

International Geneva and the Union

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Relations between the Geneva financial centre and the European Union also run through International Geneva. The Union is one of the leading contributors to the organisations established in Geneva. It maintains a permanent delegation there and its Member States have missions in the city. Geneva's non-governmental organisations receive European funding. The European research programmes, in which Swiss participation is restored by the 2026 package, finance Geneva projects in health, climate and the sciences.¹ International Geneva is thus a place where Switzerland and the Union cooperate on a daily basis, away from bilateral tensions, and this cooperation supports the international vocation enshrined in the Geneva Constitution.

For the financial centre, this channel has an indirect but real value. The international organisations and their European officials form both a clientele and a pool of talent. The sustainable finance initiatives described in Chapter II involve European players. The debates on international financial regulation, at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel and in the Geneva forums, bring together Swiss and Europeans. A rupture of bilateral relations would not directly affect International Geneva, but it would weaken the image of a cooperative country on which that Geneva depends.

1 Notes

1. European Union, “Delegation of the European Union to the UN in Geneva” (eeas.europa.eu): delegation established at rue du Grand-Pré 66 in Geneva, headed by Ambassador Deike Potzel, representing the Union to the United Nations Office and the international organisations in Geneva (Human Rights Council, WHO, ILO, UNHCR, UNCTAD, WIPO, UNECE) and publishing information on “EU Funding to the UN system”. ↩

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