

[Home](#)[Bilateral Agreements II](#)[Bilateral](#)[Agreements I](#)[>Popular Vote](#)[Agreement on Free Movement](#)[Official Documents](#)[Explanatory](#)[Documents](#)[Press Releases](#)[Further](#)[Informations](#)[Official Documents](#)[Explanatory](#)[Documents](#)[Popular Vote and](#)[Ratification](#)[Implementation](#)[Follow Up](#)[Swiss European Policy](#)[European Union](#)[EFTA](#)[News](#)[Publications](#)[Integration Office](#)[Assistance](#)

Popular vote Extension of the agreement on free movement of persons

On 25 September 2005, a vote will be held on the extension of the agreements on the freedom of movement and the revision of the accompanying measures. The optional referendum was successfully requested after 92'901 valid signatures had been gathered.

- [Official Texts: Text of Agreements, consultation, message](#)
- [Voting positions \(in german\)](#)
- [Explanatory Documents](#)
- [Media releases](#)
- [Further informations](#)

With the expansion of the EU by 10 new members on 1 May 2004, the existing bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU were automatically extended to the new member states. The exception was the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons of 1999, where amendments had to be negotiated with the EU. An additional protocol laid down separate transitional regulations in relation to the new Eastern European member states: This transitional system provides for a gradual and controlled opening of the Swiss labour market to workers from these new member states. Labour market restrictions (priority for Swiss nationals, quotas, controls on salary and working conditions) may continue to apply until 30 April 2011. In its 2004 winter session, the Swiss Parliament approved the additional protocol together with the revision of the flanking measures on wages and social dumping. Both bills were combined in a single federal decree, which was subject to an optional referendum.



© 2001 by Integration Office DFA/DEA, Parliament Building East, CH-3003 Berne. Phone: +41 (0)31/322 22 22, Fax: +41 (0)31/312 53 17, E-Mail. Last modification: 22.06.2005