



HV/AE Joint meeting: EPFs in the Swiss society

Christoph Leuenberger,
Deputy Head of Communications ETH Board
Monique Weber-Mandrin,
Deputy Executive Director ETH Board

Participation in legislative processes

a) Consultations of the Confederation (Acts and Ordinances)

- **First official consultation «Ämterkonsultation/consultation des offices»:**
 - **A lot** of legal decrees from the confederation with **very short deadlines**
 - **Staff ETH Board checks** them and sends them to the institutions **if relevant**
 - **Internal participation HV/AE** is regulated in the ETH Act and ETHZ-ETHL Ordinance. The Executive Boards of the Schools are responsible for providing information to **HV/AE**.
 - Staff ETH Board **consolidates the collected statements** and submits them to the relevant authority by the deadline (usually just a few weeks).
- **Second official consultation «Vernehmlassung»:**
 - Same procedure as above, **BUT:** less opportunity to get involved; «public» consultation with a longer deadline (up to 3 months).
- **Example:** Data Protection Act

a) Consultations of the Confederation (Example: Liste ÄK: week 43)

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Participation in legislative processes

b) Official consultations of the ETH Board

- **Depending on the topic/meaning: Preconsultation of the institutions** «Interne Vorkonsultation/Anhörung».
 - Internal participation is regulated in the ETH Act and in the ETHZ-ETHL Ordinance. The Executive Boards of the Schools are responsible for providing information to the HV/AE.
 - Deadline: as long as possible and, if possible, taking into account the Meetings HV/AE
 - Examples: affiliated professors, FIT for the Future
- **Official consultation of the institutions** «Anhörung/consultation interne»:
 - See above
- **Official consultation of the Federal offices** «Ämterkonsultation/consultation des offices»:
 - Different federal offices depending on the topic. Practically always: Federal Office of Justice, SERI, GS WBF, Bundeskanzlei etc. Deadline: usually 3 weeks
- **Example:** Gebührenverordnung ETH-Bereich / Ordonnance sur les taxes du domaine des EPF

Participation in legislative processes

c) Participation rights of the HV/AE

- The ETH Act grants the HV/AE the **right to propose** (and thus also the right to information) **on decrees of the ETH Board** that affect the Schools, as well as **on decrees of the Executive Boards of the Schools**, on the budget and planning of the ETH, and on structural and participation issues.
- The HV/AE have one **member on the ETH Board**, and the presidents of the HV/AE also have the **right to submit proposals to the ETH Board** for matters within their remit (Geschäftsordnung ETH-Rat/Règlement du Conseil des EPF).
- Representatives of the institutions of the ETH Domain also participate in **federal working groups** (e.g. of the BAFU, BFE etc.) as specialists, which also allows them to influence legislative processes. During official consultations, it is regularly pointed out that the ETH Domain is happy to contribute its expertise.

Participation in political debates

The legislative process



- Draft report
- Office consultation
- Consultation procedure
- Dispatch of the FC

- Committee first chamber
- First chamber
- Committee second chamber
- Second chamber

- Referendum
- Popular vote

Participation in political debates

Example: ERI Message 2025-2028

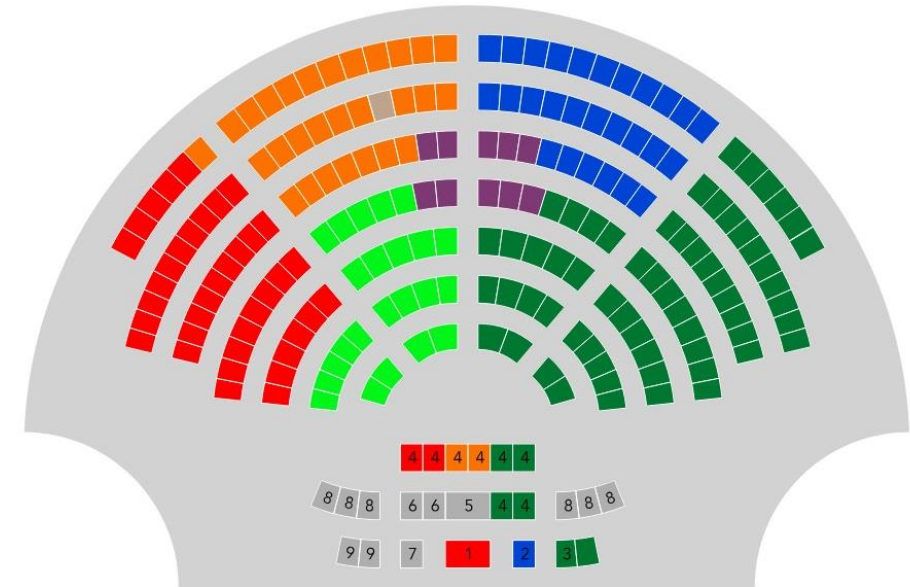


- Strategic Plan ETH Board
- Participation in
 - Office consultation
 - Consultation procedure (letter for possible allies)
- Presentation in WBK/CSEC-N
- Mails / personal talks
 - arguments, examples,
 - stories, numbers
- Interviews in the Media

Participation in political debates

Advices

- You need majorities
- You need a concept (strategy, messages, target groups, measures)
- You have to coordinate (within ETH Domain, ERI Domain, other actors)
- Intervene as early as possible



economiesuisse

science**INDUSTRIES**
S W I T Z E R L A N D



Schweizerischer
Nationalfonds

swissuniversities



swiss academies
of arts and sciences

Participation in political debates

Outlook: Gaillard Report

– Direct / indirect cuts over 100 mio. CHF per year for the ETH Domain 2026ff

→ It is going to be even tougher than the ERI Message 2025-2028

→ We need all the support we can get

→ please help us fight the cuts and be a part of the ETH Domain team



Swiss Federal Institutes of Science and Technology

ETH zürich

EPFL

