

**Europäisches Jugendparlament Schweiz,
Nationale Auswahlkonferenz Bern 2015**

Sonntag, 06.09.2015, 17 Uhr, Weltpostverein, Bern

*Regierungsrat Bernhard Pulver, Erziehungsdirektor
des Kantons Bern, Mitglied des Patronatskomitees*

Anwesend **Delegates, Chairpersons** ('Chairs'), **Organisers, Journalists**

Dear young Parliamentarians

Mesdames et Messieurs

Liebe Politik-Interessierte

I'm happy to be with you at this closure ceremony of this 19th National Selection Conference of the European Youth Parliament.

Cela me fait d'autant plus plaisir que vous vous rencontrez ici, à Berne,

dans mon canton, dans notre canton,

dans la Ville fédérale de la Suisse

dans une des organisations internationales ayant leur siège ici à Berne.

Je vais me permettre de parler dans deux des langues nationales suisses et en Anglais.

You are all interested

- in politics
- in discussions about public affairs
- and – at least I hope so – in contributing to **resolve problems** of our society.

Democracy – and in a general way our society – needs the commitment and the participation of the citizens.

It needs **your** participation!

I'm very glad that you want to participate to the discussion of public issues,

to try to find solutions to the problems of our global society.

You know, I think that one of the most dangerous things for the human community is **indifference**.

Indifference about

- the destiny of the refugees
- the global warming
- the social problems

and many other difficult realities.

That's why I say:

Don't be indifferent about what happens in the world around you.

Be interested.

Participate.

Involve yourself.

I'm very happy that you participate these days to the European Youth Parliaments National Selection Conference.

Was hat Sie wohl dazu angetrieben, schon in Ihrem Alter ein solches Engagement zu entwickeln?

Was auch immer es war. Ich verstehe Sie gut.

My interest for politics began at the age of 12 years old. I know, this is very very early...

Perhaps too early...

Two events mobilised my interest and my resistance:

- First of all the project of a motorway through the valley in which my mother was born. The Simmental. I did not understand why the adults could consider destroying a very peaceful and nice valley with a noisy motorway.

I'm glad that the motorway was never built – and that the citizen's movement, I was luckily not alone, was successful in stopping the project.

- Then, the second event that ment the demolition of two very beautiful buildings in my neighbourhood.

Unfortunately, in this second case, the opponents did not win. And still today, when I walk along the awful new houses built there, I feel sad...

I said at the beginning of my speech that I hoped that you were really interested not only in *debating* political issues

– but also in contributing to **resolve** the problems.

Why did I say this?

You know, I participate in political discussions and campaigns since more than thirty years.

I was a member of local and cantonal Parliament and since nine years, I am member of a Gouvernement.

And I have crossed many politicians who like to discuss, who like to fight.

People who like the confrontation and therefore give ground to dogmatism.

People who want to win – but not really want to resolve problems.

I am convinced that we can only **really** resolve problems if we are ready to let **the others also** participate in the finding and the construction of a solution..

You did probably discuss many interesting matters these days.

And you have probably been convinced of **your** opinion and **your** ideas.

But there are also **other** opinions, **other** ideas.

And these other ideas are also ideas worth to be considered.

Finding really sustainable solutions in a democratic society,

is always a team work,

it's about finding and building a solution amongst several positions, ideas, opinions.

And all these opinions have a right to be heard and considered in the solution finding process.

For me one of the greatest problems in politics is that the **art of compromise** gets more and more lost and politicians act more and more in a uncompromising manner.

That's why I insist: if you want really to act and participate in politics:

Please listen to the others

Please consider also their interests.

Make propositions that consider also the needs of other groups than yours.

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I was most impressed by the solutions you have proposed and by your resolutions.

In the past five days, I hope you have also had plenty of time to meet people and build interesting contacts with them, contacts that ask to be maintained..

I also hope that at the same time, you have been able to discover something of the spirit of Bern.

- the charms of the old town, for example, or

- Bern as a canton of high-tech, education, culture and tourism, or even
- Bern as the political heart of Switzerland

And perhaps you have learned something about the character of the people of Bern:

they have the reputation of being somewhat slow and perhaps a bit too serious.

But in today's fast-moving and rather hectic times, this can sometimes be an advantage.

The last five days for you have not just been a matter of testing democratic participation and seeking practical and creative solutions.

They also allowed the national selection process. A jury has carefully observed our Swiss delegates and this evening the best candidates will be chosen. –

What must be remembered though, is that even if you do **not** reach the podium, you have no need to be disappointed.

At the end of the day, what counts is your personal motivation and commitment, what counts is the fact that you were there, the fact that you were active.

A last word to the Swiss delegates about our national languages:

Ich habe jetzt den grössten Teil meiner Ansprache auf Englisch gehalten – da dies ja auch die offizielle Sprache dieser Konferenz ist und wir viele internationale Gäste dabei haben.

Aber bitte: Wenn wir Schweizerinnen und Schweizer miteinander sprechen, deutsch- und französisch- und italienischsprachige Schweizerinnen und Schweizer:

Bitte nicht auf Englisch.

Etwas vom Schönsten in der Schweiz ist unsere Mehrsprachigkeit. Dass wir je unsere Sprache sprechen und einander verstehen.

Darum beneiden uns viele Länder.

Deshalb: Wir Deutschschweizer sollten unbedingt dem Französisch in Schule und Gesellschaft viel Gewicht geben.

Denn es ist immer die Mehrheit, die einen Schritt auf die Minderheit zugehen muss.

Vielen Dank, wenn Sie da auch mithelfen.

Wie auch immer, ich hoffe, dass Sie

- que vous garderez de très bons souvenirs de ces journées,
- que les contacts entre vous continueront,
- et qu'en découleront même quelques amitiés intercantionales ou internationales.

Ainsi, je vous souhaite:

- Ne soyez pas indifférent en face des problèmes de notre monde
- Lassen Sie sich aber auch nicht von allen den Themen und Problemen entmutigen

- Défendez vos idées avec courage et éloquence, mais respectez et tenez compte aussi des idées et des opinions des autres.
- Hinterfragen Sie gesellschaftspolitische Vorgaben kritisch
- Be pragmatical, without loosing your ideals and your utopies

Switzerland and Europe need young people like you. Thank you very much.