# Swiss Parliament Defies ECHR Climate Ruling, Stirring Controversy



### Swiss Parliament Rejects ECHR Climate Ruling

The Swiss Parliament has chosen not to comply with a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling concerning the nation’s climate policies. The case, led by the group Senior Women for Climate Protection, argued that Switzerland's inadequate response to climate change and extreme heat endangers their right to health and life. The ECHR agreed in April 2023, ordering Switzerland to enhance its climate efforts.

Despite the binding nature of ECHR decisions, Swiss lawmakers voted on Wednesday against implementing the ruling. The proponents contended that Switzerland’s existing climate strategy is already sufficient. The debate featured emotionally charged exchanges, with right-wing politicians warning against foreign interference and Green Party members decrying the populist discourse.

Switzerland is currently behind in meeting its Paris Climate Agreement targets. Survey data suggests many Swiss citizens are concerned about this, though a majority disapprove of ECHR involvement. The final decision now rests with the Swiss government, expected to announce its stance in August.

### Transgender Swimmer Lia Thomas Loses Case

Transgender swimmer Lia Thomas has lost her legal case against World Aquatics, the governing body for swimming, at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Thomas, the first transgender NCAA Division I champion, contested a 2022 rule that prevents transgender women who have undergone male puberty from competing in elite female events.

CAS dismissed Thomas’ bid, ruling she lacked standing as she was no longer a registered athlete with USA Swimming and not directly impacted by World Aquatics' rules. World Aquatics welcomed the verdict, emphasizing its commitment to fairness and inclusivity in women's sports and promoting an "open" category for which transgender athletes are eligible. This decision ultimately bars Thomas from competing in the Paris 2024 Olympics.