

## Free movement: declaration by President Barroso on results of Swiss referendum

09/02/2009



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso issued a statement following the Swiss referendum of 8 February 2009.

"I have just spoken with the President of the Swiss Confederation, Hans-Rudolf Merz. I congratulated him on behalf of the European Commission for the excellent result of the referendum concerning the follow-up to the agreement on free movement of persons and its extension to Bulgaria and Romania. I asked the President to convey these congratulations to the Swiss people. This agreement is of key importance for relations between the European Union and Switzerland. The positive result of the popular vote in Switzerland paves the way for a reinforcement of our relations in areas of mutual interest. I am confident that our excellent relations will

become even stronger in the future."