

BM67 – BAKU

8c-ii



Internal motion

Resolution

Title: ESU supports the Swiss Grant Initiative

Point of the agenda Resolutions

Proposed by: __VSS-UNES_USU_____

Seconded by: NUS-UK, UdU, fzs, ÖH, UNEF, FEF

Text:

1 The European Students' Union supports the Grant Initiative in Switzerland
2 that has been initiated by its member VSS-UNES-USU and that will most
3 likely be voted upon by the Swiss people next year.

4 Today, each Swiss canton (administrative district) has its own grant scheme
5 for students with financial needs. These schemes are quite different in their
6 rules about who can get a grant, which conditions they have to fulfill, and
7 about the amount of the grant. This leads to the absurd situation that a
8 student living on the border of their canton gets a grant, while their friend
9 from the town on the other side of the border do not, although both
10 families' income is about the same. If a student receives a grant it is largely
11 dependent on where he or she lives.

12 The Grant Initiative wants to change that. It wants to introduce a system
13 where the same rules regarding access and amount of grants apply to all
14 students, regardless of where they live. This simple measure would ensure
15 fair access to grants and it will change the fact that every canton has its
16 own assessment basis for who will receive a grant.

17 In this and the upcoming week, the Swiss parliament debates a counter-bill
18 to the Grant Initiative that will only become a law if the Initiative is rejected
19 by the people. The counter-bill wants to harmonize some rules on who can
20 apply for grants, but it will not tackle the issue of different amounts of
21 grants in different cantons. All this while it has already rejected the Grant
22 Initiative.

23 ESU condemns that the Swiss parliament does not take sufficient action to
24 ensure equal access to grants, although the issue has been raised by the
25 Swiss Students' Union and many of its allies for years now.

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26 Therefore, ESU supports this initiative. It is an important step in ensuring
27 access to higher education regardless of economic background.

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

(for use of board meeting chair only!)