



## Initiative Text

### Federal Popular Initiative

### "Transformation of the Economy Into a Contingent-Based Community Economy"

The Constitution<sup>1</sup> is amended as follows:

*Art. 2, para. 5 and 6*

<sup>5</sup> It [the Swiss Confederation] coordinates and organizes the economy in the interests of humanity and nature, for an equal distribution of resources, for the common development of humanity, for a sustainable coexistence with the environment, and in such a way as to give the population the greatest possible power of co-determination.

<sup>6</sup> To achieve these purposes, it operates the economy in accordance with Article 6a.

*To be inserted before the second title*

*Art. 6a* Principles of the Economic Order <sup>2\*</sup>

The economy is operated in accordance with the principles of Articles 6b-6n.

*Art. 6b* Form of the Economy

<sup>1</sup> The Swiss Confederation defines itself to the outside world as a private, non-profit economic unit.

<sup>2</sup> The economic framework is defined by the three principles of dignified sustainability, communality and subsidiarity.

<sup>3</sup> The distribution of economic goods and compliance with the principles are regulated by contingents.

<sup>4</sup> The population is the supreme decision-maker; it can, if it wishes and if possible, operate the economy by direct democracy within the set framework.

*Art. 6c* Dignified Sustainability

<sup>1</sup> The animate nature is given enough space for a free development.

<sup>2</sup> As far as possible, the economy is designed in healthy cycles with nature.

<sup>3</sup> Animals must not be tortured or mistreated.

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<sup>1</sup>SR 101

<sup>2\*</sup> With transitional provision

- <sup>4</sup> The total damage caused by the economy and human activities must be less than the regenerative and buffering capacity of the living and non-living nature. It is allowed to have a stabilizing effect on larger processes, if the living nature is otherwise threatened or if life is not possible. All data that can be scientifically collected are considered as criteria.

*Art. 6d*          Communalities

- <sup>1</sup> The economy is based on cooperation, mutual support and joint decision making.
- <sup>2</sup> Progress shall benefit all people and the nature.
- <sup>3</sup> Research, progress, technology and blueprints, as well as raw materials, economic resources and economic goods, are made equally available to all regions within the economic unit and developed together. Thereby applies:
  - a. Especially in the electronic and mechanical fields, economic goods should be as uniform, modular, durable and easily repairable and renewable as possible.
  - b. The use of dangerous technologies is subject to common decisions based on ethical principles.
- <sup>4</sup> All people within an economic unit are given equal access to economic resources, production facilities, and educational and research institutions in order to develop freely.

*Art. 6e*          Subsidiarity

- <sup>1</sup> People can freely shape their direct environment as long as they respect the communalities and sustainability.
- <sup>2</sup> Local people can plan and shape the economy at the municipal level themselves.
- <sup>3</sup> All economic goods are produced in self-sufficiency in the smallest possible region according to the following principles:
  - a. The economic goods that can be produced at the municipal level are managed by the local population through direct democracy.
  - b. The economic goods that can be produced at the cantonal level are managed by the municipalities and the population.
  - c. Economic goods that can only be produced at the federal level are managed by the cantons and the population;
  - d. If a problem arises, the higher level can offer assistance upon request.
- <sup>4</sup> People shape their direct environment together and at their convenience. The following principles apply:
  - a. Workers organize and shape companies together.
  - b. inhabitants organize and shape their housing;
  - c. Interest groups organize and shape their facilities and goods.

*Art. 6f*          Contingents

- <sup>1</sup> The economy operates on the basis of contingents; there are no other means of payment within the economic unit.
- <sup>2</sup> The contingents have the following purposes:

- a. They combine the dignified sustainability and the equal distribution of resources.
- b. They set the maximum amount of resources that can be used by the economy to produce products; these are known as resource-contingents;
- c. They serve as means of payment, which represent an equivalent to the resource-contingents; these are known as value-contingent;
- d. They serve as prices of economic goods in the form of value-contingent and are calculated by the resource-contingents, which are required for their production, consumption and disposal.

#### *Art. 6g*      Calculation of Contingents

- <sup>1</sup> Models and simplifications may be used for the calculation of contingents, provided that the principle of sustainability is respected.
- <sup>2</sup> Resource-contingents are calculated based on the maximum amount of resources that can be produced and consumed in a dignified sustainable manner related to the economic unit.
- <sup>3</sup> All known and scientifically measurable short- and long-term harmful consequences for nature and humans are identified and taken into account.
- <sup>4</sup> Resources include:
  - a. the land, in its various forms of utilization;
  - b. raw materials of any kind;
  - c. pollutants of all kinds.
- <sup>5</sup> Other resource-contingents can be calculated if the equal distribution of resources and the principle of sustainability requires it.
- <sup>6</sup> The rarity of raw materials is taken into account in the calculation of the resource-contingents.
- <sup>7</sup> The value-contingents reflect the resource-contingents as a means of payment and in the product prices.
- <sup>8</sup> The value-contingents for different resources can be converted into a uniform contingent.
- <sup>9</sup> For the conversion into a uniform contingent, the utilization rates of the various contingents are put in relation to each other.
- <sup>10</sup> Raw materials and economic goods that are traded must be checked for their environmental impact and included in the calculation.

#### *Art. 6h*      Distribution of Resource-Contingents

- <sup>1</sup> The Swiss Confederation establishes the systems for the distribution of resource-contingents among the various companies and regions for the production of economic goods.
- <sup>2</sup> The systems for the distribution of resource-contingents are always decided by the population in a vote.
- <sup>3</sup> The distribution among the cantons and the nationwide companies will be regulated at the federal level.
- <sup>4</sup> The distribution among the municipalities and canton-wide companies will be regulated at the cantonal level.

- <sup>5</sup> The distribution to the local companies, which are not organized by the population on the cantonal or federal level, is regulated on the municipal level.
- <sup>6</sup> The distribution of resource-contingents at the municipal level is regulated directly by the local population.

*Art. 6i*            Distribution of the Value-Contingents as Means of Payment

- <sup>1</sup> An equivalent of the resource-contingents calculated in accordance with Article 6g will be distributed equally among the population in Switzerland as a means of payment.
- <sup>2</sup> Necessary deductions can be made on all levels, which are needed to fulfill the mandates and tasks of the respective level. They can be made directly from the resource-contingents and from the value-contingents.
- <sup>3</sup> The usage of these contingents must be transparent and must be reported at least annually.
- <sup>4</sup> Children receive a value-contingent of a democratically determined amount, which is administered by the persons having parental authority and can be used for the family life.
- <sup>5</sup> The population can adjust the distribution of value-contingents at the municipal level for a better organization of the economy. It can reward the execution of unpopular work and special performances. To compensate, the received basic quantity of value-contingent decreases for all, whereby the total value of payment means of all persons in a region may not exceed the calculated quantity for this region. The difference in the quantity of the basic value-contingent received may not exceed 100 percent of the smallest contingent at the municipal level. This must not threaten the basic supply of a person. In this regard, out-of-town work is valued the same as work within the respective municipality.
- <sup>6</sup> The value-contingents are personal and non-transferable, their value expires by payment.
- <sup>7</sup> Value-contingents are made available to individuals on a regular basis. Unused value-contingents remain until the death of the person.
- <sup>8</sup> The system for the distribution of the value-contingents is determined by the population in a vote.

*Art. 6j*            Calculation of the Prices of Economic Goods

The prices of economic goods include the total resource-contingents required to produce, distribute, and dispose of the goods, including the losses occurring during production and distribution, as well as the environmental impact caused during consumption.

*Art. 6k*            Identification of Needs and Organization of the Production of Goods

The population can create models and introduce systems at all levels according to democratic principles in order to regulate the identification of needs and the production of goods.

*Art. 6l*            Economic Property

- <sup>1</sup> All means of production, buildings and economic goods are the property of the local population. Goods produced from them are the property of the population and are available to individuals in exchange for value-contingents. Goods acquired through value-contingent are private property. Private property cannot be sold for any means of payment.

- <sup>2</sup> Companies and facilities, which are managed by different regions together, are the property of the population from all regions, which participate.
- <sup>3</sup> There is no ownership of land. Raw materials extracted from it are the property of the population of the economic unit. The soil can be used and shaped by the local population, in a respectful manner with nature. Through value-contingent a right of use can be acquired.
- <sup>4</sup> The Swiss Confederation does not own any property outside Switzerland. Excluded are means of transport, transport goods and travel supplies as well as jointly managed companies and facilities within an economic unit in accordance with Article 6m paragraph 1.

*Art. 6m* International Community

- <sup>1</sup> The Swiss Confederation aims for economic units with all regions that manage the economy according to the same principles.
- <sup>2</sup> It supports other regions in the development of such an economy with political, legal, technological and practical assistance, provided resources are available.
- <sup>3</sup> It supports joint coordination within the economic unit in the necessary areas, supports an equal distribution of resources and promotes free technological and scientific exchange between all regions.
- <sup>4</sup> It establishes structures and laws to prevent foreign individuals and investors from enriching themselves through the Swiss economy.

*Art. 6n* Organization of the Economy

- <sup>1</sup> The Confederation, cantons, municipalities and the population manage the economy together.
- <sup>2</sup> The federal government is responsible for the framework conditions and the international economy.
- <sup>3</sup> Cantons, municipalities and population are responsible for the Swiss economy.
- <sup>4</sup> The Confederation and the cantons may make economic demands on the population of the municipalities in order to fulfill their tasks. The framework for these demands is set by the population in votes.
- <sup>5</sup> The optional referendum and the right of initiative are guaranteed.

*Art. 26* Guarantee of Ownership<sup>3\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Every person has the right to an equal contingent of environmental impact and use of our living space. The economic goods acquired and maintained with it represent the property.
- <sup>2</sup> This property is guaranteed.
- <sup>3</sup> The basic amount of the contingents may be adjusted at all levels in accordance with Article 6i, paragraphs 2 and 8. Individual adjustments to the contingents may only be made within the framework conditions set by Article 6i, paragraph 5.

*Art. 27* Freedom of Occupation

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<sup>3\*</sup> With transitional provision

The freedom of occupation is guaranteed.

*Art. 94* Competences

The tasks arising in the economic form under Articles 6b-6n are distributed in accordance with Articles 94a and 94b.

*Art. 94a* Tasks of the Federal Government

- <sup>1</sup> The Confederation carries out measurements and calculations to determine the contingents for the population of Switzerland. Thereby, it takes into account data provided by the population.
- <sup>2</sup> The Confederation, together with the cantons, municipalities and companies, calculates the value of the produced economic goods.
- <sup>3</sup> It is responsible for the exchange rate of contingent and foreign currency to enable international trade, private orders abroad and travel abroad.
- <sup>4</sup> The exchange rate may not cause any additional environmental impact.
- <sup>5</sup> Exchange rates within the economic unit but outside of the country can be calculated using the ratios of the resource-contingents if no common calculation is available. A common calculation is targeted.
- <sup>6</sup> Travelers to Switzerland are not allowed to exchange more money in value-contingent than is available to the people in Switzerland during the same period of stay.
- <sup>7</sup> For private orders abroad, exchange rates may vary for different product categories, depending on the relationship of the price and the environmental impact. Restrictions can be set for very expensive but resource-saving products.
- <sup>8</sup> The federal government provides sufficient foreign currency reserves to enable international trade, private orders abroad, and travel abroad.
- <sup>9</sup> It regulates and organizes economic trade and exchange of raw materials with foreign countries. It may offer for such trade economic resources and goods, technology, volunteer skilled labor, and funds from the foreign exchange reserves, provided they are available or can be produced. Trade may not cause additional environmental impact.
- <sup>10</sup> The federal government is obliged to check the origin of raw materials. Raw material trade is prohibited with suppliers who cause unnecessary environmental pollution or cause people to work under undignified conditions. Exceptions are made for suppliers who are willing to change to sustainable production with fair working conditions and who are making progress in this respect. The conversion must be achieved within 3 years. It can support such suppliers in the conversion to sustainability and fair working conditions. It can provide specialized personnel and technology for this purpose, if available..
- <sup>11</sup> The Confederation organizes the transport of goods abroad. It may acquire and maintain the means of transport necessary for this purpose.
- <sup>12</sup> The federal government carries out these tasks in complete transparency and in the democratically determined manner; there are no secret negotiations.

*Art. 94b* Tasks of the Cantons and Municipalities

- <sup>1</sup> Cantons coordinate the nationwide economy and municipalities coordinate the cantonal economy in the democratically determined manner.
- <sup>2</sup> Cantons, municipalities and the population together survey the social needs that cannot be fulfilled in any other way. In addition to the average consumption for daily needs, possibilities are offered to attach newly emerging or unfulfilled wishes.

*Art. 95*            Rights of the Population

- <sup>1</sup> The population has the right to manage the economy independently at all levels, as soon as appropriate possibilities for implementation exist and the principles according to Articles 6b-6n are respected.
- <sup>2</sup> Each person can freely shape their private consumption with their value-contingent. It must not cause any further significant environmental pollution. Further income and keeping foreign bank accounts are not permitted.
- <sup>3</sup> Every person has the right to run a company independently, either on his own or as part of a cooperative group. The local population remains the owner of the company. The local population decides on the subsidies and basic structures that are necessary for the management of independent companies. The goods produced are economic property in accordance with Article 6l.

*Art. 96, 99, 100, 104 para. 3 let. a, b and f and Art. 106 Repealed*

*Art. 197 para. 15*<sup>4</sup>

*15. Transitional Provisions on Art. 6a (Principles of the Economic Order)*

- <sup>1</sup> 5 years after the adoption of articles 2 paragraphs 5 and 6, 6a-6n, 26, 27, 94-94b, and 95, the Swiss Confederation is transitioning the economy from the money-based market economy to the contingent-based community economy.
- <sup>2</sup> Thereby, it may terminate international contracts and withdraw from international structures, if these are an obstacle to the contingent-based community economy. All economic contracts and structures that violate Article 2 are considered invalid and shall be terminated within the deadline, unless they are adapted.
- <sup>3</sup> The Swiss Confederation can compensate and buy out systemically important large companies upon conversion to the contingent-based community economy. The local population becomes the owner; the Confederation receives rights of use insofar as they are needed to fulfill its tasks.
- <sup>4</sup> The Swiss Confederation can use all available resources to build the technologies, machines, programs, networks, as well as the culture that are necessary for the contingent-based community economy.
- <sup>5</sup> It has another 10 years to fully implement dignified sustainability.

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<sup>4</sup> The final number of these transitional provisions will be determined by the Federal Chancellery after the referendum.

*Art. 197 para. 16<sup>5</sup>*

*16. Transitional Provisions on Art. 26 (Guarantee of Ownership)*

- <sup>1</sup> The assets are remunerated up to a value-contingent of 10 years at the time of conversion to the contingent-based community economy. The number of years that a person receives in value-contingent is calculated from the assets of the person divided by the average taxable income of the last 10 years, but not less than 30,000 francs. Assets include all domestic and foreign money and property including land values..
- <sup>2</sup> The pension entitlement of persons residing outside Switzerland and the method of payment of this entitlement may be redefined by the Swiss Confederation.
- <sup>3</sup> Physical property remains on request as long as it can be maintained with the personal contingent of the owner. Personal property may not be sold for cash or result in additional environmental impact, according to Article 6l para. 1. Any property that cannot be maintained by value-contingents reverts to the local population. Property abroad shall be transferred to the local population upon conversion to the contingent-based community economy.
- <sup>4</sup> Rights of use are retained as long as they can be covered by value-contingent .
- <sup>5</sup> Property on Swiss ground, owned by owners with their principal residence outside Switzerland, shall be transferred to the population of Switzerland upon conversion to the contingent-based community economy in accordance with Article 6l. Excluded are foreign means of transport, transport goods and foreign travel supplies in Switzerland as well as jointly managed companies and facilities within an economic unit in accordance with Article 6m paragraph 1.

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<sup>5</sup> The final number of these transitional provisions will be determined by the Federal Chancellery after the referendum.