



Warsaw, 01.08.2013

Demokracja Bezpośrednia  
ul. Wynalazek 3  
02-677 Warszawa

The Norwegian Nobel Committee  
Henrik Ibsens gate 51  
0255 Oslo

Dear Sirs,

Following the recent press announcement about the candidacy of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, for the Nobel Peace Prize, we -- Direct Democracy (a political party in Poland) -- are writing to you to put forward a motion that the Committee nominates the Swiss Confederation to this year's edition of the Nobel Peace Prize. We are further encouraged to do so by the earlier award of the Prize to the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, as well as to the European Union.

Swiss Confederation, by its internal mechanism of government embedded in the constitution - i.e. the referendum - has preserved the state of peace for many decades. We wish to direct your attention especially to the systemic provisions of the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation:

Article 52 par. 2: "The armed forces serve to prevent war and to maintain peace; they defend the country and its population. [...]"

Article 140 par. 1 letter b: The following must be put to the vote of the People and the Cantons: [...]

b. accession to organisations for collective security or to supranational communities;"

Article 141 par. 1: "If [...] any 50,000 persons eligible to vote or any eight Cantons request it, the following shall be submitted to a vote of the People:

- a. federal acts;
- b. emergency federal acts whose term of validity exceeds one year;
- c. federal decrees, provided by the Constitution or an act so requires;
- d. international treaties that:
  - 1. are of unlimited duration and may not be terminated;
  - 2. provide for accession to an international organisation;
  - 3. contain important legislative provisions or whose implementation requires the enactment of federal legislation."

This means that any declaration of war against any other nation by the Swiss is dependent on the Nation's consent in referendum. Such referendum takes place on the request of 50 thousand citizens. Simultaneously, it is obligatory, without any request, to perform a referendum on the accession to multilateral defence treaties. This constitutional mechanism has effectively prevented Switzerland from participation in armed conflicts throughout the last century. It also had a



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considerable impact on the limitation of costs of international interventions. Switzerland does not take part in global military treaties, limiting the role of its army to the defence of its external sovereignty. At the same time, the country is an active member of the Partnership for Peace programme. Switzerland is a laudable benchmark for maintaining peace by a country which, as a result of its geopolitical location, has been in the centre of global conflicts for decades, while at the same time adhering to neutrality on the international arena.

In the face of devaluation of the Nobel Peace Prize in the eyes of the world's public opinion, as a result of it being awarded to i.e. the President of the United States, who today suggests military interventions on the territory of sovereign states, such choice would be a remarkable move to rebuild the reputation of the Prize.

We sincerely hope that after the introduction of proven Swiss constitutional solutions in Poland we, as the Citizens of Poland, would also have a chance to put forward such motion in the future, striving to win the Nobel Peace Prize for the Republic of Poland.

We sincerely hope that our motion will be accepted and acted upon.



Kindest regards,  
Adam Kotucha,  
On behalf of the members  
of Direct Democracy.

*Adam Kotucha*