All-Party Parliamentary Group for Switzerland and Liechtenstein INNAUGURAL MEETING

Tuesday 30th July 2024 House of Lords Television Interview Room London, SW1A 0AA

Present:

Andrew Rosindell M.P.

The Rt Hon. The Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury

C.B.E.

The Rt Hon. The Lord Balfe Bradley Thomas M.P. Martin Vickers M.P.

The Rt Hon. The Baroness Nicholson of

Winterbourne

The Rt Hon. The Baroness Hooper C.M.G. D.S.G. F.R.S.A. F.R.G.S.

The Rt Hon. The Baroness Verma

His Excellency Markus Leitner, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Court of St. James's was

also present.

1. Opening of Meeting & Introduction

- 1.1 Andrew Rosindell M.P. thanked all those for coming, especially those who were instrumental in keeping the APPG functioning over the last year. He also thanked H.E. The Ambassador for attending and for the good work he does to ensure relations between the United Kingdom and Switzerland remains strong.
- **1.2** Andrew Rosindell M.P. explained that due to the rule changes which were agreed by Parliament on the governance of APPGs last year, namely the cap on how many groups one may be an officer of, there was a need to combine the All-Party Parliamentary Groups for Switzerland and Liechtenstein into one group.

2. Apologies

2.1 Apologies given by: Lord Northbrook, Lord Kamall, Christine Jardine M.P., Sir Mark Hendrick M.P. and Phil Brickell M.P.

3. Adoption of the aims of the group

- **3.1** The group's aims were unanimously agreed by all present and are as follows:
 - **3.1.1** "To promote close relations between the parliaments and peoples of the Untied Kingdom, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein; to foster deeper understanding of our respective countries; and to promote close ties with the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation and the Honorary Consulate of the Principality of Liechtenstein."

4. Election of Officers

4.1 Chairman: Andrew Rosindell M.P.

4.2 Vice-Chair: Sir Mark Hendrick M.P.

4.3 Vice-Chair: The Rt Hon. The Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

4.4 Vice-Chair: Christine Jardine M.P.

5. Appointment of Clerk

5.1 Clerk - Pierre-Louis Plumejeau-Wilby

6. Future Programme

6.1 Over Parliamentary recess, a more concise programme will be planned.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 The Ambassador addressed the group present regarding the status of British-Swiss relations and some of the next steps to be taken by the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom to further advance our relationship.