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## The Federal Authorities of the Swiss Confederation

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### President Leuthard receives Chairman of the National People's Congress of China

**Bern, 18.07.2010 - President Doris Leuthard received Wu Bangguo, the Chairman of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, in Zurich on Sunday morning for a courtesy visit. The discussions covered the 60 years of diplomatic relations and cooperation between Switzerland and China.**

The anniversary of 60 years of bilateral diplomatic relations is being marked by numerous high level exchanges. Following the visit to Bern at the end of January by the Chinese Vice Prime Minister, Li Keqiang, the Chairman of the National People's Congress, Wu Bangguo, is also visiting Switzerland. Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey made a reciprocal visit at the end of June and President Leuthard will also travel to China with a high-ranking business delegation in August.

China has been Switzerland's most important trade partner in Asia since 2002. Bilateral trade relations are developing very dynamically. China is already our third largest supplier of goods after the EU and the USA, and the fourth largest market for Swiss products. In order to improve market access a joint feasibility study is currently under way to examine whether negotiations should be launched on a free trade agreement between Switzerland and China.

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#### Address for enquiries:

Evelyn Kobelt, Press Spokesperson FDEA, Tel. +41 79 301 71 72

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