World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018 – Important information

The authorities of the Canton of Graubünden, Davos and the Confederation will be providing continuous and objective information on their policy regarding the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018 in Davos. The following information about the WEF Annual Meeting comes from the various agencies and authorities concerned.
World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018 in Davos

1. General information:

Between 22 and 26 January, around 2,500 participants from the fields of business, politics, research and culture from around 90 countries will travel to Davos to attend the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018. The event in Davos will be covered by some 500 journalists reporting for domestic and foreign news outlets.

For more information about the theme and programme of the Annual Meeting go to http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_AM18_Overview.pdf
2. Importance:

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting is one of the most important economic and socio-political events in the world. Each year, countless influential politicians, business leaders and scientists from many countries around the world come to Davos. For about a week Davos, Graubünden and Switzerland are the focal point of national and international media attention.

The Federal Council considers the WEF Annual Meeting to be an exceptional event for Switzerland as it provides a unique opportunity to cultivate relations with a great many leading figures in a special setting. It is an outstanding privilege for Switzerland to be able to host this forum for exchanging views and seeking solutions to world problems, and therefore to continue Switzerland’s longstanding tradition of serving as a host country for international conferences and gatherings.
3. Costs and benefits:

The additional costs to the public authorities for security at the WEF Annual Meeting 2018 are estimated to amount to around CHF 9 million (as of end of November 2016). Of that, CHF 8m is split between the partners as follows: Canton of Graubünden: CHF 2m, Davos: CHF 1m, Confederation: CHF 3m, WEF: CHF 2m; 80% of the remainder is likely to be covered by the Confederation, 20% by the other partners. Details are set out in the Dispatch accompanying the Federal Decree on the deployment of the armed forces to support the Canton of Graubünden with security measures at the World Economic Forum Annual Meetings 2016–2018 in Davos and other security measures (BBl 2015 2033).

The three-level finance model for security costs has generally been applied since 2004:

**Level 1: (Normal deployment)**
The finance model sets a cost ceiling of CHF 8 million for each annual meeting, shared among the partners as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Share</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canton of Graubünden</td>
<td>CHF 2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davos</td>
<td>CHF 1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confederation</td>
<td>CHF 3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEF</td>
<td>CHF 2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost ceiling</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHF 8 million</strong></td>
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The federal government’s share amounts to 3/8 of the overall security costs at the Annual Meeting; due to the cost ceiling, however, this sum is limited to a maximum of CHF 3 million per annum.

**Level 2: (raised threat level)**
In the event that the cost ceiling for security costs of CHF 8 million per annual meeting is exceeded, the federal government makes available additional funds not exceeding CHF 750,000 to cover the three annual meetings in the period 2016-2018.

**Level 3: (exceptional threat level)**
In the event of exceptional incidents (e.g. terrorist attacks, assassination attempts on politicians or business leaders, major threats of such acts), the federal government covers 80% of the costs of additional arrangements required for internationally protected persons.

The cost to the Canton of Graubünden for the WEF Annual Meeting amounts to around CHF 2 million. The commune of Davos will contribute around CHF 900,000 to the security costs annually until 2018; this amount was approved by voters in Davos on 29 November 2009. The commune of Klosters contributes a further CHF 100,000.

The deployment of the armed forces in support is funded through the normal DDPS budget. Overall, the cost of deploying troops at the WEF Annual Meeting is much the same as that incurred by the same battalions when on regular training. In previous
years, the deployment of the armed forces has cost an average of around CHF 28 million per meeting.

The World Economic Forum is a foundation. In the financial year from July 2016 to June 2017, it reported a turnover of CHF 280 million and a surplus of CHF 1.2 million, which is paid into the foundation capital. In 2015 the WEF Annual Meeting generated an estimated turnover of around CHF 79 million throughout Switzerland. CHF 50 million of this benefited the commune of Davos. These figures are reported in a study commissioned by the WEF and conducted by the University of St Gallen, a summary of which can be found at www.wef.gr.ch > Documentation > Economic importance.
4. **Security:**

A number of agencies from the Confederation, the canton and the commune of Davos work together with the World Economic Forum. Responsibility for coordination rests with the WEF committee of the Graubünden government, chaired by Cantonal Councillor Jon Domenic Parolini.

The Graubünden cantonal police and its partners ensure the security of visitors to the WEF Annual Meeting, the local population and guests.

In light of terrorist attacks in Europe since 2015 and the ongoing activities of jihadist groups and organisations, the terrorist threat in many European countries remains elevated or high. Switzerland is part of the western world, considered anti-Islam by the jihadists, and is therefore also a possible target of terrorist attacks. In particular the interests on Swiss soil of countries involved in the military coalition against Islamic State – Russian, Jewish/Israeli, Iranian and Arabian interests – could be targeted.

Due in particular to the activities and planning by Islamic State, the terrorist threat in Switzerland remains high. The most likely threat comes in the form of attacks requiring minimum logistical planning, carried out by individuals or small groups. The perpetrators of such an attack would most likely be persons radicalised in Switzerland or someone returned from an area controlled by jihadists. The perpetrators could be merely inspired by jihadist propaganda or have connections to Islamic State or some other jihadist group. The recent spate of attacks in Europe and the associated media attention could also inspire radicalised individuals in Switzerland to perpetrate terrorist attacks.

The security authorities at federal and cantonal level continuously assess the situation and take the necessary measures where necessary. Robust security precautions with a high, visible police presence, intensive reconnaissance and police checks will again be necessary in 2018 to ensure the event passes off safely.

All cantons in Switzerland make personnel and equipment available for maintaining security and for protecting people and property as part of an inter-cantonal police operation. The Federal Assembly has also authorised the deployment of up to 5,000 armed forces personnel for civil support duties to assist the Canton of Graubünden (www.armee.ch/wef).

Responsibility for two areas of security rests with the Confederation:

- For internationally protected foreign persons such as heads of state, heads of government or serving members of government, the Federal Security Service will order special protective measures if necessary. These, along with the general security plans, are carried out by the cantonal police and its partners.

- The Federal Council has imposed security restrictions on the airspace over Davos to safeguard air sovereignty. Civilian aircraft may continue to fly through the restricted airspace provided they have been announced and identified. If the need arises, aerial policing measures can be ordered and executed in accordance with international rules and procedures. In addition,
helicopter traffic to and from Davos has to be controlled during the WEF Annual Meeting. The restrictions also apply to paragliders, drones, model aircraft, etc. (for further information, see https://www.bazl.admin.ch/wef (not in English) and www.wef.gr.ch in the FAQs).
5. Freedom of opinion and freedom to demonstrate:

The authorities of the Confederation and the Canton of Graubünden consider the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting to be a place of open dialogue. As such, critical debate on issues such as globalisation and the development of the world economy should therefore be possible. However, the authorities expect the concerns, arguments and proposals of critics to be put forward in a peaceful manner.

The Graubünden authorities are again willing, in principle, to authorise a demonstration this year. However, it is essential that requirements to protect people, infrastructure and property are respected.

If a demonstration is held in a town square or involves a march, detailed arrangements have to be made between the organisers and the authorities. Considerations such as traffic routing have to be taken into account, as do the needs of the local population and holiday guests. Requests for authorisation to hold a demonstration must therefore be submitted as early as possible, and no later than 48 hours prior to the planned event.

If a demonstration is held without authorisation, the authorities will take whatever measures are required to ensure the security and freedom of movement of residents and guests, while remaining within the bounds of what is proportionate. Offenders will be prosecuted.

The threshold set for police intervention will be consistent with that applied in previous years, which has proven to be effective. Intervention is appropriate when the law is broken in order to send a clear signal that violence will not be tolerated. The proven strategy of dialogue, de-escalation and firm response within the scope of what is proportionate will continue to be applied. In order to ensure an open and comprehensive briefing of the media and the general public on all aspects of WEF Annual Meetings in Davos, the Graubünden authorities, in cooperation with the commune of Davos and the Confederation, have set up an external media centre as well as the website www.wef.gr.ch.
6. **Impact on tourism:**

Winter sports in the Davos / Prättigau region are generally not affected during the WEF Annual Meeting. There are no general travel restrictions. Davos is accessible by public transport, by road or on foot. Precautionary personal, vehicle and baggage checks will however be carried out on all access roads. The primary concern is to prevent any dangerous items, such as firearms and other weapons from being brought into Davos. The checks are intended to protect people attending the conferences, residents and visitors. The Graubünden authorities guarantee that the checks on access routes to Davos will take place quickly and without harassment. However, delays at checkpoints remain possible.

Additional information on the latest travel and traffic situation can be found at [www.graubuenden.ch](http://www.graubuenden.ch), [www.rhb.ch](http://www.rhb.ch) and [http://www.sbb.ch/en/timetable/rail-traffic-information.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/timetable/rail-traffic-information.html).

Within Davos entry restrictions will be in place in certain areas for the duration of the WEF Annual Meeting; these are security zones around the Kongresszentrum / Kongresshotel / Hilton Garden Inn, the Seehof, Intercontinental, Belvédère and Ameron hotels, at the ‘Seewiese’ helicopter landing site and at the Parsenn car park (See [www.wef.gr.ch](http://www.wef.gr.ch) for details). Persons resident in the security areas will be issued with personal badges and car discs (cantonal police hotline: +41 (0)81 257 63 97). All other hotels and all shops can be reached without restriction.