



European-American
Business Council

May 3, 2010

Ms Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf
Federal Councillor
Federal Palace, West Wing
CH-3003 Berne

Dear Councillor Widmer-Schlumpf,

The European American Business Council (EABC) and its members are pleased to learn of the Federal Council's April 28 decision to make available 1000 residency permits and an additional 4500 short term residency permits for the second half of 2010. We understand that this action was taken in light of the improving situation in the Swiss labour market and a realisation that in some sectors employers experience difficulties in recruiting skilled personnel in Switzerland.

The EABC commends you and your Federal Council colleagues for this action, which will allow businesses in Switzerland to supplement local employees with personnel from outside the EU and EFTA when certain skills are not available in the local labour market. The competitiveness of the Swiss economy will be enhanced, as will our members' ability to respond to the needs of our customers in Switzerland.

We thank you for your prompt and positive response to the issues raised in our March 23 letter, which was also endorsed by a number of other business associations.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Maibach
President & CEO
European American Business Council