

Swiss Politics

Unions contest pension reform plans with Bern demonstration



Thousands marched in Bern on Saturday against a proposed reforms of the Swiss old-age pension scheme, notably the plan to raise the retirement age for women from 64 to 65.

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Keystone-SDA/dos

The demonstration, which was authorised by Bern authorities, was attended by some 15,000 people, according to the trade unions who organised it; the police have not released estimates.

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A press release by the Trade Union Federation said that the current pension system is “no longer enough to live on” and that politicians should be raising payments rather than trying to cut them; as for making women work a year longer, this is a non-runner, it says, given the years of part-time and unpaid work they do during their active lives.

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Switzerland mulls raising the retirement age for women

Mar 19, 2021 • Like in many industrialised countries, Switzerland is trying to align the age of retirement between men and women.

In June, both chambers of parliament agreed on raising the retirement age for women by 64 to 65. Other elements of the reform package – which the government says is vital to ensure the solvency of the system beyond 2030 – are still to be debated, including some sort of “compensation measures” for women and for those who will see their payments drop.

The government has also proposed raising VAT as part of the effort to shore up

In 2017, a previous attempt to reform the pension system was rejected by 53% of **SWI swissinfo.ch** – the third unsuccessful attempt at the polls or in parliament over the past two decades to amend legislation to remove a structural deficit of the scheme.

The current package could also be challenged to a vote once the law is finalised in parliament. Unions on Saturday said that any “revision of the pension system that falls on the back of women will meet with fierce resistance”.

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