

## **ABSTRACT**

### **At the heart of the Swiss consensus : The Advisory Board of the Swiss Watch Industry (1946-1951)**

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Strongly linked to the external image of the country, the Swiss watch industry in the twentieth century is characterized by the close ties developed between employers' organizations, trade unions and public authorities. By the early 1930s, the Confederation is financially and legally involved in the cartel. This is the second issue that we will deal with, leaning on the dialogue that takes place between the state, employers and trade unions, through the example of federal decrees Commission (CAF), "Advisory Board of the Swiss Watch Industry "(Consulthor) in 1946.

Consulthor is asked to rule on three main areas: the addition of a new branch on an existing manufacturing company, staff augmentation, and finally the opening of new business. The most restrictive decisions do not affect increases, but the new authorities - in order to limit competition - and changes to maintain the fragmented structure of watchmaking. The activity of the committee reinforces the closure of Swiss watchmaking cartel.

Consulthor is a particularly complete example of negotiation between social partners implemented through state intervention in the Swiss watchmaking. For the sake of social peace - materialized in 1937 by the "Peace Work" which prohibits any strike or lockout in watch industry - all stakeholders are integrated decision-making. More generally, the consensus shows the evolution of Swiss industry, marked throughout the twentieth century by cartelization and collaboration between unions workers' and employers' organizations.