

The international community's voice

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The international community has found indirect ways of making its voice heard. The companies speak through their business associations, which are consulted on legislation and have influence in cantonal politics. The Zug Chamber of Commerce and the associations of the commodity traders, the crypto industry and the holding companies represent the interests of their members, most of which are international.¹ Expatriate associations organise events with local politicians and authorities. Integration bodies at cantonal and municipal level offer further channels for the concerns of foreign residents.

These channels are useful but limited. They give the international community a say in questions that concern it directly, such as the quality of the international schools, the availability of housing or the conditions for work permits. They do not give it a vote on taxes, public expenditure, planning or the many other questions that the citizens of Zug decide at the ballot box. The situation is accepted by most expatriates, who see themselves as guests, and by most citizens, who see the political community as theirs. It becomes a source of tension when the interests of the two groups diverge, as in the debates on immigration and housing.

1 Notes

1. Zuger Wirtschaftskammer, zwk.ch: independent representative of the Zug economy, advocating members' economic interests before authorities, politics and society, with more than 600 members including Novartis, AstraZeneca and UBS. Zug Commodity Association, zugcommodity.ch: founded in 2012, among other things as a source of information for the public, the administration and politicians. Crypto Valley Association, cryptovalley.swiss: independent association based in Zug, founded in 2017. ↩

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