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VOX POPULI

Once again the "voice of the people" has done the right thing in rejecting the recent referendum to deport 500,000 foreign workers from Switzerland within three years.

The acceptance would have meant a daily deportation of nearly 500 people for three years from their source of employment and livelihood. The disastrous effect and what the future could hold for all these people does not bear thinking about. The countries they came from could not possibly absorb them again, suffering themselves from unemployment and low living standard.

I understand the movers of this referendum, whom one might call patriots and the nearly 900,000 citizens who voted for it. They want to preserve Switzerland and fear the foreign influence with all its consequences on their own way of life, but surely a more sensible way can be found to restrict and gradually reduce the influx of foreign labour.

With the rejection of this poll the foreign worker problem is by no means over. More actions are in the offing, but appear from what is known today, to be a great deal more responsible and humane.

I am deeply grateful for the result of this referendum, not only because the good name of Switzerland is no longer at stake, but because I also happen to live in a foreign country.

Arnold Biland.