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The parties on the stand

To provide our readers with a direct comparison, "Swiss Review" posed the party leaders three concrete questions:

1 How many National Council seats is your party aiming to win in the upcoming elections?

2 What political goals has your party set itself for the next legislative term?

3 What is your party's position on the Federal Council's proposal of 28th April 1999 on limiting the voluntary AHV?



Liberal Democratic Party of Switzerland (FDP)

We want to become the strongest parliamentary group, doubling the number of women and lowering the average age.

The FDP wants to recreate a responsible Switzerland that retains maximum freedom while ensuring maximum security.

The FDP has called on the Federal Council to withdraw constraints on voluntary AHV forthwith, since this area of insurance is of key importance to older compatriots abroad.




Social Democratic Party of Switzerland (SP)

We want to hold onto our present number of seats in the National Council.

The SP aims to ensure the continuance of social cooperation in our country and promote greater international responsibility on the part of our country.

The SP supports the Federal Council's bill but calls for additional measures to protect persons in education as well as young persons in the job market.




Liberal Party of Switzerland (LPS)

The LPS is aiming to win 3 more seats in the National Council.

On all political issues we aim to take a liberal line and position, influenced neither by pressures to increase social benefits nor by the excesses of the hard-core Right.

The LPS regrets the fact that the effects of the revision on Swiss Abroad were underestimated.




Freedom Party (FPS)

The FPS is aiming to win 5-8 mandates.

On the one hand we oppose Switzerland's admission to the EU, UNO and NATO, on the other hand we are against the increasing focus of the state on burdening the taxpayer.

The FPS has no definitive position on this subject. Generally speaking the party is in favour of retaining this important social instrument without increasing salary deductions.




Evangelical People's Party of Switzerland (EVP)

The EVP is aiming for at least 5 mandates in order to strengthen the parliamentary group.

We are committed to ethical, social and environmental issues as well as questions concerning transport policy.

In principle the voluntary AHV should be kept.



Ticino League (LegA)

The League is aiming for 2 National Council seats.

We favour a more restrictive asylum policy and are against the rapprochement of Switzerland with Europe.

We are against any restrictions on voluntary AHV.



Women in Politics! (FraP!)

We want to hold our Zurich seat and anticipate at least 12 additional high-profile feminists in parliament.

Our goal is a society marked by solidarity and equality of work, time, pay and space – irrespective of gender, origin, colour or sexual orientation.

In principle we believe that Swiss Abroad should in every respect be treated in the same way as foreigners in Switzerland.



Christian Democratic Party (CVP)

The CVP aims to defend its present number of seats in the National and State Councils, and remain the third strongest parliamentary group.
One of the main goals of the next legislative period will be to ensure social instruments.
The CVP supports a limitation of applicability to states with which no reciprocal agreement exists.



Swiss People's Party (SVP)

The SVP has set itself the goal of retaining the present number of National Council seats.
The party is in favour of a solid middle-class Switzerland whose inhabitants can live independently, in safety and freedom.
We cannot permit compatriots living abroad to be worse off in terms of social security benefits than foreigners living in Switzerland.



Green Party of Switzerland (Greens)

Our goal is to gain three mandates, in order to occupy 11 National Council seats.
We want to see Switzerland equipped for the future with an environmental offensive and an effective social policy that enables EU and UNO membership.
The definitive position is still open; but the proposal contains improvements over the public hearing stage.



Swiss Democrats (SD)

The aim is for a strong parliamentary group with at least 5 National Council seats.
Reduction in the catastrophic influx of foreigners, restrictions on immigration and prevention of EU membership.
The SD have always fought against any discrimination of Swiss Abroad; for this reason we, too, are against any limitations to voluntary AHV.



National Association of Independents (LdU)

To defend our 3 seats and gain one seat each in the cantons of Berne and St. Gallen.
We want to represent a solid middle class and do this by combining small and minority parties of the present centre.
Should Switzerland vote for the bilateral agreements, other retirement provisions must be set up for Swiss Abroad.



Labour Party (PdA)

We want to form a parliamentary group to the left of the Social Democrats.
Committed to public services, against any reduction in social security and fiscalisation of new funding sources.
It is a savings compromise under which women and the disadvantaged will suffer.



Christian Democratic Party of Switzerland (CSP)

We want to acquire 1-2 National Council mandates.
We are in favour of a common, consolidated and just future.
For reasons of cost the CSP supports the Federal Council's bill.



Federal Democratic Union (EDU)

We are aiming to retain the existing mandate and additionally win 2-3 seats.
We are in favour of a Switzerland with Christian values which behaves in a responsible manner (elimination of federal deficit, balanced budget) and is able to develop autonomously, with no constraints (rejection of EU and UNO membership).
In principle we are against any limitation of the voluntary AHV.