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Brief Portraits

# The Parties

14 parties are represented in the Federal Assembly (the National Council and the Council of States) for the legislative period 1991–1995. These are briefly presented here, although we do not have space to go into detailed policy matters. The SSA has put together a document kit in which the parties present their own policies, however, and this may be ordered in either German or French by sending an addressed envelope (at least A5 size) to:

*Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad*  
 Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne

We are not able to include here two groups which are represented in one canton only and are either closely linked to another party (Free List of Canton Berne) or have programmes limited to one region (Ticino League).

RL

### Radical Democratic Party (FDP)

Founded: 1894; Members: about 150,000  
 Seats: National Council 44; Council of States 18  
 Chairman: National Councillor Franz Steinegger, Uri  
 Address: FDP Switzerland, P.O. Box 6136, CH-3001 Berne, Tel.: 41 31 22 34 38

### Christian Democratic Party (CVP)

Founded: 1912; Members: about 80,000  
 Seats: National Council 37; Council of States 16  
 Chairman: State Councillor Carlo Schmid, Appenzell Inner Rhodes  
 Address: CVP Switzerland, P.O. Box 1759, CH-3001 Berne, Tel: 41 31 44 23 64

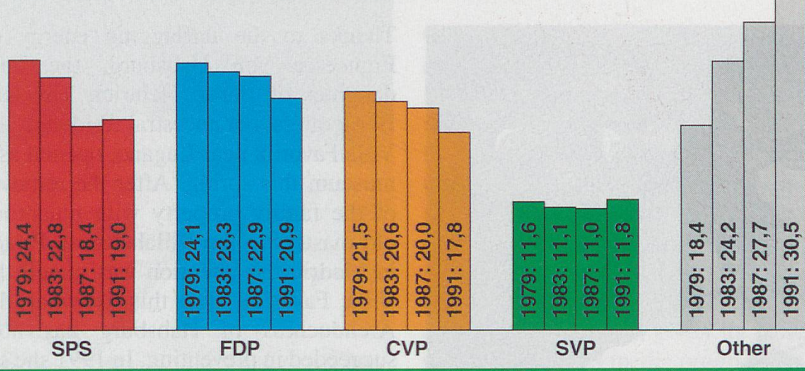
### Social Democratic Party (SPS)

Founded: 1888; Members: about 40,000  
 Seats: National Council 43; Council of States 3  
 Chairman: National Councillor Peter Bodenmann, Valais  
 Address: SPS, P.O. Box 7876, CH-3001 Berne Tel: 41 31 22 07 44

### Swiss People's Party (SVP)

Founded: 1936; Members: about 80,000  
 Seats: National Council 25; Council of States 4  
 Chairman: State Councillor Hans Uhlmann, Thurgau  
 Address: SVP, P.O. Box, CH-3009 Berne Tel.: 41 31 24 58 58

Voter shares in National Council elections 1979–1991



### Green Party of Switzerland (GPS)

Founded: 1983; Members: about 8,200  
 Seats: National Council 3  
 Chairman: National Councillor Verena Diener, Zurich  
 Address: GPS, Marienstrasse 11, CH-3005 Berne  
 Tel: 41 31 44 14 41  
 (The "Free List of Canton Berne", with one seat, also belongs to the Green Group in the National Council).

### Liberal Party (LPS)

Founded: 1913; Members: about 15,000  
 Seats: National Council 10; Council of State 3  
 Chairman: François Jeanneret, Neuchâtel  
 Address: LPS, P.O. Box 7107, CH-3001 Berne  
 Tel: 41 31 22 64 04

### Auto Party/The Freedomers (AP)

Founded: 1985; Members: about 12,500  
 Seats: National Council 8  
 Chairman: National Councillor Jürg Scherrer, Berne  
 Address: APS, P.O. Box, CH-4622 Egerkingen  
 Tel: 41 62 61 23 43

### National Association of Independents (LdU)

Founded: 1936; Members: about 5,000  
 Seats: National Council 5; Council of States 1  
 Chairman: State Councillor Monika Weber, Zurich  
 Address: LdU, P.O. Box 7075, CH-3001 Berne  
 Tel: 41 31 26 16 36  
 (The LdU forms a group in the National Council together with the EVP and non-party Herbert Maeder).

### Swiss Democrats (SD)

Founded: 1961; Members: about 6,000  
 Seats: National Council 5  
 Chairman: National Councillor Rudolf Keller, Basle-Rural  
 Address: SD, P.O. Box 8116, CH-3001 Berne  
 Tel: 41 31 22 27 74

(The Ticino League, with two seats in the National Council and one in the Council of States, also belongs to the SD Group in the National Council).

### Evangelical People's Party (EVP)

Founded: 1919; Members: about 4,000  
 Seats: National Council 3  
 Chairman: National Councillor Otto Zwygart, Berne  
 Address: EVP, Switzerland, P.O. Box, CH-8023 Zurich, Tel: 41 1 272 71 00  
 (The EVP forms a group in the National Council together with the LdU and non-party Herbert Maeder).

### Labour Party (PdA)

Founded: 1944; Members: about 4,000  
 Seats: National Council 2  
 Chairman: National Councillor Jean Spielmann, Geneva  
 Address: PdA, P.O. Box 232, CH-1211 Geneva 8  
 Tel: 41 22 328 11 40

### Federal-Democratic Union (EDU)

Founded: 1975  
 Seats: National Council 1  
 Chairman: National Councillor Werner Scherrer, Berne  
 Address: EDU, P.O. Box, CH-3607 Thun  
 Tel: 41 33 22 36 37

### International sections

*In the wake of the introduction of the postal vote, a number of parties have set up international sections in order to help Swiss Abroad exercise their political rights and to give them an opportunity of joining a Swiss party. The FDP, CVP, SVP and SD already have international sections.*

Advertisement

## Welcome to CVP International

The Christian Democratic Party has now created CVP International. This addresses all Swiss Abroad who find themselves in agreement with its general philosophical outlook and would like to take part in Swiss politics through the medium of this party. Members of CVP International receive regular information on political and social events in Switzerland and life at home, together with details of CVP policies. You can become a member of CVP International by filling up the form here – or you can simply use it to obtain information about the CVP, its aims and activities.

**Welcome to CVP International!**

Yes, I would like to become a member of CVP International.

Please send me:

- the CVP Basic Programme
- the CVP Party Programme for 1991–1995
- a copy of the members' magazine, "CH-Magazin"
- the CVP policy document "Economic Measures for Strengthening the Swiss Economy – The CVP Way Forward"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:  
 CVP General Secretariat, Klaraweg, P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern