

The relationship with the European Union

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Switzerland's relationship with the European Union frames the environment for all the companies of Zug. The bilateral agreements give Swiss companies access to the European internal market in many sectors and allow the free movement of persons. The package of agreements concluded in December 2024 would update and stabilise the relationship, including the institutional questions that had blocked progress for a decade.¹ The package must be approved by Parliament and, probably, by the voters in a referendum. Its fate will determine whether Switzerland's access to the European market remains secure or deteriorates.

For Zug, the European question has several dimensions. The free movement of persons allows its companies to recruit from the European Union without quotas. Access to European research programmes matters to its life sciences and technology companies. Market access for financial services, which the package does not include, would matter to its crypto and finance companies. The political debate on the package has divided the Swiss business community: most large companies support it, while some small companies and the political right oppose it as a loss of sovereignty. The canton's government has expressed support for a stable relationship with the Union.²

1 Notes

1. Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, "Paket Schweiz-EU", europa.eda.admin.ch: negotiations concluded materially in December 2024 and formally in May 2025; consultation June to end of October 2025; agreements signed on 2 March 2026; dispatch to Parliament adopted on 13 March 2026; Federal Council in favour of an optional referendum. ↩

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2. Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, "Zwischenbericht zu den Ergebnissen der Vernehmlassung" on the Switzerland–EU package, 5 December 2025, europa.eda.admin.ch: the canton of Zug is among the participants that support the package in principle, among the 13 cantons that assess the institutional elements positively and among the large majority of cantons that support the dynamic adoption of law. ↩

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