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Autor: Schenck, Michael U.R. von

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The Ambassador of Switzerland

Dear fellow - Swiss,
dear friends

700 years of Switzerland: 1991 is a year to celebrate and to think. To think about the basis of Switzerland: its unique achievement of self-government by the people themselves.

Self-government: the people vote and decide themselves on the important issues. That is the Swiss way. (Not just electing bodies to whom the decision-making is abdicated, as the rest of the world does.) And to take the decisions as close to the people as possible: by the towns and the cantons. That is Swiss. Uniquely Swiss.

Our system is far from being aged. Switzerland is the only nation where the people decide themselves. For many nations of Europe and the world, it is still a dream and a model.

I invite all Swiss - young and all, at the home and abroad - to clearly evaluate and appreciate their outstanding political heritage, to recognize its model merits, to be ready to stand for it and to develop it.

There is no paradise on earth. There are not only excellent people in Switzerland. However, clearly the Swiss political system of direct democracy is the best there is.

Michael U.R. von Marbach