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Promises and reality

There are always plenty of major announcements and promises made during election campaigns. Many of these are often quickly forgotten again in day-to-day political life. We have therefore produced a summary of the voting at the National Council over the past four years on proposals directly affecting Swiss citizens abroad.

In the table below, proposals voted on in the previous legislature (2008-2011) are divided into two groups – issues that directly concern

the Swiss abroad and those that might have an impact on the Swiss abroad. The voting behaviour of political parties and not of

individual members of parliament is shown. Exact figures are given where the voting was close.

Proposals with a direct impact	SP	Greens	CVP	FDP/Lib	BDP	SVP	Vote
Increase in the budget provided for by the Federal Council for Swiss schools abroad from 15.4 to 20 million Swiss francs. The SVP proposed that the budget only be increased to 17 million Swiss francs.	■	■	■	■	PARTY NOT YET FOUNDED	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL DEC. 2007
Political representation: Carlo Sommaruga (SP) called for guaranteed seats for the Swiss abroad in parliament through a parliamentary initiative. The number was not defined.	■	16:15 ■	■	■	PARTY NOT YET FOUNDED	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL SEPT. 2008
No reduction to the budget for "Swiss Review" by 0.5 million Swiss francs as put forward by the Federal Council (proposal by Carlo Sommaruga, SP)	■	■	17:13 ▼	▼	PARTY NOT YET FOUNDED	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL DEC. 2008
Legal basis for the funding of the various federal government duties in relation to the Swiss abroad (Federal Council proposal)	■	■	■	■	■	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL MARCH 2009
Additional budget to cover the shortfall in the pension fund of Swiss schools abroad (Federal Council proposal)	■	■	■	■	■	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL JUNE 2009
Abolition of the right to dual citizenship for newly naturalised citizens (proposal by Jasmin Hutter, SVP)	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	■	NATIONAL COUNCIL MARCH 2010
Elimination of financial hurdles in re-naturalisation (proposal by Antonio Hodgers, SP)	■	■	22:12 ▼	▼	▼	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL MARCH 2010
Adjustment of invalidity insurance pensions for pensioners living abroad to the purchasing power of the place of residence (SVP parliamentary initiative)	▼	▼	15:15 ●	13:11 ▼	■	■	NATIONAL COUNCIL DEC. 2010
Appropriate remuneration for members of parliament elected to the National Council as Swiss citizens abroad	■	■	■	■	■	31:22 ▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL DEC. 2010
Facilitation of renewal of entry on the electoral roll – Swiss abroad who vote no longer have to renew their entry (parliamentary initiative by Thérèse Meyer-Kaelin, CVP)	■	■	■	■	■	■	NATIONAL COUNCIL MARCH 2011
Proposals with a possible impact	SP	Greens	CVP	FDP/Lib	BDP	SVP	Vote
Introduction of biometric passports	▼	▼	■	■	PARTY NOT YET FOUNDED	■	NATIONAL COUNCIL JUNE 2008
Continuation and extension of the agreement on the free movement of persons between Switzerland and the EU	■	■	■	■	PARTY NOT YET FOUNDED	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL JUNE 2008
Treaty on administrative cooperation between Switzerland and the USA in relation to the banking affair	▼	10:7 ▼	■	■	■	▼	NATIONAL COUNCIL JUNE 2010

■ FOR ▼ AGAINST ● TIE