



Statement by Wikimedia CH

Federal Council supports [Motion 21.4195](#) - Release of federal images on the Open Government Data Portal

A milestone in the history of free images

Switzerland (December 2021) - The Federal Council recently set a milestone in the history of free images in Switzerland. On November 17, 2021, the government requested the parliament to accept the motion "Release of images of the Confederation on the Open Government Data Portal" in its entirety. This means that images taken on behalf of the Confederation are to be released. In the future, they should be accessible to all and usable free of charge.

Gerhard Andrey, National Councillor for the Green Party, had submitted the motion on September 30, 2021 with broad support from all parliamentary groups in the National Council in order to achieve the copyright release of images that were created on behalf of the Confederation. According to the Federal Council's [Open Government Data Strategy](#), the principle of public access should now also be applied to images. With the recommendation to accept the motion, the Federal Council supports this initiative.

"This positive sign is an important step in the right direction and represents a paradigm shift for us," says a pleased Jenny Ebermann, managing director of Wikimedia CH, the Swiss association behind Wikipedia and its sister projects.

The motion was supported by the Parliamentary Group on Digital Sustainability (Parldigi), which became an association on December 6. Its supporting organizations include Wikimedia CH. With support from the Wikipedia community, Wikimedia CH has been actively involved in this issue, thus fulfilling one of its central tasks of promoting free knowledge through participation in the political opinion-forming process and advocating for free knowledge at the political level. "We hope that the motion will now be accepted by the National Council and the Council of States," says Jenny Ebermann. "After that, we will keep an eye on the implementation and are curious to see what image treasures will come to light."

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