original du CRM doivent être indiqués. Une note de droit d'auteur (copyright) doit également être indiquée.

Pour publier des articles de [Mondialisation.ca](#) en format papier ou autre, y compris les sites Internet commerciaux, contactez: media@globalresearch.ca

[Mondialisation.ca](#) contient du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur, dont le détenteur n'a pas toujours autorisé l'utilisation. Nous mettons ce matériel à la disposition de nos lecteurs en vertu du principe "d'utilisation équitable", dans le but d'améliorer la compréhension des enjeux politiques, économiques et sociaux. Tout le matériel mis en ligne sur ce site est à but non lucratif. Il est mis à la disposition de tous ceux qui s'y intéressent dans le but de faire de la recherche ainsi qu'à des fins éducatives. Si

vous désirez utiliser du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur pour des raisons autres que "l'utilisation équitable", vous devez demander la permission au détenteur du droit d'auteur.

Contact média: media@globalresearch.ca