



Micheline Calmy-Rey | Class of 1968

On the 4th of December 2002, Micheline Calmy-Rey was elected Federal Councillor, a position she held until the end of 2011. As head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, she worked to broaden and develop Switzerland's relations with the European Union by strengthening and broadening the so-called bilateral path. She promoted a stronger Swiss presence beyond the European continent with Switzerland's main economic partners and pursued a policy of active neutrality, promoting peace, respect for human rights and the fight against poverty.



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In 2008, committed to resolving the crisis surrounding Iran's nuclear programme, Micheline Calmy-Rey wore a veil in order to speak with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. She justified her action, which was criticised in Switzerland, by saying that the step was necessary in order to open dialogue.



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United States President Barack Obama and Micheline Calmy-Rey met in Istanbul in 2009 during a meeting with the heads of Turkish and Armenian diplomacy. Barack Obama called on the two countries to normalise their relationship, with Switzerland playing the mediator role in the conflict.



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Micheline Calmy-Rey and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev met in 2011. Negotiations between Georgia and Russia, mediated by Switzerland, led to an agreement between the two countries that directly enabled Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization.

