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Initiative Opposes Swiss-EU Bi-lateral Treaties

Headed by the far-right Swiss Democrats and the Lega dei Ticinesi, the phalanx of opposition to Switzerland's treaties with the EU deposited petitions with 70,000 signatures at the Federal Chancellery recently.(Feb.2000)

They thus validated the initiative aimed at preventing ratification of the Swiss pacts with the EU. The collection of signatures was especially successful in the Lake Constance region, Central Switzerland, the Ticino, and the City of Zurich. In francophone Western Switzerland, on the other hand, no more than 7,000 signatures were collected.

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LATEST NEWS

(18.2.2000) Nef wins world cup Giant slalom in skiing, Switzerland's Sonja Nef has won the floodlit World Cup giant slalom in the Swedish resort of Are. It was Nef's second win of the season, and lifted her to fifth in the overall standings. She completed the two legs in a combined time of 2 minutes 27.79 seconds. Michaela Dorfmeister, who crashed out on the first run, has been overtaken as overall world cup leader by fellow Austrian Renate Götschl.



Sonja Nef with Partner Hans and Parents Willi & Frieda at home in Grub/AR

In addition to the two right-wing parties, a green-left committee is preparing to fight approval of the Swiss-EU Land Transport Pact. They feel that Swiss concessions to the EU allowing the transit of 40-ton trucks go too far.

It is unclear at this time whether the Swiss People's Party (SVP) and the Action for a Neutral and Independent Switzerland (Auns), the latter headed by SVP National Councilman Christoph Blocher, will jump on the anti-EU-pact bandwagon. The vote on the initiative will take place on 21 May.

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