



The President of the European Parliament

## Press Releases

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### Swiss President Micheline Calmy-Rey meets Buzek Brussels - Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Today, the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, received the President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, in his Brussels office. EP President Buzek said:

"Today is a great day for the relationship between the European Union and Switzerland. I am very glad to welcome the President of the Swiss Confederation, Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, here in Brussels. We had a very rich discussion, together with my colleagues Diana Wallis MEP, vice-president of the EP, and Pat the Cope Gallagher MEP, Chairman of the EP delegation for relations with Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway and to the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee.



The EU and Switzerland are strong partners. With no other country we have as many bilateral agreements. Switzerland is the EU's second partner in the exchange of goods, investments and services, just after the U.S. I expressed my wish to see our bilateral relations as comprehensive and coherent, based on a single package approach, both institutionally and substantially. This concerns the single market, but also good governance in fiscal matters. The financial crisis has shown that our banking sector needs better regulation worldwide.

During our meeting we also discussed the important international role Switzerland is playing in mediating between Armenia and Turkey, Russia and Georgia and serving as the US embassy in Iran.

We want to continue our intense inter-parliamentary relations that date back to 1981. We need an increased legislative dialogue. In that context, I look very much forward to my official visit to Switzerland on 9-10 June with several chairpersons of key EP committees."

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