

Tuesday, 1th December 2009

The Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG) and the Platform for Liberal Jews in Switzerland (PLJS) regret the outcome of the vote on the anti-minaret initiative.

The SIG and the PLJS respect the outcome of the vote on the anti-minaret initiative. At the same time, both umbrella organisations express their disappointment over the success of the initiative and fear that this could lead to polarisation in Swiss society and put religious peace at risk.

The success of the initiative is a blow to religious freedom. Supporters of the initiative and their associates could well regard the outcome of the vote as justifying them in taking further action capable of encroaching on religious liberties. It is important to oppose attempts such as these.

The recently adopted change to the constitution solves nothing and certainly fails to address the very problems that have given rise to people's fears and uncertainties in the first place. These problems need to be dealt with as part of a serious political and inter-faith dialogue held against the background of the core values and legal structures of our country.