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Brief Portraits

The Parties

14 parties are represented in the Federal Assembly (the National Council and the Council of States) for the legislative period 1991–1995. These are briefly presented here, although we do not have space to go into detailed policy matters. The SSA has put together a document kit in which the parties present their own policies, however, and this may be ordered in either German or French by sending an addressed envelope (at least A5 size) to:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne

We are not able to include here two groups which are represented in one canton only and are either closely linked to another party (Free List of Canton Berne) or have programmes limited to one region (Ticino League).

RL

Radical Democratic Party (FDP)

Founded: 1894; Members: about 150,000
Seats: National Council 44; Council of States 18
Chairman: National Councillor Franz Steinegger, Uri
Address: FDP Switzerland, P.O. Box 6136, CH-3001 Berne, Tel.: 41 31 22 34 38

Christian Democratic Party (CVP)

Founded: 1912; Members: about 80,000
Seats: National Council 37; Council of States 16
Chairman: State Councillor Carlo Schmid, Appenzell Inner Rhodes
Address: CVP Switzerland, P.O. Box 1759, CH-3001 Berne, Tel: 41 31 44 23 64

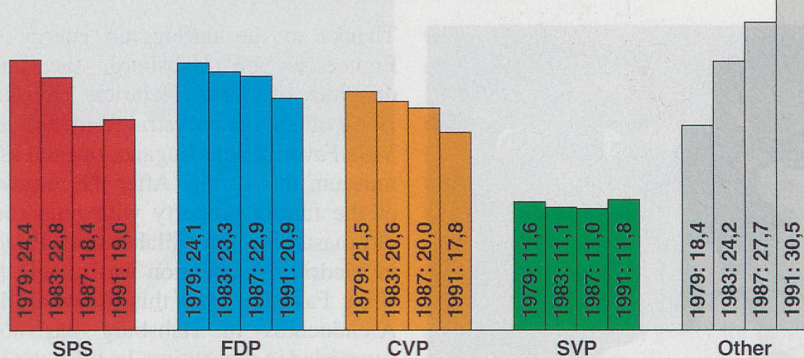
Social Democratic Party (SPS)

Founded: 1888; Members: about 40,000
Seats: National Council 43; Council of States 3
Chairman: National Councillor Peter Bodenmann, Valais
Address: SPS, P.O. Box 7876, CH-3001 Berne Tel: 41 31 22 07 44

Swiss People's Party (SVP)

Founded: 1936; Members: about 80,000
Seats: National Council 25; Council of States 4
Chairman: State Councillor Hans Uhlmann, Thurgau
Address: SVP, P.O. Box, CH-3009 Berne Tel.: 41 31 24 58 58

Voter shares in National Council elections 1979–1991



Green Party of Switzerland (GPS)

Founded: 1983; Members: about 8,200
Seats: National Council 3
Chairman: National Councillor Verena Diener, Zurich
Address: GPS, Marienstrasse 11, CH-3005 Berne Tel: 41 31 44 14 41
(The "Free List of Canton Berne", with one seat, also belongs to the Green Group in the National Council).

Liberal Party (LPS)

Founded: 1913; Members: about 15,000
Seats: National Council 10; Council of State 3
Chairman: François Jeanneret, Neuchâtel
Address: LPS, P.O. Box 7107, CH-3001 Berne Tel: 41 31 22 64 04

Auto Party/The Freedomers (AP)

Founded: 1985; Members: about 12,500
Seats: National Council 8
Chairman: National Councillor Jürg Scherrer, Berne
Address: APS, P.O. Box, CH-4622 Egerkingen Tel: 41 62 61 23 43

National Association of Independents (LdU)

Founded: 1936; Members: about 5,000
Seats: National Council 5; Council of States 1
Chairman: State Councillor Monika Weber, Zurich
Address: LdU, P.O. Box 7075, CH-3001 Berne Tel: 41 31 26 16 36
(The LdU forms a group in the National Council together with the EVP and non-party Herbert Maeder).

Swiss Democrats (SD)

Founded: 1961; Members: about 6,000
Seats: National Council 5
Chairman: National Councillor Rudolf Keller, Basle-Rural
Address: SD, P.O. Box 8116, CH-3001 Berne Tel: 41 31 22 27 74

(The Ticino League, with two seats in the National Council and one in the Council of States, also belongs to the SD Group in the National Council).

Evangelical People's Party (EVP)

Founded: 1919; Members: about 4,000
Seats: National Council 3
Chairman: National Councillor Otto Zwygart, Berne
Address: EVP, Switzerland, P.O. Box, CH-8023 Zurich, Tel: 41 1 272 71 00
(The EVP forms a group in the National Council together with the LdU and non-party Herbert Maeder).

Labour Party (PdA)

Founded: 1944; Members: about 4,000
Seats: National Council 2
Chairman: National Councillor Jean Spielmann, Geneva
Address: PdA, P.O. Box 232, CH-1211 Geneva 8 Tel: 41 22 328 11 40

Federal-Democratic Union (EDU)

Founded: 1975
Seats: National Council 1
Chairman: National Councillor Werner Scherrer, Berne
Address: EDU, P.O. Box, CH-3607 Thun Tel: 41 33 22 36 37

International sections

In the wake of the introduction of the postal vote, a number of parties have set up international sections in order to help Swiss Abroad exercise their political rights and to give them an opportunity of joining a Swiss party. The FDP, CVP, SVP and SD already have international sections.

Advertisement

Welcome to CVP International

The Christian Democratic Party has now created CVP International. This addresses all Swiss Abroad who find themselves in agreement with its general philosophical outlook and would like to take part in Swiss politics through the medium of this party. Members of CVP International receive regular information on political and social events in Switzerland and life at home, together with details of CVP policies. You can become a member of CVP International by filling up the form here – or you can simply use it to obtain information about the CVP, its aims and activities.

Welcome to CVP International!

☐ Yes, I would like to become a member of CVP International.

Please send me:

- ☐ the CVP Basic Programme
- ☐ the CVP Party Programme for 1991–1995
- ☐ a copy of the members' magazine, «CH-Magazin»
- ☐ the CVP policy document "Economic Measures for Strengthening the Swiss Economy – The CVP Way Forward"

Name

Address

Please send to:
CVP General Secretariat, Klaraweg, P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern