

## The Future of Swiss-EU Relations

### Webinar, April 7, 2022, 3-5 pm MET

In the shadow of Brexit, Swiss EU relations have stalled during the last decade. Bilateral relations failed to make progress, not addressing new and pressing issues. Ever since 2008, the EU called for an institutional framework including legal dispute resolution, and a more dynamic adoption of the *acquis* within the framework of more than 120 existing bilateral agreements. A Draft Framework Agreement of November 23, 2018 was controversially debated in Switzerland and failed to achieve wide support. The extension of free movement of persons to social rights, the reform of detached labour, and dispute resolution, in particular the role of the ECJ, have remained contentious. The Federal Council unilaterally withdrew from negotiations on May 26, 2021. A new agenda is currently being prepared and negotiations should resume this year.

While Switzerland is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner of the EU and mutual investments are strong, Swiss-EU relations, essentially defined by a constitutional system of direct democracy, often are not sufficiently understood. The webinar seeks to make a contribution to better understanding of the issues and discusses the prospects of negotiations and future relations between the EU, Member States with a country located in the heart of Europe. It will also address the potential implications of the Ukraine war on these negotiations.

### Speakers on the Panel

- Petros Mavromichalis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the EU to Switzerland and Lichtenstein
- Patric Franzen, Ambassador, Deputy Secretary of State, Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs
- Corneliu Hödlmayr, Legal Service of the Commission
- Erik Fjørner, Ambassador, Ambassador of Norway to Switzerland
- Jean-Daniel Gerber, former Secretary of State, Chair, Groupe de Réflexion, Platform CH-EU
- Chair: Javier Arias, President of ELEC
- Moderation: Thomas Cottier, Chair, La Suisse en Europe and ELEC Switzerland
- Monitoring : François Baudu, Secretary-General, ELEC



Q+A and discussions on line will follow each intervention to the point, and end with a general debate among the panel. Participants are kindly invited to submit comments and questions using the chat of webinar.

We hope that the webinar will interest you and very much look forward to your participation.

You will find the links for the webinar below. No registration is required.

Kind regards

Javier Arias  
President of ELEC, Brussels

Thomas Cottier,  
President ASE and ELEC Switzerland

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**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398828300?pwd=elIDRGNYngvb1dzYkF4citnSytUdz09>

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