

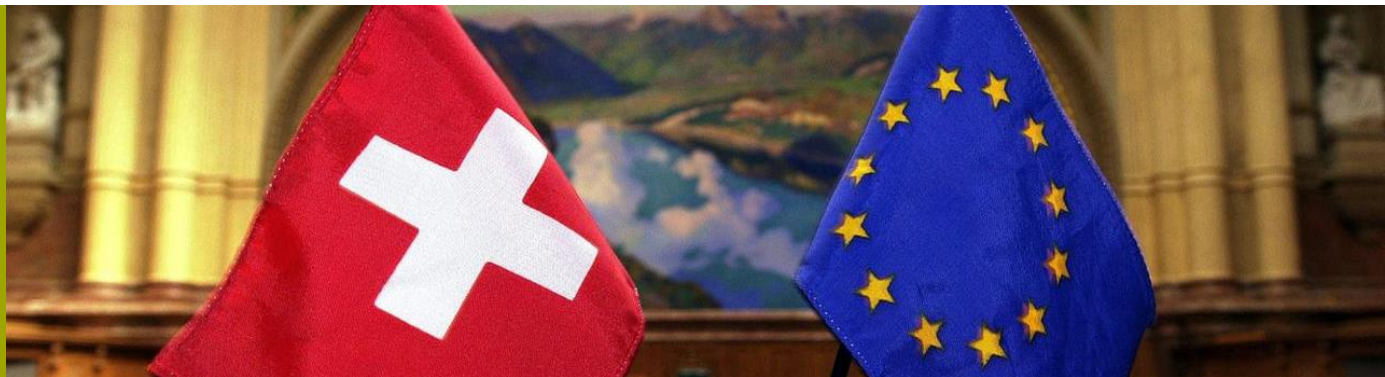
Schweizer Bauernverband  
Union Suisse des Paysans  
Unione Svizzera dei Contadini

**sbv | usp | usc**



**Beat Rööfli**

Head of International Affairs



## **EU-Switzerland Bilateral Path**

# A sovereign state but highly integrated



# Best fit for Switzerland: EU? EEA? Bilaterals?

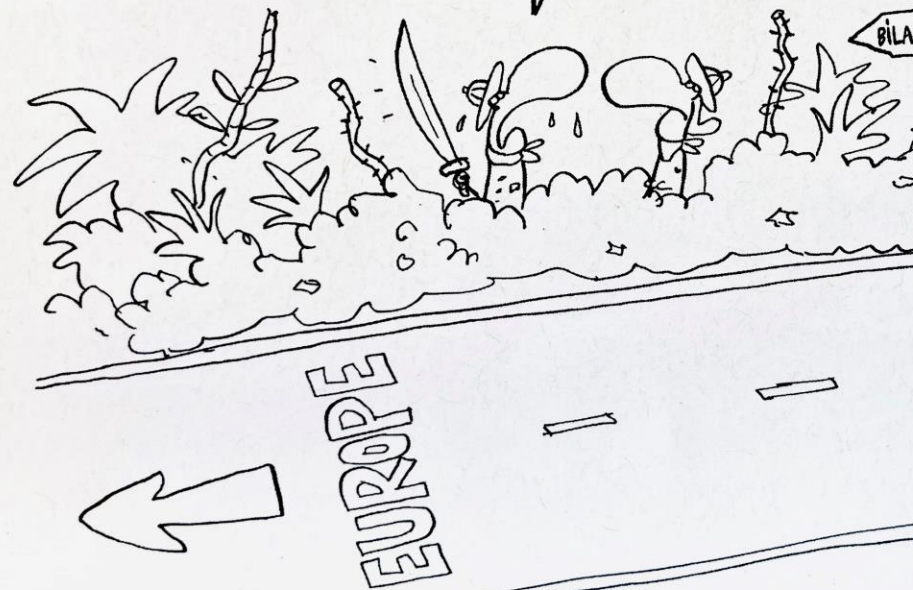
Og når kan vi starte forhandlingene?

Det er oppe til forhandling!

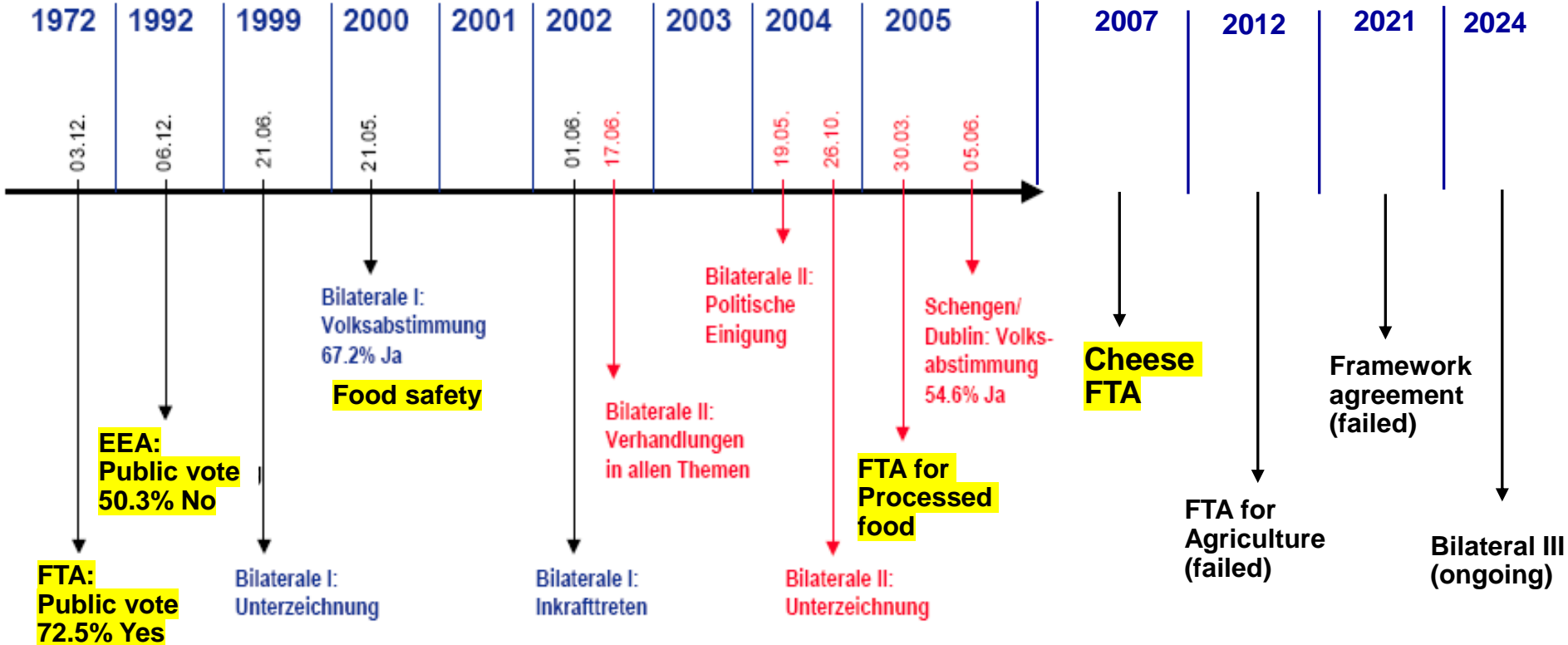


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Er du sikker på at vi tok den enkleste veien?



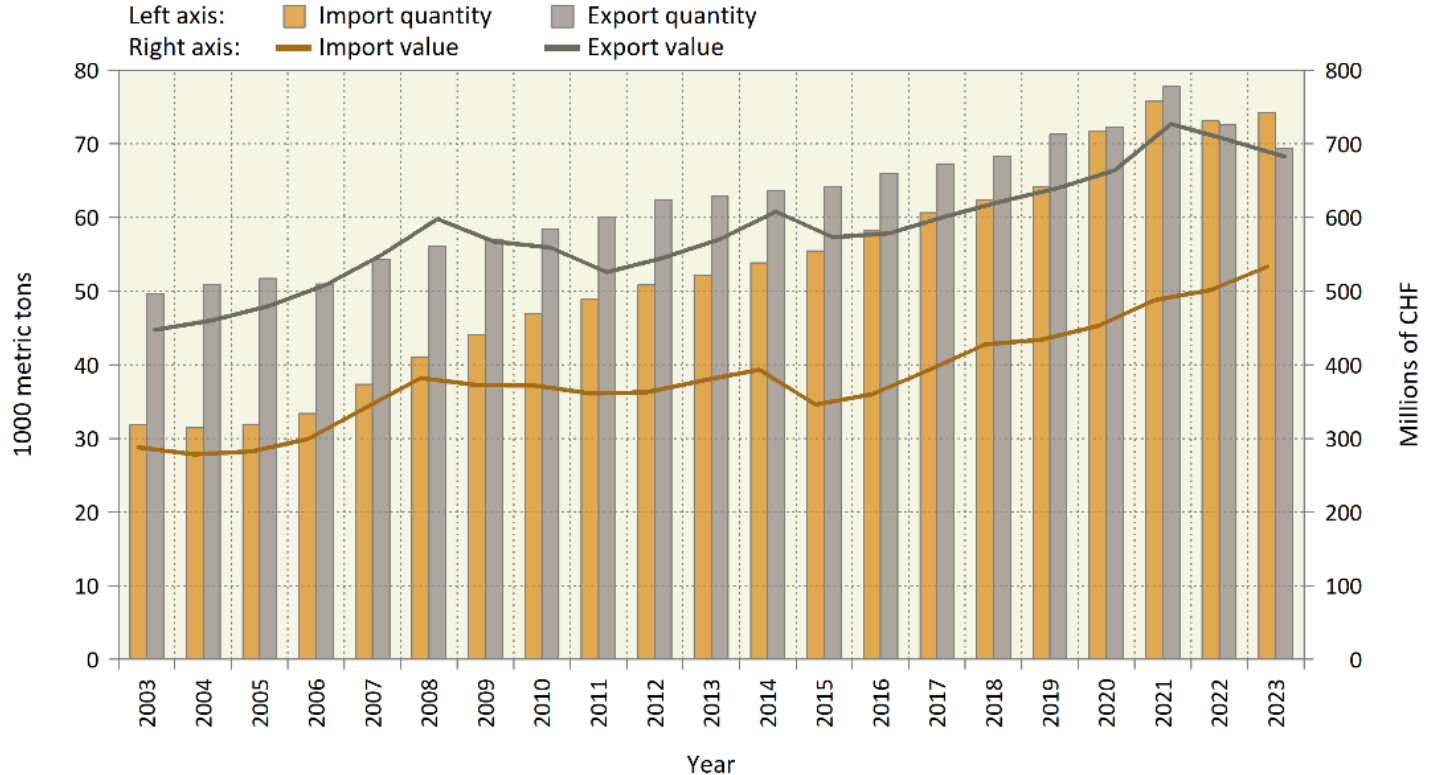
# Development of the bilateral agreements



# Free trade for cheese



Quantity and value of traded cheese



# Bilateral agreements Switzerland - EU

- Bilateral relations include many agreements
- High complexity
- Disagreement on interpretation of law
- Legal uncertainty for business
- No dispute settlement
  
- Resistance is possible (from both sides)
- EU is pressuring Switzerland
- Like a third country

# Negotiating mandate with the EU



- Erosion of existing agreements
- New topics
  
- Negotiations since 2023
- Goal: to stabilize the bilateral path in the long term
- Package approach with greater flexibility

# Objectives of the new package

- Updating existing agreements
- New agreements on electricity and food safety
- Exceptions to protect Swiss interests
- Institutional issues settled in agreements
- Participation in EU programs (Horizon Europe)
- Financial contribution to cohesion





# Not in the package

- Customs duties and quotas
- Agricultural policy guidelines
- Agricultural subsidies (cheese, dairy)
- GMO, declaration on food packages, sustainability, climate, etc.



# Position of Swiss Farmers Union



- Continuing the bilateral way for stability
- **Border protection and sovereignty over agricultural policy are non-negotiable. The EU must be made to understand this.**
- This also applies to institutional aspects.
- Improvements in the areas of food safety, research and pesticides authorization.
- Exceptions for animal welfare and new breeding techniques.
- Keep financial obligations low.

# Example EU-Deforestation Regulation

