

BM64 – BUDAPEST



Internal motion

7b1

Resolution

Amendment

Title: ESU against raising tuition fees for foreign students in Switzerland_____

Point of the agenda 7b_____

Proposed by: VSS-UNES-USU_____

Seconded by: ANOSR, DSF, FEF, fzs, ÖH, UDU, UNEF, UNEL, SAMOK, SYL

Text:_____

1 The Social Democrat Party of Switzerland put forward a motion in
2 March requesting that students studying at the Federal Institutes of
3 Technology in Zurich and Lausanne would have to pay between two
4 and three thousand Euros of tuition fees per year, depending on their
5 fiscal residence, while domestic students would have to pay just over
6 one thousand. Additionally, a motion of the Swiss People's Party
7 demands to double tuition fees for foreign students. ESU is very
8 concerned about these recent developments, since it's severely
9 endangering student mobility in Europe.

10 The motion is originally concerning only the two federal institutions
11 but there is an agreement between Swiss universities to harmonize
12 student fees on a national level. Considering this, the acceptance of
13 these motions will not affect only a limited number of institutions, but
14 this initiative may be used to implement a double tuition system in
15 universities overall the country at a time when Europe should be
16 moving in the opposite direction. The aim should be the creation of
17 more opportunities for everyone to study abroad and not the
18 implementation of discriminating and mobility-restricting measures.

19 The Federal Assembly of Switzerland is expected to debate the
20 proposal this autumn. If the parliament decides to raise tuition fees

BM64 – BUDAPEST



21 for foreign students, Switzerland will lose a large part of its
22 international student community. By applying such a differentiated
23 tuition system for foreigners, Switzerland will not make a significant
24 difference in the overall annual budget of the higher education
25 system but will seriously affect the international exchange programs
26 in which Switzerland is taking part. These motions are in complete
27 opposition with the idea of constructing a European Higher Education
28 Area and the efforts taken to increase student mobility throughout
29 Europe. Moreover, we strongly believe that is not acceptable to
30 implement a selection of students based on financial parameters, but
31 stand for free access to higher education. It is unacceptable to select
32 students based on their financial possibilities. For all these reasons,
33 and because ESU has always taken position to enforce education as
34 an universal right and a public good, ESU is strongly against raising
35 tuition fees for foreign students.

36 A decision to double or even triple the tuition fees paid by students
37 whose parents do not pay taxes in Switzerland would diminish the
38 country's international student population, reduce cultural diversity
39 and hurt any attempts to attract people from all over the world.
40 Therefore, ESU urges the members of the Swiss parliament to reject
41 the proposition. Additionally, the European Union and the EHEA are
42 required to get involved in the discussion to prevent students from
43 paying these tuition fees and to underline the importance of
44 international student mobility.

45

Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)