

## A Brief Curriculum Vitae

**Councillor Elisabeth Zölch-Balmer**  
**Director of the Department of Economics of the Canton of Berne**

Elisabeth Zölch-Balmer graduated from the University of Berne in 1977 with a federal diploma as a lawyer. From 1978 to 1984 she was head of the Department of Legal Affairs in the Berne cantonal administration and from 1984 to 1992 the Secretary General of the cantonal administration. Between 1992 and 1994 she ran her own business as a consultant for legal, organisational and strategy matters.

From 1987 to 1994 Mrs Zölch was a member of the National Council (the legislative body) of the Swiss federal parliament. In 1994 she became a member of the Berne cantonal government (executive body). She has been President of the cantonal government (executive body) twice, namely from June 1997 to May 1998 and from June 2002 to May 2003.

Councillor Zölch is a member of the Swiss People's Party (SVP). She has been President of the National Council Political Institutions Committee and is a founding member and President of the parliamentary GROUP FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY and has worked for various organisations in the commercial, tourism and cultural sectors. In addition, she has been President of the ESPACE MITTELLAND, the bilingual (French and German) intercantonal region of western Switzerland.