



Introducing the *Hauptstadt-Bericht*

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From 2015 till the beginning of this year I was a campaigner and a member of the board at Operation Libero, a political movement in Switzerland. One of our most important topics was the relationship between Switzerland and the EU. It was also the most frustrating one.

The Swiss EU debate is focused entirely on the conflict between Brussels and Switzerland. Like in many “us versus them” arguments, the debate is mired in mutual misconceptions and polemic distortions. Sadly, this disables the Swiss public to see what else is going on in Europe. While Swiss politics is battling windmills at the periphery of European law, the EU is setting standards for new technologies, facing geopolitical challenges, and reshaping our continent.

For better or for worse, the decisions taken at the EU level influence Switzerland directly and indirectly. Brussels is also the capital of Switzerland, whether we like it or not.

This summer, I decided to step aside from the political fights and instead move to Brussels to try to understand our European capital. I follow the debates taking place in Europe and break them down for a Swiss public on my blog hauptstadt-bericht.eu. While covering these issues, I am trying to show the interests of the different actors and the institutional logic behind them.

This allows me to paint a richer and more ambiguous picture of Europe and Switzerland’s place in it than the black and white of the conflict between Brussels and Bern would allow for. I hope that my reports from Brussels can contribute to a more fruitful European discussion in Switzerland and that they provide new insights for politically interested people. Especially IA students, who want to enrich their political theory with some analysis of current European topics, might find the *Hauptstadt-Bericht* helpful. It would be a pleasure to know you among my subscribers. Also, if there is a topic that interests you in particular, do not hesitate to contact me: janos.ammann@hauptstadt-bericht.eu.