

EU-Switzerland: Brussels and Bern try again to reach a deal for the future

Council of the EU and Swiss Federal Council adopt mandates for negotiations

EU - Swiss relations have been far from easy in past years: In May 2014, the Council authorized negotiations between the EU and Switzerland on an institutional framework agreement governing bilateral relations. Following years of negotiations, the EU and Switzerland politically agreed on a joint draft for an "institutional framework agreement" in November 2018. However, in May 2021, Switzerland unilaterally broke off negotiations on this agreement.

Within a new beginning, the Council of the EU on 12 March 2024 authorized the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the EU, a broad package of measures with Switzerland as the basis for future EU-Switzerland relations. It also approved the corresponding directives for the negotiation. The Swiss Federal Council adopted its mandate on 8 March.