



MISSION SUISSE AUPRÈS DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES  
SCHWEIZERISCHE MISSION BEI DEN EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN  
SWISS MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
MISSIONE SVIZZERA PRESSO LE COMUNITÀ EUROPEE

**SwissCore**

Swiss Contact Office for  
Research and Higher Education

### **Claude Longchamp**

Claude Longchamp is director of the GfS Research Institute in Zurich and Berne, and head of its department "Politics and State". He is one of the most prominent political analysts in the Swiss public context and also teaches in Lucerne, Fribourg and Zurich. His research and work focus on political culture and communication in Switzerland and also in international comparisons, the mechanisms of elections, votings and political parties, and European integration.

### **Bruno Oesch**

Bruno Oesch is co-founder and CEO of Prionics AG in Schlieren, Switzerland, a spin-off from Zurich University. Prionics AG is the world leader in BSE tests and was awarded the Swiss Economic Award in summer 2002. A graduate from ETH Zurich, Bruno Oesch worked and published in the field of prions and prion diseases. His scientific career took him to Tübingen and San Francisco, where he worked in the group of Nobel Prize winner Stanley Prusiner, before he returned to Zurich. Bruno Oesch was strongly involved in the public discussion on the Swiss referendum on gene technology in 1998.

### **Rainer Gerold**

Rainer Gerold is Director for "Science & Society" in the DG Research of the European Commission. He has been working at the European Commission since 1982. He was director for finances and administration, for the collaboration with third countries and, most recently, responsible for the directorate "life sciences I". R. Gerold has an academic background in law and economy. Before joining the European Commission he held positions in Cologne, Bonn, Geneva and Munich.

**SwissCore**

and

the **Swiss Mission to the European Communities**

kindly invite you to the second

"Swiss Science Briefing"

on

**When direct democracy and scientific research**

**clash:**

**Science and Society in Dialogue**

**Lessons learnt from the Swiss context**

Wednesday, 20 November 2002, 12.00 – 14.30h

Swiss Mission to the EC, Place du Luxembourg 1, Brussels

In its White Paper on „European Governance“, the Commission of the European Communities stated its aim to open up the policy-making process to get more people and organisations involved in shaping and delivering EU policy. It promoted greater openness, accountability and responsibility for all those involved. Along the same line, with the implementation of the European Research Area, the EU wants to strengthen the integration of science and technology in European society.

In Switzerland, society is directly involved in political decision making not only via elections but also via referenda on concrete issues like genetic engineering. With this system of direct democracy on the one hand, and its federalist structure on the other, Switzerland has a tradition and experience with societal dialogue forms which are relevant also to a European context.

In the framework of the second “Swiss Science Briefing” in Brussels we would like to address some of the following questions: What are the characteristics of the relation science – society – politics in Switzerland? How does it change over time, and what kind of influences can be seen (e.g. by the referendum on gene technology in 1998)? What are Swiss politics, science, and industry doing to further enhance the dialogue between science and society?

## Programme

20 November 2002, 12:00 – 14:30

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|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>12:00</b> | <b>Sandwich lunch</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>12:30</b> | <b>Welcome</b><br>Jürg Burri<br><i>Swiss Mission to the European Communities</i>                                                           |
| <b>12:40</b> | <b>“Science vs. Society”: a political analyst speaking</b><br>Claude Longchamp<br><i>Director of GfS Research Institute, Zurich / Bern</i> |
| <b>13:00</b> | <b>Science and Politics: diverging expectations exemplified by BSE</b><br>Bruno Oesch<br><i>CEO Prionics SA</i>                            |
| <b>13:20</b> | <b>Comment</b><br>Rainer Gerold<br><i>Director “Science &amp; Society”, European Commission</i>                                            |
|              | <b>Panel discussion</b> with the speakers<br>Moderated by Martina Weiss <i>SwissCore</i>                                                   |

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