

Information about the Web Services provided by the Parliamentary Services

Version 4

Background

Version	Date	Comment	Person
0.1	25.03.11	Draft	M Viallon (GridSoft)
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1.0	08.06.2011	Approved	D. Marty (PD DINT)
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1 Purpose of the document

The aim of this document is to provide all the necessary information for the use of the web services offered by the Parliamentary Services.

2 Definitions of terms used

-Application: a complete function through which prepared data can be viewed by the end- user. In the future the application will use web services that have been developed as part of this project to access the data.

-Web service: an application that provides the data via http. As part of this concept one web service will be developed per entity identified.

-Entity: a clearly defined, complete collection of data.

3 Access to and use of web services

3.1 Data access

The web services allow only reading access to the data; the user cannot add to or change the text in any way. External users have access to data which is already available to the general public.

The web services can be accessed via the following URL:

<http://ws.parlament.ch>.

3.2 Paging

The web services include an active paging mechanism. The lists contain a maximum of 50 entries per page.

Recognition of the end of a list: the indication "false" is shown against the "hasMorePages" flag of the last element on the last page. Example:

-NOT the last page:

```
http://ws.parl.admin.ch/committees?pagenumber=15&format=xml > last element (ID 880) > <hasMorePages>true</hasMorePages>
```

-last page: `http://ws.parl.admin.ch/committees?pagenumber=16&format=xml > last element (ID 916) > <hasMorePages>>false</hasMorePages>`

3.3 Output formats

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Data are available in four different formats: HTML, XMLⁱ and JSONⁱⁱ and XSD. This means that they can be displayed in the web browser and can also be accessed by other clients. For example, the standard exchange format between a web service and a web service client is XML. JSON is used for data exchange for which a minimum bandwidth is a criterion or for Javascript clients who retrieve data using AJAX.

HTML view is only for the end user. It does not display all the information contained in XML and JSON formats and should NOT be used by further applications.

The table below shows which request characteristics determine the output format. Output can either be altered via URL or set using the *accept* HTTP header.

Format	Parameter in URL (List and details for an ID)	Example of URL	HTTP Header
HTML	no parameter	/councils	Accept: text/html
XML	?format=xml	/councillors?format=xml	Accept: text/xml
JSON	?format=json	/affairs/20080062?format=json	Accept: text/json
XSD	?format=xsd	/affairs?format=xsd	Accept: text/xsd

3.4 Generally valid parameters

Re.	Parameter in URL	Possible values	Example
Paging	?pagenumber=<Number>	number, beginning with 1	?pagenumber=13
Language (data stored in the DB under this language)	?lang=<Language> NB: if the parameter is not given, the parameter "en" is automatically applied	„de“ „fr“ „en“ „it“ as well as country-specific abbreviations (e.g. <i>en-gb</i>)	?lang=de
Combination of several parameters	&	-	?pagenumber=13&lang=it
Filter	Listed in HTML view	As per list in HTML view	/committees?currentonly=true

3.5 No or unsuccessful result

If the page sought produces no result or an unsuccessful result, a 404 error occurs.

3.6 Change log

An up-to-date change log appears in each version, linked to the homepage.

3.7 XML schema

An entity's XML schema can always be retrieved using the xsd parameter (see section 3.3).

4 Specification of all entities

4.1 Councils

Councils

Operation	URL
List	/councils
Details	/councils/<ID>

4.2 Council members

Councillors

Operation	URL and other indicators
List of all council members (including former council members)	/councillors Search CV: PER_801_ (ID) Search AB: PER_2565_ (Number)
List with more details, only current council members	councillors/basicdetails no paging (exception)
Historical list with more details, per council member by mandate and legislative period (for	councillors/historic

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RM1848 search)	
Details	/councillors/<ID>

4.3 Schedules

Operation	URL
List	/schedules No paging (always < 50 elements listed)
List by year	/schedules/<Jahr> No paging (always < 50 elements listed)
Daily schedule for current session	/schedules/<Jahr>/ALL

4.4 Items of business

Affairs

Operation	URL
List	/affairs
Types	/affairs/types No paging (always < 50 elements listed)
Status	/affairs/states No paging (always < 50 elements listed)
Topics	/affairs/topics No paging (always < 50 elements listed)
Descriptors	/affairs/descriptors No paging (always < 50 elements listed)
Details	/affairs/<ID>

Details about an item of business under /affairs/<ID>

Additions to certain fields:

- affair/updated

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This field corresponds to DATUM_MODIFIZIERT in the table of items of business in the Curia database.

- affair/author

Author	Entry under item of business/author	Explanation	Example in item number
Council member	<councillor> <faction>	The author of the item of business is the council member (under <councillor>). The parliamentary group (under <faction>) is the group to which the council member belongs.	20105463
Parliamentary group	<faction>	-	20093023
Canton	<canton>	-	20100334
Committee	<committee>	-	20073770
All others	<external>	-	20092001

- affair/deposit/date
All dates are formatted in line with recommendation W3C (<http://www.edition-w3c.de/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-2-20010502/#dateTime>).
- affair/language
Includes “de”, “fr” or “it”.
- affair/drafts
The draft with the index 0 (including texts) always refers to the entire item of business.
- affair/drafts/draft/texts/text/value and affair/texts/text/value
The texts may include encoded HTML.

4.5 Summaries

AffairSummaries

Operation	URL
List	/affairsummaries
Details	/affairsummaries/<ID>

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4.6 Committees

Committees

Operation	URL								
List of all committees and sub-committees (standing as well as temporary; including those no longer in existence)	/committees With ID-filter: ?ids=13;25								
Details	/committees/<ID>								
Details for a sub-committee NB: a sub-committee always has a clear ID (in the example below: 795) and a number as a sub-committee of a main committee (in the example below: no. 4 of main committee no. 6).	/committees/<MainCommitteeNumber>/<SubCommitteeNumber> Gives access to the same page as: /committees/<CommitteeID> In the example: /committees/795 is identical to /committees/6/4								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Id</th> <th>Name</th> <th>CommitteeNumber</th> <th>SubCommitteeNumber</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>795</td> <td>Kommission für soziale Sicherheit und Gesundheit/Krankenversicherung (04.032, 04.034, 04.062)NR</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Id	Name	CommitteeNumber	SubCommitteeNumber	795	Kommission für soziale Sicherheit und Gesundheit/Krankenversicherung (04.032, 04.034, 04.062)NR	6	4
Id	Name	CommitteeNumber	SubCommitteeNumber						
795	Kommission für soziale Sicherheit und Gesundheit/Krankenversicherung (04.032, 04.034, 04.062)NR	6	4						

4.7 Legislative periods

LegislativePeriods

Operation	URL
List	/LegislativePeriods
Details	None (not necessary)

4.8 Departments

Departments

Operation	URL
List	/Departments
Details	None (not necessary)

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4.9 Cantons

Cantons

Operation	URL
List	/cantons
Details	None (not necessary)

4.10 Parliamentary groups

Factions

Operation	URL
List	/Factions
Details	/Factions/<ID>
List with historical dates	/Factions/historic

NB: The lists `/factions?format=xml&lang=en`, `/factions?format=xml&lang=fr` and `/factions?format=xml&lang=it` contain no abbreviations because abbreviations are not normally used in the EN, FR and IT databases.

Abbreviations are only normally used in the DE database. For this reason these abbreviations can only be found in `/factions?format=xml&lang=de`.

4.11 Sessions

Sessions

Operation	URL
List	/sessions
Details	None (not necessary)

4.12 Parties

Parties

Operation	URL
List	None (not necessary)
Details	None (not necessary)
List with historical dates	/Parties/historic

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4.13 Votes

Votes

Operation	URL
List of all items of business	/votes/affairs
Details of an item	/votes/affairs/<ID>
List of all council members	/votes/councillors
Details of a council member	/votes/councillors/<ID>

NB: the following IDs are used in the web services (XML) and exports (CSV; XML) from the ABDB website –an example is given for council member Andreas Aebi.

WS councillors	WS votes/councillors	Geschäftssicht XML Export	Geschäftssicht CSV Export	WS votes/affairs	RM Sicht XML Export	RM Sicht CSV Export
number=2670	councillor/id=2670	affair/affairVotes/affairVote/councillorVotes/councillorVote/number=2670	CouncillorId=2670	affair/affairVotes/affairVote/councillorVotes/councillorVote/number=2670	councillor/id=2670	CouncillorId=2670
-	councillor/elanId=153	affair/affairVotes/affairVote/councillorVotes/councillorVote/elanId=153	CouncillorEland=153	affair/affairVotes/affairVote/councillorVotes/councillorVote/elanId=153	councillor/elanId=153	CouncillorEland=153
id=3867	-	affair/affairVotes/affairVote/councillorVotes/councillorVote/biold=3867	CouncillorBiold=3867	-	councillor/biold=3867	CouncillorBiold=3867

ⁱ Extensible Markup Language; http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extensible_Markup_Language

ⁱⁱ JavaScript Object Notation; http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/JavaScript_Object_Notation