



PROGRAMME

Thursday 20 April 2006

Arrival of delegations (Airports: Zurich, Geneva, Berne, Payerne)

- 5.30 p.m. For the delegations already in Berne:
Departure by coach from in front of the Bellevue Palace Hotel
Visit of the Centre Paul Klee
Apéritif
- 7.15 p.m. Return to hotels
- 8.00 – 10.30 p.m. **Official dinner** offered by the President of the Council of States,
Mr Rolf Büttiker, at the Bellevue Palace Hotel, Berne

Friday 21 April 2006

- 8.30 a.m. **Opening** of the VIIIth Meeting of the Association of European Senates
by the President of the Council of States, Mr Rolf Büttiker,
National Council Chamber, Swiss Federal Parliament Building
Theme of the meeting:
The Senates' contribution towards grass-roots politics
- 10.30 – 10.50 a.m. Coffee break
- 10.50 – 12.30 a.m. Continuation of the meeting
- 12.45 – 2.45 p.m. Lunch
For the Presidents:
Departure by coach for the Residence of the Federal Council, "Lohn",
in Kehrsatz near Berne
Group photo for the Presidents
Lunch offered by Mme Micheline Calmy-Rey, Vice-President of the
Federal Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Return to the Federal Parliament at approx. 3 p.m.

For the other participants:

Lunch offered by Mr Christoph Lanz, Secretary General of the Council of States at the Restaurant *Zum Aeusseren Stand*, Zeughausgasse 17 (5 min walk from the Federal Parliament)

Before continuing the meeting (at approx. 2.45 p.m.) there will be a guided tour of the Federal Parliament building

- 3.15 p.m. Continuation of the meeting: **round table discussion** on the theme of the meeting
- 5.20 p.m. Extraordinary meeting 2006 of the Association of European Senates in Prague: Announcement by Mr Přemysl Sobotka, President of the Senate of the Czech Republic
- 5.30 p.m. **Closing address** of the VIIIth Meeting of the Association of European Senates by Mr Rolf Büttiker, President of the Council of States
- 5.45 p.m. End of the meeting
Evening free

Saturday, 22 April 2006

Excursion offered by Mr Rolf Büttiker, President of the Council of States, to the canton of Solothurn

- 8.45 a.m. Departure by coach from in front of the Bellevue Palace Hotel
- 9.30 – 10.45 a.m. Visit of the Waldegg Castle. Introduction by the curator; open visit of the museum; coffee break
- 11.00 – 11.20 a.m. Jesuit-Church of Solothurn. Organ recital by Mr Bruno Eberhard
- 11.20 – 12.20 a.m. Guided tour in the old-town of Solothurn
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch at the Restaurant *Zur Krone* in Solothurn
- 2.30 p.m. End of the excursion
Departure for the airports
or
Return to hotels (arrival in Berne at approx. 3.30 p.m.)