



## Key facts

At the general meeting on 15 May 2008, a resolution was adopted to apply for removal of the "Expo.02 in liquidation" association from the Neuchâtel commercial register. The liquidator prepared a closing balance sheet effective that date. Now that no disputes involving "Expo.02 in liquidation" as a party are pending before a court, all obligations have been settled, and all claims have been considered, a surplus of assets in the amount of approximately CHF 29 million remains in favour of the Confederation. The only suggestion on the part of the Swiss Federal Audit Office with respect to the prepared closing balance sheet concerned the immediate specification of repayment modalities between the "Expo.02 in liquidation" association and the Federal Finance Administration.

"Expo.02 in liquidation" now stands at the end of a politically controversial process, over the course of which the direct expenditures of the Confederation for a single project grew from originally CHF 130 million to about CHF 870 million. These do not yet include the expenditures by Armasuisse and the other federal offices which co-financed their own projects. According to investigations by the Federal Finance Administration, surveys indicate that this amount is approximately CHF 30 million. This amount does not contain the costs for the deployment of army and civil defence personnel or the contributions of enterprises affiliated with the Confederation. As the Swiss Federal Audit Office already mentioned in earlier reports, the total investment of the Confederation in the Swiss National Exhibition 2002 was in the magnitude of CHF 1 billion.

The sixth national exhibition can now be considered over also from a financial perspective. After Lausanne (1964), Zurich (1939), Berne (1914), Geneva (1896), and Zurich (1883), it must be noted that the organization of a national exhibition is a difficult undertaking, where mistakes are unavoidable. By commissioning the organization of a national exhibition, the Confederation de facto enters into unlimited political and financial liability.



Figure 1 Official Expo.02 logo