



20.4267

MOTION

# Declaration of production methods prohibited in Switzerland

**Submitted by:** COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE, COUNCIL OF STATES

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**Filed at:** Council of States

**Status of deliberations:** Progress report is available

## TEXT SUBMITTED

The Federal Council is tasked with improving transparency for consumers regarding plant and animal products by making production methods prohibited in Switzerland subject to mandatory declarations, which must clearly indicate the production method and origin of the product. The government will ensure that the new declaration requirements are clearly defined, comply with international law, and are enforceable.

## OPINION OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF 25.11.2020

The Federal Council attaches great importance to the transparency of production methods for plant and animal products, which is why it understands the objective of the motion. On 11 September 2020, it approved the report "Mandatory Declaration of Food Production Methods" (EXEBRC 2020.1947), drawn up in response to the postulate **17.3967** of the CSEC-E of 13 October 2017. It concludes that, before introducing any new mandatory reporting, it should always be examined on a case-by-case basis according to the criteria listed in the report. If the reporting meets the criteria, it should be subject to a regulatory impact assessment and a consultation procedure before any decision on its implementation. This procedure makes it possible to strengthen mandatory reporting where relevant and, at the same time, to ensure that it is proportionate, consistent with international law and enforceable.

This motion provides for a general mandatory declaration for plant and animal products obtained using production methods prohibited in Switzerland. The introduction of such a declaration would not correspond to the procedure proposed by the Federal Council in its report and would represent a paradigm shift that could prove problematic in the context of Switzerland's international commitments within the WTO, with the EU, and with its other international partners. The Federal Council therefore rejects the motion and recommends continuing along the path described in its report: specifically, this involves examining in detail the introduction of three new mandatory declarations and the possibility of reversing the burden of proof. Before introducing new mandatory declarations, it is essential to clarify their benefits for consumers, the potential costs for businesses and the public sector, and their compliance with international law.

If the motion were to be accepted by the first council, the Federal Council reserves the right to submit a proposal for amendment to the second council, which would consist of systematically examining any new declaration according to the criteria defined by the Federal Council in the report "Mandatory declaration of food production methods".

## FEDERAL COUNCIL PROPOSAL OF 25.11.2020

The Federal Council proposes to reject the motion.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

27.05.2021 - COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL  
([HTTPS://WWW.PARLAMENT.CH/CENTERS/KB/\\_LAYOUTS/15/DOCIDREDIR.ASPX?ID=4U7YAJRAVM7Q-1-49315](https://www.parlament.ch/CENTERS/KB/_LAYOUTS/15/DOCIDREDIR.ASPX?ID=4U7YAJRAVM7Q-1-49315))

## CHRONOLOGY

09.12.2020 COUNCIL OF STATES Adoption

06/16/2021 NATIONAL COUNCIL Adoption

## SKILLS

## COMMISSIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXAMINATION

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE, COUNCIL OF STATES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE NATIONAL COUNCIL

## COMPETENT AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DFI) ([HTTPS://WWW.EDI.ADMIN.CH/EDI/FR/HOME.HTML](https://www.edi.admin.ch/edi/fr/home.html))

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**PROCESSING CATEGORY**

IV

**PRIORITY ADVICE**

Council of States

**DOMAINS (2)**

Agriculture Economy

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**PRESS RELEASE  
OFFICIAL BULLETIN  
CN VOTES**