

Current Concerns

The international journal for independent thought, ethical standards, moral responsibility,
and for the promotion and respect of public international law, human rights and humanitarian law

English Edition of *Zeit-Fragen*

Germany, a servant or “Kapo”* of the Empire? Will the KLA’s organ- trafficking as well serve as a model?

Lieutenant strategy copied from the Britains?

As it did during World War II, Britain recognized U.S. economic and military primacy, and it recognized it no longer could retain its empire. As an alternative, the British aligned themselves with the U.S.-dominated alliance system and the postwar financial arrangements lumped together under the Bretton Woods system. The British, however, added a dimension to this. Unable to match the United States militarily, they outstripped other American allies both

in the quantity of their military resources and in their willingness to use them at the behest of the Americans.

We might call this the “lieutenant strategy.” Britain could not be America’s equal. However, it could in effect be America’s lieutenant, wielding a military force that outstripped in number – and technical sophistication – the forces deployed by other European countries.

*Excerpt from George Friedman
“Britain’s strategy”*

Berlin is starting preparations for the transformation of Syria into a liberal market economy. Late last week, a multi-national “Working Group” under German presidency started its work; after the overthrow of the *Assad* regime it will introduce immediate economic measures, including the coordination of aid projects, but will also implement economic reforms. Together with the United Arab Emirates, the German government will establish a “secretariat”. It will be run by a German with Afghanistan experience. Berlin had already before promoted the denationalization of the Syrian economy in cooperation with the *Assad* regime; the onset of liberalization, however, ruined parts of the population, which contributed to an uprising against the regime. Initial designs for a new Syrian economy have already been presented in Berlin. Their author is an activist of the *Syrian National Council* (SNC), which is sharply criticized by numerous oppositionists, because the Muslim Brotherhood holds a strong position in the Council. Leading SNC-positions are held by Syrian politicians who are in exile in Washington, who are demanding Western intervention à la Kosovo and name the KLA as a model for the Syrian opposition.

Self-empowered

Under German co-chairmanship a multinational “working group” met late last

week in Abu Dhabi for the first time to initiate immediate economic measures for the period after the fall of the *Assad* regime. The “Working Group on Economic Recovery and Development of the Friends of the Syrian People” was implemented on 1 April in Istanbul by the “Group of Friends of the Syrian people”. This is an alliance of Western and pro-Western states that have fought in the Syrian civil war on the side of the opposition and cooperated mainly with the *Syrian National Council* (SNC), an exile organization. The “Group of Friends of the Syrian People” does is in no way legitimized by the UN Security Council. The same applies to their “working group” for Syria’s economic reconstruction, which will serve as a “central forum” for the necessary economic measures – self-empowered.¹

Germany is in charge

The German diplomat *Clemens von Goetze*, who, along with a colleague from the United Arab Emirates led the meeting late last week, said that the “Working Group” was not only concerned with immediate emergency aid after the fall of the regime. Rather, it was now “a good time now to start for a long-term perspective of the country”.² Their model is the *Marshall Plan*, which the United States used in Europe after the Second World War to establish the material basis for the develop-

“There is no such thing at this stage of the world’s history as an independent press”

John Swinton, the doyen of the New York press corps, upon his retirement, made the following speech:

“There is no such thing, at this stage of the world’s history as an independent press. You know it and I know it. There is not one of you who dare write your honest opinions, and if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print. I am paid weekly for keeping my honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with. Others of you are paid similar salaries for similar things, and any of you who would be foolish as to write honest opinions would be out on the streets looking for another job. If I allowed my honest opinions to appear in one issue of my papers, before twenty four hours, my occupation would be gone. The business of the journalist is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to vilify, fawn at the feet of Mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread. You know it and I know it, and what folly is this toasting of an independent press? We are the jumping jacks, they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes.”

I do understand that you have to eat like all of us and therefore must keep your mouth shut. You are Jewish and so am I. (Sephardic).

For the sake of truth, I will give you here another side to the Libyan story. Just imagine a country where there is no electricity bill. Electricity is free to all its citizens. There is no interest on loans, banks were state owned and loans given at zero percent interest by law. Having a home was considered a human right. All newlyweds received US\$ 50,000 from the govt to buy their first apartment and to help them start a family. Education and medical treatments were free. Before *Qaddafi*, 25% of the population were literate. Today this figure is 83 percent. Should Libyans want to take up farming, they would receive land, a farmhouse, equipments, seeds and livestock to kick start their operation, absolutely free of charge. If citizens could not find the education or medical facilities they needed, the

* prisoner of a concentration camp in charge of a fatigue detail

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ment of the Western alliance. The "Working Group" has set up several sub-groups, each devoted to special issues. In the international division of labor upon which the Member States have now agreed formally, Germany's leading role is concerned with "economic policy and reform". It explicitly includes "long-term strategies"³, which should serve the transition of Syria, "from a centrally planned economy to a market economy", reports say. The "Working Group" plans to establish a secretariat, for which Germany and the United Arab Emirates provide € 600 000 each. It will be headed by the German *Gunnar Wälzholz*. Wälzholz most recently headed the branch of the German *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* (KfW – reconstruction credit institute) in Afghanistan.

Carrots and sticks

As a participant of last week's meeting confirmed, the measures which are now driven forth under German leadership, also include short-term goals. The aim is to attract those silent sectors in Syria by economic projects, "which did not completely join or which are still hesitant to support the revolt"⁴. Thus, they form a kind of counterpart to the economic sanctions which – however not by incentives, but by pressure – should make entrepreneurs who are loyal to the regime change their minds. Accordingly, the "Working Group" explains that the sanctions could be lifted "as soon as their objectives have been achieved" – i.e. after Assad's fall, which would be

enhanced by a changeover of interested business circles.⁵

The consequences of liberalization

The denationalization of the Syrian economy, which is the "Working Group"'s doing has been promoted by Berlin since several years – for a long time in close cooperation with the Assad regime. The German development agency GTZ (now GIC – German Society for International Cooperation) launched a specific program in 2006, entitled "Supporting economic reform in Syria". The explanation was that in 2000 that the Syrian government had embarked on "a process of transformation towards a social market economy"; although "the participating institutions [...] were lacking the needed capacities and knowledge", which is why GTZ was supporting them.⁶ They also said that "the expected impact on income and employment will improve the lives of the Syrian population" – an announcement that simply did not become reality. Quite the contrary happened: the opening of the Syrian market had a great "adverse impact" on the local crafts, the *International Crisis Group* confirmed last year. This was, for example, true for Duma, a suburb of Damascus, where many craftsmen live; due to liberalization they were on the verge of ruin, and had therefore quit their loyalty to the government.⁷ In fact Duma is now regarded as a protest stronghold and had even been completely controlled by insurgents for a short time in January.

Visions

The "National Economic Vision", presented last week to the German-led "Working

Group" in Abu Dhabi by the head of the "Economic Bureau" of the SNC, *Usama al Qadi*, wrote that the liberalization will raise the standard of living only "in the long run". First, one must create reliable framework conditions for foreign investments, increase the "productivity" of Syrian workers, rush the settlement of industries, reform the banking sector and seek new business partners in particular abroad. The "Marshall Syrian Recovery Plan", which should be implemented as quickly as possible, would be able to attract direct investment from the West to a greater degree. As for the implementation, the German-led "secretariat" of the "Working Group" would assist as soon as Assad was overthrown and his regime in Damascus was replaced.

Just like back then in Kosovo

The SNC, cooperating closely on the Syrian side with the West in the context of the "Working Group" and whose staff offers guidance for future activities, is very controversially disputed among oppositionists in Syria. It is dominated by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, whose strong position within the SNC meets with vehement protest among secular-oriented opponents of the regime. In addition, it evokes a lot of anger among large parts of the Syrian opposition that leading SNC members openly back a military intervention by the West. The *National Coordination Committee* (NCC), an alliance of opposition organizations in Syria which the West is not particularly sensitive to, has however argued decidedly against Western mil-

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govt would fund them to go abroad, free of charge, and would get some US\$2,300 per month for accommodation and car allowance. Cars were government subsidized to the tune of 50%. Fuel prices were \$0.14 per liter. The country had no external debt and its reserves amounted to some \$170 billion, now frozen globally plus some 27 tons of gold, which the new regime found safely in the National Bank. Any graduate unable to find a job would get the average salary for the profession, as if he/she was employed, until employment found. A portion of oil sales were credited once a year to every citizen bank account. A mother who gave birth, immediately got some \$5,000. Forty loaves of bread cost \$0.15. 25% of citizens have a university degree. An immense project bringing water from aquifers in the south made it available all over the country, free of charge.

That is what that "tyrant" Qaddafi gave to his people. There are some 150 tribes in

Libya and a strong hand was necessary if the country was to remain in one piece. Every citizen was in possession of a military weapon. Qaddafi was not frightened of his own people. The so called rebels who took over, so we are told, would not have lasted a few days without NATO air power, British and French commandos and thousands of mercenaries. Those are the winners.

Now another *Karzai* has been installed in Tripoli, and the country can be plundered at the victors' whim and fancy. It takes \$1 to extract a barrel of Libyan oil and today's price is over \$100. Total the French company has already grabbed some 30% of the Libyan state oil company. *BP* is starting exploration. And of course massive contracts for the reconstruction of Libya will be handed over to US and European companies. Of the sovereign fund, only some 1.2 billion have been released out of the \$170 billion. With the state of the European economy, I doubt very much if Libya will see the rest any time soon. Now Libyans are free as you say, but as *Janice Joplin* used to say

... freedom is just another word for nothing else to lose, as Libyan queueing for funds at their bank's door are finding out. Qaddafi is gone and so are the perks. What will be left is a terrible civil war. The price of democracy!

"It is the joyous jiggling dance Americans do – USA! USA! – when their government slaughters someone illegally. It is primitive, but it is positively Libyan". Wrong. It is positively American! Just saw a movie on the training of the US Army before going to Iraq. Soldiers running and singing: "Kill the women! Kill the children!" Then we are shown the results when civilians are gunned down in the streets by those braves. All on film. When they come back home, realising what they have done, they just commit suicide! These are ordinary Sunday soldiers with families.

We can hide the truth with prison sentences, but the truth eventually come through, and unfortunately for us we cannot plug the dyke any longer. •

Source: <http://drnikisahak.blogspot.com/2011/12/man-who-came-to-dinner-or-fck-you.html>

The same trick as in Iraq to force war?

Beware of thinking traps and emotional triggers

US President *Barack Obama*, though widely expected to pursue direct action against Syrian ruler Bashar following the Houla atrocity, is preoccupied with what he regards as a greater threat to the world: a potential grab for the huge Syrian stock of chemical and biological weapons by Al Qaeda's or other terrorist organizations. This is reported exclusively by DEBKAFile's Washington and intelligence sources. The US President is trying to persuade Russian President *Vladimir Putin* to accept his new plan for the immediate assignment by the UN Security Council of 3,000 armed monitors to Syria to take charge of the six chemical and biological stores. Another 2,000 will join the team later.

To allay Putin's suspicions of a trick to insert Western armed forces into Syria against Moscow's will, Obama suggested that most of the monitors would be Russian or nationals of governments lining up with its support of the *Assad* regime. Our sources learn that, in one of the conversations between the two presidents, Obama commented: "If only one barrel of anthrax reaches the hands of a Caucasian terrorist group, Russian will face its greatest terrorist threat in its history. Millions of Russians may perish."

It was clear from this comment that Assad's WMD are not stored as warheads, bombs or shells but kept in large barrels or kegs in six underground bunkers, holding Sarin (GB), Tabun (GA) and VX nerve gases, some four kinds of mustard gas and anthrax. The storage silos are spread out among Al Safir, the main Syrian missile base in the north; Cerin, a biological research center on the Mediterranean shore; military facilities at Hama and Homs; the Syrian naval base leased to

the Russians at Latakia; and Palmyra, on the highway between Homs and Aleppo. According to the information reaching US intelligence, three of these locations are situated in heavily embattled areas between the Syrian army and rebels, in addition to which, in the last two weeks, Al Qaeda elements have penetrated the war-torn districts with a view to seizing some of the WMD stores. Obama warned Putin that the jihadists have never been so close to getting hold of large quantities of such deadly unconventional weapons, especially now that the Syrian army's 4th Division, commanded by Assad's brother Maher, which guards those stores, is additionally assigned with suppressing the revolt and therefore inadequately manned for securing them.

If the Russian President buys his plan for 5,000 international monitors to take over the security assignment, Obama hopes he will also persuade Assad and even Tehran to accept it. Early Thursday, 31 May the US President held a video-conference call on the subject with German Chancellor *Angela Merkel*, French President *François Hollande* and Italian Prime Minister *Mario Monti*, to brief them on his initiative and his talks with Putin. DEBKAFile's sources in Washington and Jerusalem add that Obama also sent personal messages to Israeli Prime Minister *Binyamin Netanyahu* and Defense Minister *Ehud Barak* warning them that if al Qaeda or any other terrorist groups get hold of these weapons of death, they could be smuggled into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Israel would be their number one target," he said. These messages were relayed to Israeli leaders this week through visit-

ing senior US intelligence and government figures, with the President's assessment that the danger of Syrian WMD falling into terrorist hands was now more acute than a nuclear Iran. It provided the context for the IDF's OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. *Yair Golan*'s remark Wednesday: "Within weeks or months we may face Al Qaeda attacks from Syria."

The Russian President has not yet given Obama his answer, still suspecting an American ruse for placing Western troops inside Syria. Hence his spokesman's statement Wednesday: "Russia is not considering changing its stance on Syria and any attempts to apply pressure on Moscow are hardly appropriate."

Tehran, taking this to mean that Putin has not rejected Obama's proposal, was put out enough for a forceful threat: "Western intervention in Syria would result in a regional upheaval that would undoubtedly engulf Israel," said Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani. "It would spread to Palestine and ash rising from the flames would definitely engulf the Zionist regime...US military officials should be aware of their dangerous game." This was taken by sources in Washington as an Iranian threat to burn Israel if Obama's plan to post 5,000 armed monitors in Syria goes through. Iranian sources told DEBKAFile that the threat was aimed equally at deterring Putin from cooperating with it. Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the UN, capped these veiled messages by warning the UN Security Council Wednesday night: "This becomes a proxy conflict with arms flowing in from

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itary operations. *Radwan Ziadeh*, "Director of Foreign Relations" of the SNC and SNC economic expert *Osama al Qadi*, actively working for the Washington-based *Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies*, have already advocated operations à la Kosovo several times. "Kosovo shows how the West can intervene in Syria", Ziadeh, who had been a guest of the Berlin Foreign Office in July 2011, told the "Financial Times" in February.⁸ Shortly afterwards he attributed the same role as Kosovo's KLA to the militia of the *Free Syrian Army*.⁹ Only recently Syrian oppositionists were in Kosovo in order to obtain exact information about the actions of

the KLA in 1999 (*German-foreign-policy.com* reported¹⁰). Using the same metaphor, the "massacre of Houla" could obtain the same meaning as the "Racak massacre" early 1999. Soon after the "Racak massacre" there were indications, however, that it had been faked in order to create a *casus belli*. They were never reliably refuted; nevertheless, nothing stood in the way of NATO's military intervention. •

Source: <http://www.german-foreign-policy.com>, 30. 05.2012)

¹ *Chairman's Conclusions. Second Conference of The Group of Friends of the Syrian people*, Istanbul, 1.4.2012

² Donors Mull Marshall Plan for Post-Conflict Syria; www.naharnet.com 25.5.2012

³ Assad verbreitet Zuversicht; www.faz.net 05/24/2012

⁴ Donors Mull Marshall Plan for Post-Conflict Syria; www.naharnet.com 25.5.2012

⁵ *Chairmen's Conclusions of the International Meeting of the Working Group on Economic Recovery and Development of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People*, Abu Dhabi, 24.5.2012

⁶ Supporting economic reform in Syria; <http://www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/maghreb-naheer-osten/syrien/31545.htm>

⁷ Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (VI): The Syrian People's Revolution, Slow Motion, International Crisis Group Middle East/North Africa Report No. 108, 6.7.2011

⁸ Kosovo shows how the West can intervene in Syria; www.ft.com 14.2.2012

⁹ Radwan Ziadeh: Have We Learned Nothing From the Nineties? Syria is the Balkans All Over Again; www.tnr.com 22.3.2012

¹⁰ cf *With the UN toward escalation* Source: http://www.german-foreign-policy.com/en/fulltext/58303_of2012/05/16

Drone War

Obama's kill list

With it's help US-President decides which terrorist is to be killed

US-President Obama disposes of a kill list

Their use is discussed controversially: With drones the USA hunt for terrorists in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. The government in Washington talks about a success. Numerous fighters of Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups have been killed up to now.

Who decides upon life and death? Who determines who is about to die?

What only insiders have known so far: US-President *Barack Obama* is personally responsible for the "kill list".

According to the "New York Times" it is he who designates the terrorists for targets of the drone attacks.

At the end of a several-stage selection process Obama gives his consent on which suspects are to be put on the list.

"He is determined that he will make these decisions about how far and wide these operations will go," the newspaper quotes *Thomas E. Donilon*, Obama's national security adviser.

The "New York Times" is describing details of the strictly secret "nominations" process during which about one hundred antiterrorist experts suggest suspect people to the Pentagon, against whom drones strikes in Yemen and Somalia will be conducted. The newspaper refers to former advisors and top officers.

The selection process

The US foreign intelligence service CIA is responsible for the nominations in the tribal areas in Pakistan.

The nominations then go to the President who has to sign off on every strike in Yemen and Somalia and also on "the more complex and risky strikes" in Pakistan.

According to the "New York Times" Obama consults his anti-terror experts in the White House. And he looks at photos of the suspects, reads their life stories. He asks questions – and finally decides on their life or death.

At the beginning of his Presidency, Obama has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Regardless of this he expands the number of US drone strikes massively in his war on terrorism. By the end of January Obama had admitted publicly the use of drones in Pakistan for the first time.

The "New York Times" wrote that US military forces and CIA had already conducted at least 18 drone strikes in Pakistan, 22 attacks in Yemen and one in Somalia.

Last Monday a US drone strike had killed at least five insurgents in Northwest Pakistan, as Pakistani security forces confirmed.

The strikes are extremely debated among the Pakistani population; the government in Islamabad tolerates them, however.

Source: www.bild.de

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Letter to the Editor

Don't use German Armed Forces for US interests that violate international law

As tragic as the massacre of Houla is, I cannot shake off the impression that the death of the children is to be used like the village Racak in Kosovo to justify a military intervention in Syria – just like the war against Yugoslavia, then. All those who are now upset – USA, France and Great Britain – are responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths, in Iraq at the latest and are taking that for granted.

The media campaign of *de Maizière* of these days must be seen in the same light. If the Bundestag is no more – or merely with shackles – allowed to decide upon the deployment of the Federal Armed Forces, one thing is for sure: It will be the American Pres-

ident and the hawkish US Congress who will decide upon the deployment of German auxiliary forces. The compulsory military service was the last available means for us to not generally let the Federal Armed Forces be deployed on behalf of US interests. When *zu Guttenberg* abolished the compulsory military service, the last dam broke. Statements of *Gabriel* and *de Maizière* make clear that US influence is being exercised on all sides and that *Gabriel* wants the US approval for a SPD government.

De Maizière bluntly disregards the constitution and the Supreme Court's decisions when demanding an automatic integration without having to ask the Bundestag.

In that case once again only the single soldier remains who has the right – and also the duty – after the Federal Constitutional Court to refuse to take part in deployments that violate international law.

The previous integration density has been justified with the Cold War. Instead of turning the German Armed Forces into a mere mercenary army integration should be dismissed and the NATO should be reduced to what is written in the NATO treaty.

Willy Wimmer, former State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Defense, from 1994 to 2000 Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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all sides. And members of this Council and members of the international community are left with the option only of

having to consider whether they are prepared to take actions outside of the Annan plan and the authority of this Council." By these words, the White House informed the Kremlin that if President Putin rejects Obama's plan for posting 5,000

monitors in Syria, Washington will feel free to bypass the UN and the Russian veto and launch US-Western armed action in Syria in defiance of Moscow.

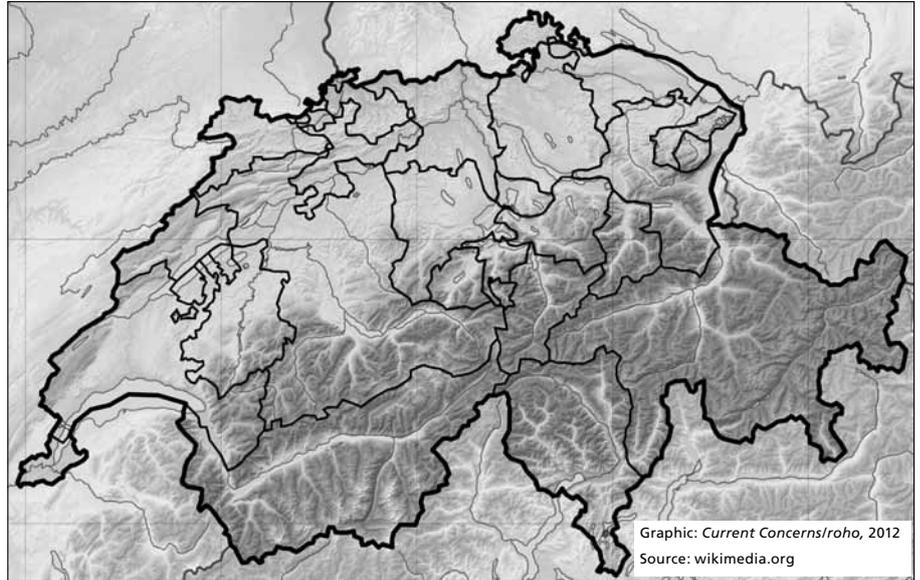
Source: www.debka.com

On the referendum on 17th of June (International treaties before the people)

To keep a sharp eye on the Swiss mission in Brussels Politiceise for one's own country and not for foreign powers!

by Dr iur. Marianne Wüthrich

On 17th of June people are going to vote on the popular initiative "International treaties before the people" at a federal and cantonal level. The initiative intends that important agreements with foreign countries undergo the compulsory referendum (requiring a majority of people and a majority of cantons to agree). What only very few may know: In recent years the EDA (Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and other parts of the Federal Administration have settled down in Brussels with a large apparatus and have ensured that Switzerland has become increasingly adjusted to the EU in all areas of life and legislation. That is why this obligatory referendum on the treaties is necessary: so that the Swiss people can better keep watch over what our diplomats and officials are propelling in Brussels.



Graphic: Current Concerns/roho, 2012
Source: wikimedia.org

"The Swiss mission is a haven of peace in lively Brussels" Three dozen officials and diplomats are working here quietly. "They make sure that Switzerland does not drift too far off the EU" as the spokesman of the Swiss representation in Brussels, Daniel Klingele, admits. ("Between peaks and chasms – Europe, a phase-out model?") SWR2 (German South West Radio 2) *Radio Academy: Future of the State* (4) 26.5.2012, 8:30 am

... that Switzerland doesn't drift too far off the EU

The Diplomatic Mission of Switzerland at the EU in Brussels is located next to the European Parliament. A look into the website of the EDA (www.eda.admin.ch) reveals that indeed around 40 diplomats and members of the Federal Administration "represent Swiss interests towards the EU" – or promote the closer alignment of Switzerland with the EU. So it is the responsibility of the mission, "to coordinate and prepare visits of Federal Administration members to Brussels" Pardon me, what business do Swiss officials have in Brussels? The staff "participates in the bilateral negotiations with the EU", "does follow-up to the agreements, coordinates the participation of Switzerland in European programmes and takes part in meetings of EU experts and working groups."

Daniel Klingele illuminates this follow-up work: "If the EU passes and introduces new laws, it has consequences for our economy." "And in order to prevent possible disadvantages, we check whether it makes sense to introduce these laws or

similar laws in Switzerland to avoid any trading obstacles" (SWR2, 26 May 2012).

Daniel Klingele must know what he is talking about since he is 2nd deputy mission head and press spokesman. To put it bluntly what he is says: we Swiss leave it to a handful of EU annexion fanatics in Brussels to decide "whether it makes sense to introduce this law or a similar laws in Switzerland" and when the relevant law appears in the parliament later on, we – and probably also some parliamentarians believe – the submission came from political circles inside Switzerland.

"According to a study by the University of Bern nearly two-thirds of all Swiss Federal laws are influenced by EU directives and regulations. In the area of food law and trade-related matters Switzerland takes over EU legislation almost one to one. The confederates call this process "Autonomous Reenactment." (SWR2 from 26 May 2012 on the study "The Europe-compatibility of Swiss commercial law: convergence and divergence" by the Institute for European and International Economic Law by Prof. *Thomas Cottier*, University of Berne.)

"Autonomous reenactment, because we do it just autonomously" (spokesman Daniel Klingele according to SWR 2)

Fair enough, if by "we" he denotes parliament and people. But far from it: "We" – those who transform EU law into Swiss law "autonomously" and continuously – are the three dozen EU bigots in the Brussels mission, that endorse their well paid jobs by their submissiveness. And they peddle the line to the Federal Council as

well as to the National Parliament and to the Council of States believing that it is essential not to miss the train into a promising future. What kind of future – into Euroland?

If one looks at the portfolios of the Swiss EU Mission, actually in every life and legal area a Swiss is standing to ready in Brussels. In the economic sector, to mention just a few examples, from tax, monetary and financial affairs to veterinary, safety of food up to health care, pharmaceuticals, consumer protection, social policy and further on to cohesion, regional policy and agriculture.

The so-called Department of Economy and Finance covers half of our life. Now we can imagine for example more concretely, how the *Prevention Act* – which is apt to destroy our solid, federally organized health care system by imposing foreign ideas (partly also from overseas) – came cross the border: Officials from the Federal Administration, from the BAG (Swiss Federal Office for Health) make their pilgrimage to Brussels and are "coordinated" there by the concerned mission secretary with the appropriate EU officials Later on the law is pushed on the Swiss parliament as sstantial because EU-compliant. In fact with respect to prevention, there is no need to "autonomously reenact" one Iota.

On the subject of taxes and currencies: the flat rate withholding tax agreements with individual EU States such as Germany, Italy or Great Britain, by means of which our members of parliament eager-

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ly shift money to those States, that consequently can reduce their national debt and their currency crisis, would have to be brought before the Swiss people to vote on, in case the people initiative "International treaties before the people" will be adopted. An Italian politician, who wanted to be elected recently, told his electorate, he would go and fetch the billions from Switzerland and with that money Italy would then finance their economic growth. Switzerland is not a dairy cow allowing to be milked by those states, which can't control their financial crisis! Obviously we the people must stop our parliamentarians from letting themselves being induced to allow agreements originating from current – and future (!) – OECD lists, which are highly detrimental to our own interests. Switzerland, which is a full member and pays its fees on time, was never involved in drawing up these lists. In addition the OECD publications have no force of law, but are mere recommendations to the member states. (The SPS – Swiss Socialist Party – which wants to completely repeal bank-client confidentiality in Switzerland and abroad has to be confronted with the question, how the extensive welfare state desired by them is to be financed if the financial centre of Switzerland is stagnating). (Or does their secret plan include that the Switzerland should be dashed to the ground and worn down for the EU-annexion?)

As we learned earlier, the mission staff is also involved in the bilateral negotiations with the EU, that is to say, in this Department the agricultural agreement is prepared, which would lead to an unprecedented number of farms closing down: according to a statement by Federal Councillor *Doris Leuthart* the number of farms would be divided in half! Let's hope that this agreement will never become reality – if it does, it is a clear case for a compulsory referendum in accordance with the popular initiative "international treaties before the people".

Adoption of EU constructs preferably outside our legal system

Cohesion and regional politics are also pursued in the department of economy and finances in Brussels: Cohesion of Switzerland with the EU? The regional policy of the EU is suitable particularly to plough up Switzerland because their instruments mostly come from behind, outside of our judicial system and behind the back of the electorate: The "spatial conception of Switzerland" with its metropolitan regions with which the nation states should be dissolved, the intergov-

ernmental programs for the *Regio Lake of Constance* and other fictitious "clusters" across frontiers – everything without any legal basis, everywhere "participative processes" into which one member of the governing council per canton and a local councilor per municipality are integrated without having received a corresponding mandate from the sovereign, not to mention the nature parks which divest the municipalities of their autonomy.

A whole lot of foreign stuff, which has no place in our differentiated direct-democratic and federalistic state structure. There is nothing "to understand autonomously". We, the citizens are required to provide for lawful conditions again!

Beside the department of economy and finances the Swiss mission in the EU runs a department "sectoral policies" in which an extensive spectrum of extremely drastic EU regulations are prepared for the adoption into Swiss law, from transport, climate and environment via education and research up to energy policy, telecommunications and media. One need only recall the planned conversion of the EU flora-fauna-habitat directive into Swiss nature parks or the enforced conformity of our good universities by the Bologna regime with a disastrous levelling down of the university education that will have fatal effects for whole student generations. All that beyond the federalist legal system of Switzerland: "In other areas like research, environment, education or MEDIA Switzerland takes part in the European project, whereas she directly takes part in the corresponding EU programs." (www.eda.admin.ch – dossiers) The educational and research programs in which the Federal Council eagerly wanted to take part, by the way, are parts of the bilateral agreement I (research agreement) or the bilateral agreement II (educational agreement). These international treaties would have had to be submitted to the compulsory referendum as well, if the regulation, which will come to the vote on the 17th of June, had been already in force at that time.

The staff of the Department of Economy and Finances is certainly dealing with the planned electricity market agreement which nobody wants except the global trusts because it would destroy our small-scale organized electricity system, the power stations in cantons and municipalities. Such an agreement would be also have to be submitted to the compulsory referendum.

Where do the cantons stand?

The cantons are "represented" in Switzerland's EU mission by one single man representing the *conference of the canton governments* – a true farce! 26 Swiss cantons, every single one a sovereign constituent state of the Swiss federal state with comprehensive federalist competences,

every single one unique with its own cultural and legal arrangement – rural cantons and town cantons, cantons in the Swiss plateau, in the Alps and in the Jura, some of which are large in area and inhabitants and other that are quite small: They all decide on their own affairs according to Federal Constitution. It is out of the question that the Federal Administration staff in Brussels interferes with cantonal competences. It is also out of the questions that Federal Councilor *Widmer-Schlumpf* "discusses" an alteration of company taxes with the EU superiors. The only phrase she is permitted to say if she opens her mouth is: "I cannot discuss that with you because the company taxes lie in the sole competence of the Swiss cantons."

No foreign judges

The mission's department "Legal issues Schengen" is led by Daniel Klingele cited above who sees his main task – as we have learned – in letting EU law enter into our legal system. To boost his status towards the EU bureaucrats, Mr Klingele is called "Minister" – a title which we do not know in Switzerland. Our federal councilors are no ministers, but heads of departments, and surely a diplomat of the FDFA is no minister. Apart from the "police and justice cooperation" according to Schengen/Dublin where – as everybody knows – nothing really works, the department of legal issues deals with "institutional and legal issues in general, with the Court of law of the European Union" as well.

It can be assumed that here the framework agreement claimed by the EU commission is prepared for automatic transfer of EU law into Swiss law – a clear case for a compulsory referendum of people and cantons as this requires the national initiative "International treaties before the people". The same would have been valid for Schengen/Dublin. As far as the ECJ is concerned: We have actually nothing to do with their jurisdiction, right? In any case, the Swiss courts are independent of the EU courts' jurisdiction and have to remain independent.

Foreign affairs and security policy under Brussels' command – Where in fact are we at?

What is the function of a department "political affairs, security, communication" in the court yard of the EU? That remains in the dark.

There is a department "security, defence, human security, the Middle East", a department "military affairs", a department "extension, neighborhood politics, CIS, Arabian peninsula, human rights,

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Switzerland: Government attacks federalism at all levels

The new Animal Diseases Act empowers the federal government to require compulsory vaccination in the case of any disease

Interview with National Councillor Jakob Büchler



National Councillor
Jakob Büchler
(picture thk)

Switzerland and its already more than perfect Animal Diseases Act

ab/thk. The spring session of the National Council adopted the new Animal Diseases Act. A referendum has been launched against it.

The Act transfers wide-ranging powers of the cantons to the Federation. Thereby the federal government can command compulsory vaccinations, compulsory medication and coercive measures on farm and domestic animals. Thus it is likely that untested vaccines will be transferred from the EU and administered forcibly on animals. In the case of bluetongue – about which the relevant EU authorities remained strangely passive at first, so that one original case became the source of a pandemic – Switzerland purchased the vaccines from different laboratories in the EU during the first vaccination year. Accordingly, the accompanying damage varied in the different vaccination areas. The authorities handled the events of damage in an alarming way what led to organised resistance in agriculture. The case in the canton of Graubünden, where the police were mandated to fetch a flock of sheep in a cloak-and dagger operation and take it to an undisclosed location for forced vaccination, will go down to literature. It was only in the second vaccination year that the responsible Swiss authorities became more cautious and apparently pre-tested the vaccine (or circumvented any EU double-blind field studies), so that then the damage decreased. The damage is mainly caused by different adjuvants that can be genetically modified. With this, the problem in the animal domain is the same as

in human medicine and rightly leads to a front of rejection.

It should be recalled that up to the late 80s Switzerland produced first-class vaccines - they were then handed over to the EU and are partly kept under lock and key at the military laboratory at Porton Down in England, and are only handed over with EU approval: a process that became apparent with foot and mouth disease when Swiss breeders willing to vaccinate had no chance to acquire vaccines. Back then Turkey inoculated with its own vaccine and safeguarded its livestock. So did Israel. The generation of those who were capable of producing these first-class Swiss vaccines is still there and active: With very little political will, this development could be changed. Transparency must be created whether it is about solving our problems, for which the existing Animal Diseases Act is more than perfect, and might need a thinning-out or whether it is about a further submission to the dictates of the EU. It reeks of something like that, and therefore the referendum must be demanded.

National Councillor Jakob Büchler is a member of the referendum committee. In the following interview he supplies sound arguments in favour of the referendum against the new Animal Diseases Act.

Current Concerns: Mr Büchler, you are part of the referendum committee against the new Animal Diseases Act. What is it all about?

NC Jakob Büchler: We don't need to reinvent the wheel. We already have a properly functioning Animal Diseases Act, which is perfectly adequate for present conditions. We do not need a new law.

What will be changed with the new Animal Diseases Act? What is bad about it? There is always the question when a disease is a notifiable disease. With the new law, the Veterinary Office can decide what may be declared a notifiable disease and what not. It can then order and carry out a vaccination programme. Of course I'm not against vaccinations, against a devastating disease. But we do not have to compare everything with foot and mouth disease. Today, even small illnesses are immediately magnified and declared a notifiable disease. This implies compulsory vaccination includ-

ing the first and second vaccination and years of follow-up treatment. I myself have experienced this. IBR [infectious bovine rhinotracheitis] was in the country and years after vaccination was still prescribed. I oppose that.

Can you say that with the new Animal Disease Act the general framework is a lot tighter in terms of vaccination and treatment?

Yes, the framework is tighter. With the new act the breeder cannot say and decide virtually anything and he can only do what he is ordered to do. In addition, a law is one thing, but what is crucial later are the regulations which are then built around it. Let me remind you of the Waterways Act, the Water Protection Act. What the legislature decided in this case in the National Council and the Council of States would still have been acceptable, but the regulation that was built around it is a disaster. It is so useless that now subsequent improvements of the law are required. This could also happen in the field of veterinary medicine. There is always tightening, and every law that is conjured up is added to the old laws without anything being cancelled. Instead of relying on the tried and tested, we keep regulating more and more. The stock-breeder has become a puppet, he can no longer decide anything and can only execute commands, and that cannot be our future.

Does this mainly concern the livestock farmer or any animal owner?

There is also a direct impact on pet owners. I think the law is too broad anyway. The whole net does not have to be drawn tighter. This is certainly wrong, and it deprives the owners of their power, they can no longer take any decisions. And that can't be right.

By means of this law the federal government seizes more powers. Does that not also lead to more centralisation?

Exactly. The cantons are weakened once again. We have 26 cantons with different interests, with different topographies, with different densities of animal populations, and that cannot be prescribed for the whole of Switzerland and imposed on the whole country from above. The cantons

"Federation attacks federalism ..."

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are being deprived of powers. The federal government can more easily decide on the introduction and enforcement of vaccination and other measures than 26 cantons. As I said, if something highly contagious happens, we already have this possibility. But what is being discussed here rarely concerns highly infectious diseases. The new law allows vaccinations to be prescribed for every disease, and the cantons have nothing more to say. The costs are then passed on to the cantons, of course, and the animal owners must also ultimately make a considerable financial contribution. *This is against our federal system, it is not democratic.* That would be an entirely wrong direction for us to pursue. The basis for deciding whether a disease is notifiable or not lies exclusively with the federal government with very, very vague explanations. It is not clear what the animal owner can expect in such a case, and he won't see why. However, I am against this.

This is not the only field that is being shifted to the federal level in contradiction to our established federal structures. The cantons are vehemently against shifts from the cantons to the Federa-

tion in other areas. The cantons want to keep their powers in areas such as security policy, in the field of veterinary medicine, in education, and that's what I support. I oppose this shift towards centralism. In human medicine, parliament will discuss and vote on the Prevention Act. Prevention is certainly a matter for the individual: leading a healthy life, doing enough sport. Inforcing prevention is definitely the wrong way. This too is a disenfranchisement of the citizen. In addition, *it becomes a huge machine that costs huge amounts and is not efficient. You cannot disenfranchise the citizens again and again, as is already the case with other laws.* Prevention means preventing, and anybody can do that at home, and we certainly don't need a new law for that.

What dangers lie behind prescriptive compulsory vaccination?

With vaccines the question arises of what happens when we are hit by a serious epidemic, the urgent question of who gets the vaccine first. Is that us Swiss, or does another European country get it first? How do we get this vaccine? This question would arise immediately. And if the federal government wants to control it all, they must also create transparency as far as the origin and composition of the vac-

cine is concerned. I know from the past that the vaccines were brought over from England. I do not understand why that was so. If anything, we must be able to produce our own vaccine in Switzerland. Otherwise we are at the mercy of other states and must beg a foreign country to give us some of their vaccine like supplicants. This is a loss of sovereignty. The question also arises of how the vaccine is composed, whether it contains genetically modified substances. I and the Farmers' Union have always been against genetic engineering. The farmers as producers are those who will suffer if it becomes known that a vaccine is genetically engineered. This will mean not only a struggle against the epidemic but also major financial losses.

Therefore, let me be clear again: The point is that when a disease breaks out, countermeasures can be taken. That is clear. But an outbreak of an epidemic in western Switzerland will not spread to the whole of Switzerland within hours. So the cantons can work out in quiet what they should do and whether and what kinds of vaccination are required. But if the federal government decrees, it will be introduced throughout Switzerland without any discussion. It is then clear that there will be prescriptive compulsory vaccination, and that is something I reject. •

"To keep a sharp eye on ..."

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freedom of movement of peoples" – where in fact are we at?

Sovereign Switzerland has to shape her foreign affairs independently. Attentive citizens have noticed for a long time that the FDFA joins the positions of the EU with their statements to problem countries often very promptly and compliantly. What does Swiss diplomacy have to negotiate with the EU with respect to the Middle East, the CIS or the Arabian peninsula? An independent foreign policy of Switzerland is an indispensable prerequisite for the offering of good offices as a neutral country free of any alliance.

Security, defence, military affairs are every sovereign nation state's very own affairs, where the EU has nothing to interfere with. Just as little as the FDFA staff has to fraternize with the EU in these issues. The FDFA staff with missing democratic disposition and obviously without control by the heads of departments believes to be entitled to go different ways. Is this already the generation, which has grown up without historical lessons, or

does corruption play a role? "The cooperation also applies to foreign affairs. Switzerland makes an active contribution to the support of stability and prosperity within and beyond Europe, while she provides suitable means (extension contribution, assistance to Eastern European countries) and participates in peace support missions (EULEX Kosovo, EUFOR Althea and civil police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina)."

The Swiss people could not vote on the "peace support missions" mentioned here. These are, by the way, military operations of the EU within the scope of their common security and defense policy (CSDP) in which Switzerland takes part under the command of foreign generals. It goes without saying that the Swiss participation strikingly contradicts the neutrality principle. The Swiss people who recently expressed their wish for maintenance of the neutrality to 95 percent (see *Current Concerns* No. 23) would have most probably rejected such "peace support missions" in case of a compulsory referendum.

Conclusion

The excessive endeavor of our Federal Councillors and their diplomats that could

be observed for many years now, to meet with all the wishes of the EU principalities as much as possible – often even to preempt them – contradicts their constitutional mandate to exert themselves first and foremost for the Swiss interests. By the way, "Swiss interests" don't primarily mean the interests of the global trusts, which want to increase their profits in Switzerland, but the interests of the Swiss population in financially stable Switzerland which keeps her budget in order and can offer the high standard of our social state to the people also in future (instead giving away billions abroad), the interests of our SME in keeping their obvious importance for our economic location, the interests of our adolescents who want to make a respectable apprenticeship or respectable university studies by which they will become able to take their place as a citizen, employed persons and as mothers and fathers, interests of the vast majority of the Swiss population in maintaining our federalist and direct-democratic state structure and armed neutrality. *The mission of Switzerland in the EU must comply with the precepts or it is to be terminated.* The money thereby saved could be transferred to the *Swiss Red Cross*. •

Returning the natural right to the family... ... and the problem of demography will automatically be solved

Excerpts from the book by Family Minister Kristina Schröder

In a society that respects the freedom and the individuality of the person and that does not force equality by interfering with freedom, there will always be a certain inequality between women and men, just as there will always be disparities between 30-year-old and 60-year-old people. It is about dealing with diversity and ensuring that women and men have the opportunity to realize individual perceptions of a good life. It is not about leveling the differences in the name of gender equality! Interpreting the different performances of women and men in occupational statistics as discrimination against the female sex results in a dead-end. To declare every gender-specific difference a proof for the division of mankind into discriminated women and privileged men, only restrictions of individual liberties will remain as policies, starting from the attempts to tell women how they have to live by means of supposedly modern models, via degradation of alternative life styles, up to government control via women quotas and other state-controlled interventions.

Time to assume responsibility: On the way towards the future world of work

Is it an utopian idea to believe that time for the family and care will naturally belong to the curriculum vitae of female and male managers as well as to a good education?

Is it utopian to allow people to choose their working hours fitting their family situation? Is it utopian to abolish the unwritten rule that decisive career steps have to be taken between 30 and 40 – which is just a stage of life, when most people want to found a family? Is it utopian to trust mothers and fathers of young children to lead a team or manage a project during a presence time of 30 hours per week? Is it utopian to think that even top executives like the board member of a DAX Convern Group, the chief editor of a national daily newspaper or the female partner of a renowned law firm can stay with their children for two half days a week and generally keep their weekends free from work commitments? Is it utopian to negotiate not only money but also time concerning one's family and own personal life during a job interview? In short, is it utopian to say "family first!" even if you want to succeed in your career?

"If we [...] were willing to invest as much energy and expertise in the development and implementation of new working models as are usually invested in the development of new means of transportation or new cell phones, any organizational problem will dissolve very fast."¹¹ Radisch once remarked dryly. That's exactly as it is!

Sovereignty of time is the liberty to be able to say "family first!" when it comes down to it. Sovereignty of time is the liberty to be there for the partner, for members of the family who need care, as parents for the children, without getting disqualified for responsible activities in the job area or for the next step in the career. Sovereignty of time is, for women and men, family and partnership, the liberty to give it the significance it requires from their point of view – especially and even more when they have a job. Instead of regarding the desire to be present for the family as disturbing – as the grit in the works of the performance oriented society – we should

question the constraints against which family life is regularly pulling the short straw. Instead, we should defend partnership and family against the space-taking claims for availability, mobility and flexibility of the working world. This is no fight of women against men for half the world. Instead it is a struggle for the freedom of individual.

The political conclusion can only be to stop to try and steer role and family models; instead the conclusion must be to enable different lifestyles by means of modern family and equal opportunities policy. It is politics' mandate to support people in pursuing their own, very personal vision of a good life, and time is the leading currency, because it equally promotes equal rights and responsibility skills. If we want equality in our partnerships and family cohesion in our society, we need both the freedom and the courage to make the pace of working life individually fitting to the rhythm of family life. "Thank you, we are emancipated ourselves!" would be the right attitude for once.

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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Fax: +41 (0)44 350 65 51

E-Mail: CurrentConcerns@zeit-fragen.ch

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