



## FACT SHEET

# GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY EUROPE

**In an increasingly fragmented world, a stable, prosperous Europe is crucial for Switzerland's security, prosperity and independence. As part of the European community of shared values, Switzerland also aims to strengthen its relations with the European Union (EU), NATO and other European countries in general.**

### Relations with the European Union

The geopolitical situation underlines the importance of stable relations between Switzerland and the EU that can be further developed. Clarifying all open questions is indispensable. Switzerland is committed to further developing the bilateral approach. In addition to updating the existing single market agreements, the aim is to conclude new agreements. Participation in EU programmes is also to be guaranteed. The EU is Switzerland's most important trading partner.

### Neighbouring countries and other bilateral relations

Switzerland's neighbouring countries are its most important partners. The Confederation, in cooperation with the cantons, will strengthen these partnerships and cultivate trust-based collaboration in the border regions. It will do the same with the other EU member states. The United Kingdom is also an important partner of Switzerland.

### Security

In light of the situation due to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, European security has been gaining significance for Swiss foreign policy. Switzerland aims to develop its security policy cooperation with the EU and NATO, as well as with bilateral partners. It will reinforce its participation in military peace promotion missions with high-value contributions, support the OSCE and offer dialogue formats for exchanges on security policy.

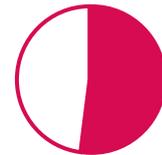
### Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova

Switzerland attaches strategic importance to supporting and reconstructing Ukraine. It will support the victims of the war through its international cooperation programmes. Particular importance will be given to humanitarian demining operations. By hosting the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2022 in Lugano, Switzerland laid the groundwork for the reconstruction of Ukraine. At the request of the Ukrainian president, it has agreed to organise a high-level conference on the peace in Ukraine. Switzerland will also reinforce its support in Moldova, which is being negatively impacted by the war in Ukraine.

### Western Balkans

Challenges in this region include a renewed rise in tensions and violent incidents in some areas, as well as the difficult economic and demographic situation. Switzerland supports a normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo. It wishes to use its instruments and contributions in the region in an even more coordinated manner, as part of a comprehensive regional approach.

## EUROPE



**52%** of  
Switzerland's trade  
in goods and services  
involves European Union  
member states.



Switzerland has signalled its readiness to **host a summit meeting of the European Political Community** during this legislative period.



Full section of  
the strategy