

## 1486<sup>th</sup> meeting, 17 January 2024

1 General questions

### 1.7 Election of the Secretary General – Procedure

---

The Secretariat recalls that, on 18 October 2023 (1478<sup>th</sup> meeting, item 1.7), the Deputies adopted the timetable for the election procedure of the Secretary General. The closing date for the submission of candidates is fixed at 10 January 2024.

By letter dated 10 January 2024, the Swiss authorities informed the President of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General that they propose the candidature of Mr Alain Berset for the post of Secretary General. The corresponding letter and the curriculum vitae of Mr Berset are attached.

---

<sup>1</sup> This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

Bern, 10 January 2024

**Candidature of Mr Alain Berset  
for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

Madam President,

In a letter dated 25 October 2023, the President of the Committee of Ministers, Mr Krišjānis Kariņš, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia, invited member States to submit candidatures for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with a view to the election to be held in June 2024.

I have decided to present the candidature of Mr Alain Berset, former President of the Swiss Confederation.

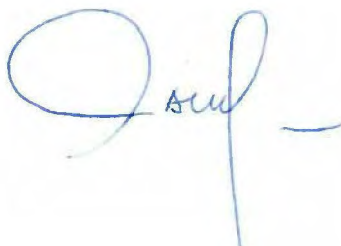
Mr Alain Berset was a member of the Swiss Government from 2012 to 2023, during which time he held the office of President of the Confederation twice (2018 and 2023). As Minister, Mr Alain Berset headed the Federal Department of Home Affairs, which is responsible for many of the Council of Europe's areas of activity. These include culture, health, social insurance, children and young people, equality between women and men and the fight against discrimination and racism.

Before joining the Government, Alain Berset was a member of the Swiss Federal Parliament from 2003 to 2011. He chaired the Council of States, the upper house of Parliament, in 2008/2009. A native French speaker, Mr Alain Berset also speaks English and German and understands Italian and Spanish.

I am convinced that Mr Alain Berset will promote the values of the Council of Europe with great skill and determination. With the benefit of his long experience in the highest executive functions, he will also be able to ensure the smooth running of the Organisation and prepare it to meet current and future challenges, by implementing the priorities defined at the Reykjavík Summit.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Ignazio Cassis  
Federal Councillor



Her Excellency  
Ms Dominique Hasler  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of the Principality of Liechtenstein  
President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Copy: Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Appendix: CV of Mr Alain Berset



## Alain BERSET

**Former President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA (health, social security, culture, equality between women and men, child and youth policy, anti-discrimination/anti-racism)**

Swiss politician with longstanding experience at the highest executive and legislative levels with marked consensus-building, decision-making and managerial skills. Distinct interest in multilateralism, international law, rule of law and human rights

### Personal details

9 April 1972, Fribourg, Switzerland  
Married, 3 children (20, 18, 16)  
PhD in economics and M. Sc. in political science

### Political career

2023	President of the Swiss Confederation
2018	President of the Swiss Confederation
2012 – 2023	Member of the Government (Federal Council) and Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
2009	President of the Senate (Council of States)
2007 – 2011	Member of the parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
2005 – 2011	Member of the parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
2005 – 2011	Vice president of the parliamentary Social Democratic group
2003 – 2011	Member of the Senate (Council of States)
2000 – 2004	Constitutional Council of the Canton of Fribourg
2001 – 2003	Member of the local parliament in Belfaux FR

### Professional activity

2006 – 2011	Independent strategy and communications advisor
2001 – 2004	Strategic advisor at the Department of Economic Affairs of canton Neuchâtel
2000 – 2001	Guest researcher at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics, Hamburg
1996 – 2000	Assistant lecturer at the Research institute for Regional Economic Development at the University of Neuchâtel

### Education

2005	PhD in Economics at the University of Neuchâtel
1996	Ms. Sc. in Political Science at the University of Neuchâtel

### Further activities

2005 – 2011	President of the Swiss Association for the promotion of AOC/IGP, Bern President of the Swiss Tenants' Association – Western Switzerland Section, Lausanne
2004 – 2011	President of 'Les Buissonnets', foundation for children and adults with disabilities, Fribourg