

Invitation - Study Trip to Switzerland

Procedures and Practices of Modern Direct Democracy, June 10 - 15, 2010



Dear Mr. Woodcock:

We are contacting you on behalf of the Swiss Confederation to cordially invite you to participate in an upcoming study briefing tour to Switzerland highlighting **the Procedures and Practices of Modern Direct Democracy, from June 10 - 15, 2010.**

This exclusive trip offers twelve carefully selected participants from US academia, government, media and the private sector the unique opportunity to get a first hand experience of the practical use of the initiative and referendum process in Europe and Switzerland.

Switzerland was the inspiration for American reformers who a century ago introduced initiative and referendum across the United States. Here the Swiss continue to use the initiative and the referendum on all political levels, fine-tuning the process to respond to new challenges. On this tour you will meet some of the most experienced I&R practitioners in the world, and see and experience direct democracy first hand. You'll also learn more about the future of direct democracy in Europe, which is in the process of establishing the world's first transnational direct democracy procedure -- the European Citizens' Initiative.

Your extensive background in the field of initiatives and referendums, as well as your excellence in promoting citizens friendly solutions make you an excellent candidate in our efforts to connect the dots between Switzerland and North America in the important realm of modern direct democracy. We would be honored if you accepted our invitation.

The preliminary program is attached along a registration form, which you are asked to sent back asap to the organizer of the tour, IRI Europe president Bruno Kaufmann: kaufmann@iri-europe.org.

The cost of this trip within Switzerland will be covered by the Swiss Confederation, represented by IRI Europe. You are however invited to make and organize your own way to and from Switzerland with a latest arrival time on June 10 at 2 pm at Zurich Airport and the earliest departure time on June 15 at 4 pm from Zurich again. If you should need a contribution to the air ticket please contact Bruno Kaufmann to discuss this asap.

We kindly ask you to RSVP by **Friday, April 30, 2010.**

With best regards,

Pascal Prinz
Program Manager USA Presence Switzerland
Embassy of Switzerland in Washington

Getting involved with Switzerland?

ThinkSwiss is your opportunity to get involved with Switzerland. The program "Think Swiss – Brainstorm the future" promotes exchanges and the sharing of know-how between the USA and Switzerland. www.thinkswiss.org.

Further information about Switzerland, www.swissworld.org

Registration Form

“Modern Direct Democracy in Europe and Switzerland” June 10-15, 2010

Please return this form to the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe by e-mail: kaufmann@iri-europe.org or by fax: +4623797925 at your earliest convenience!

1. **First Name:**
2. **Last Name:**.....
3. **Title/Function:**.....
4. **Organization:**.....
5. **Postal address:**
6. **Mobile Phone:**.....
7. **E-mail address:**.....
8. **Date and time of arrival/ time/ from where/ flight number:**
9. **Date and time of departure/ time/ flight number:**.....
10. **Passport number:**
11. **Place and Date of Birth:**
12. **Special needs (vegetarian food etc.):**
13. **Is this your first visit to Switzerland?**
14. **Main fields of interest related to the Initiative and Referendum institute:**
.....
15. **Remarks:**

Please pay attention to the pre-events in May in Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco, which will also include pre-your briefings.

Briefing Tour to Switzerland - Draft Agenda



Welcome to a Briefing Tour on Modern Direct Democracy. Welcome to Switzerland, the inspiration for American reformers who a century ago introduced initiative and referendum across the United States. Here the Swiss continue to use the initiative and the referendum on all political levels, fine-tuning the process to respond to new challenges. On this tour you will meet some of the most experienced I&R practitioners in the world, and see and experience direct democracy first hand. You'll also learn more about the future of direct democracy in Europe, which is in the process of establishing the world's first transnational direct democracy procedure -- the European Citizens' Initiative.

Day	Schedule	Event	Remarks
1 Thursday, June 10	Until 2 pm	Arrival in Zurich	Meeting Point at the Airport, Transfer to Bulach (by bus)
	4 pm	Welcome Reception	Check-in: www.zum-goldenen-kopf.ch
	5-7 pm	Introduction and information roundtable	Bruno Kaufmann, Tour Guide
	7.30 pm	Welcome Dinner around four local ballot measures	Cultural Center im [LETTER MISSING?] Guss
2 Friday, June 11	8 am	Breakfast and Check-Out	Transfer to Zurich
	10-12 am	Direct Democracy in the City of Zurich	City Hall
	Noon	Working Lunch on Campaigning	Urs Rellstab, Economiesuisse
	2-4 pm	E-Direct Democracy in the Canton of Zurich	
	5-7 pm	Boat Trip to Rapperswil	Check-in – Hotel: www.schwanen.ch
	Evening	Dinner with guests	Hotel Schwanen
3 Saturday, June 12	8 am	Breakfast and Check-Out	
	9.30-11.30 am	Direct Democracy and Constitution Making	Andi Gross, MP Swiss Parliament and Member of Constitutional Convention
	Noon	Working Lunch and City Briefing	Benedikt Würth, Mayor of Rapperswil-Jona
	3-5 pm	Transfer to Mount Rigi (6000 feet)	
	5-7 pm	Reception and Outlook	Adrian Schmid, DD Campaigner on environmental issues
	7-9 pm	Transfer to Lucerne	Check-in: www.drei-koenige.ch
	Evening	Free evening/optional cultural event	
4 Sunday, June 13	8 am	Breakfast and Check-Out	
	9–10 am	Visit and Briefing at ballot station	4 State and 2 City measures
	10-11 am	Briefing at ballot counting center	
	12.30-2 pm	Lunch with guests	
	3-5 pm	Transfer to Bern	Check-In: www.hotelbern.ch
	5.30 pm -	Direct Democracy City Walk/ Dinner	Claude Longchamp, Pollster and City Walker

Day	Schedule	Event	Remarks
5 Monday, June 14	8 am	Breakfast	
	9 – 11.30	Seminar on national and transnational Initiative and Referendum	Politforum Käfigturm
	Noon	Lunch at the “Government dining room”	
	2-4 pm	The Administration of Swiss I&R, Hans-Urs Wili, Head of Section for Political Rights	Politforum Käfigturm
	4.30-6 pm	Visit to Federal Palace and Parliament Building	
	Evening	Farewell Dinner with guests	
6, Tuesday, June 15	8 am	Breakfast and Check-Out	
	9 am	Meeting with Federal Chancellor Corina Casanova	Federal Palace
	10-12 am	Sum-Up and Evaluation session	Media Center
	Noon-	Departures by train to Zurich Airport	

Important Information:

- Participants are asked to organize/cover their own trip to/from Zurich airport with latest arrival on June 10 at 2 pm and earliest departure on June 15 at 4 pm.
- Participants are asked to register by filling-in and sending a registration form to the tour organizers.
- Pre-Tour Briefings will be given in Washington (May 24), Los Angeles (May 25: http://zocalopublicsquare.org/upcoming.php?event_id=393) and San Francisco (May 26).

For any inquiry regarding this program please contact: Bruno Kaufmann, President, IRI Europe, kaufmann@iri-europe.org, +46-708-234469

This briefing tour is part of the run-up activities to the 2010 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy [2010globalforum.com]

This tour is organized by  Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe

In cooperation with and supported by

www.swissworld.org



Switzerland.