

1 FEDERAL COUNCIL



It was a historic day for Switzerland: with Viola Amherd and Karin Keller-Suter, two women were elected to the Federal Council for the first time at once; in addition, both candidates were elected in the first round. On

Wednesday they conjured up the new concordance, on Friday the distribution of departments was postponed due to disagreements in the new Federal Council. For quite certainly there will be castling in the distribution of departments. The procedure is clear: The members of the provincial government announce their wishes according to their seniority.

Bild: SRF

- a) What are the names of the two elected Federal Councillors?
- b) What is the name of the procedure if one is already elected in the first round in elections?
- c) What does the concordance principle of CH mean?
- d) The Federal Council is a collegial authority. What does that mean?

2 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



After 32 rounds of negotiations in the last 4 years, the Swiss government has let the controversial framework agreement demanded by the EU burst for the time being. Differences exist in particular with regard to wage

protection and EU citizenship. The government is now launching a consultation before deciding on a signature in spring.

Bild: SRF

- a) What is the purpose of the Framework Agreement?
- b) What does the Framework Agreement regulate?
- c) What consequences must Switzerland expect if it does not sign?
- d) What are the names of the agreements that Switzerland has concluded with the EU

3 «GILETS JAUNES» PROTESTS



The Gilets Jaunes have been protesting for weeks all over France. Especially in Paris there were violent riots. The anger of the protesters was initially directed against the tax increases on fuel and the dwindling purchasing

power. Meanwhile, the demands are becoming more fundamental and the protests are taking on revolutionary traits. The protesters demand more direct democracy, higher pensions and wages and even the resignation of President Macron. The main criticism is of the upward redistribution: Neglect of the middle class - preference for the super-rich, rising costs of living and stagnating wages.

Bild: SRF

- a) Who are the «Gilets Jaunes»?
- b) Why are they called «Gilets Jaunes»?
- c) Who belongs to the middle class?
- d) What does stagnating wages mean?
- e) What distinguishes direct democracy (CH) from representative democracy (F, D, etc.)?

? ETHICAL QUESTION

Is it ethically justifiable for citizens to protest violently?
(Individual answers)

4 GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE



While the UN climate conference took place in Katowice, Poland, the National Council in Switzerland is debating the implementation of the new CO2 law. Discussions focused on support payments for building insulation (450

million), CO2 compensation abroad (25%–100%) as well as charges on airline tickets and petrol.

Bild: SRF

- a) What is the main cause of global warming?
- b) What is the goal of the climate summit?
- c) What are consequences of global warming?
- d) What are Switzerland's goals?
- e) What taxes are planned?

Grundlagen / Strukturwissen im Buch <Staat und Wirtschaft>

KAPITEL	SEITE/N
Politische Rechte	21ff
Der Bundesrat	42,43
Bilaterale Abkommen Schweiz - EU	166
Umweltpolitik	168

DIFFICULT WORDS

- ▶ Castling / Rochade
- ▶ Principle of seniority
- ▶ Consultation

