



# ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2010

## Commencement of the 9<sup>th</sup> Dialogue of Science of the Academia Engelberg Foundation

### **Have a say in the future of democracy**

**Democracy is regarded in the Western world as the only correct system of government. The people's participation often legitimates the correctness of the system. But is this really true?**

Are the people of a democratic country always involved in decision-making processes? Do "democratic" decisions not often hinder innovations, and hence, the development of economy and society? Protests against the new train station Stuttgart 21 show that the people want to have their say in decisions that are important to them. Paradoxically, only about one third to half of the electors goes to the ballot box in Switzerland's direct democracy.

### **Democracy in the lab**

Starting from today, over 120 renowned personalities from science, industry, culture, politics and society from all over the world will discuss what elements have an effect on the strategy of political actors, what is the contribution of the media and what influences decisions of the electors. In an interdisciplinary dialogue between different generations, the matter of course of democracy will be challenged with a focus on three areas «Science and Democracy», «Freedom of Choice» and «Future of Democracy in a globalized World»

### **Bridge between science and society**

Fundamental scientific findings are likely to meet strong reservations and encounter mistrust among the general public. The Academia Engelberg Foundation ([www.academia-engelberg.ch](http://www.academia-engelberg.ch)) contributes its share to the creation of a new foundation of trust through interdisciplinary dialogue between the scientific community and the general public. Every autumn, personalities from science, industry, culture, politics and society meet in Engelberg, Switzerland. In addition to this, projects are carried out and follow-up events are organized as results of the conference.

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### **Media Relations**

Photos, texts and videos on the conference are continuously available at <http://www.academia-engelberg.ch/english.php5>

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