

Gold Repatriation and the Shortage of Physical Gold: Swiss National Bank Campaigned Against Gold Repatriation Referendum

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[Swiss National Bank](#) has conducted a fierce campaign in Switzerland to persuade the people that gold repatriation, keeping state's assets in gold and ban on further sales of gold, was a bad idea, which resulted in a No-vote this Sunday in "Save Our Gold", a key campaigner Egon von Greyerz told Sputnik on Monday.

"What has happened in the last eight weeks, I would say is that the Swiss National Bank has conducted a very fierce anti-campaign and some members of the Swiss National Bank and the President Thomas Jordan has been in the media virtually every day in order to tell the people that this is very bad for the Swiss economy and it is bad for jobs, and therefore they should reject it," Egon von Greyerz, founder and managing partner of GoldSwitzerland asset management company said.

On Sunday, over 77 percent of Swiss voters chose not to oblige the country's central bank to boost its [gold holdings](#) to 20 percent and store the reserves inside Switzerland at a nationwide "[Save Our Swiss Gold](#)" referendum held Sunday.

"And of course, the Swiss National Bank has a very good reputation in Switzerland because the Swiss economy has been well-managed, and therefore the Swiss people listened to them and it was very difficult for the yes-fight to get the same type of publicity or to actually make their views clear to the public," Egon von Greyerz told Sputnik.

He explained that before 1999, Switzerland had 40 percent of gold in its balance sheet. Between 2000 and 2004 Bere sold half of gold at a low price, "which cost Switzerland about \$30 billion in lost profits." Starting 2008, Switzerland has been printing money to expand its balance sheet.

"In 2011 they printed a lot of money — more money than any Central Bank in Europe, or in the world, relatively. They [Swiss National Bank] have a balance sheet now which is 500 billion Swiss Franc which is about 80 percent of Swiss GDP, which is bigger than any other bank," Egon von Greyerz said, adding that the printed money were then sold to buy euros, which means a strong franc is not in the best interest of Switzerland.

So that a yes-vote would have threatened the reputation of the Swiss National Bank and the

value of the Swiss Franc.

Gold repatriation has become a popular initiative in Europe on the back of fears over a new crisis in the global economy, as debt levels are growing in world's largest economies. The Netherlands has moved 122 tons of gold worth \$5 billion from New York, and similar demands are now being made in France. Last year, Germany asked to have 680 tons of [gold repatriated](#), which is mostly kept in the United States, but some also in the United Kingdom and France. Berlin receive only 5 tons, with the promise to get the rest back by 2020.

“And even those 5 tons Germany got back was not the same they had given to the Fed, those were newly cut bars. So it does mean that the Fed clearly did not have anywhere near the gold necessary to send back to Germany. Because it was most probably either leased to the market or sold - this is what central banks are doing - they are lending gold to the market or selling gold in order to push the price of gold down,” Egon von Greyerz said stressing that there is a tremendous shortage of physical gold in the world.

“One day when the people who hold paper gold ask for delivery, there will not be any physical gold to deliver.

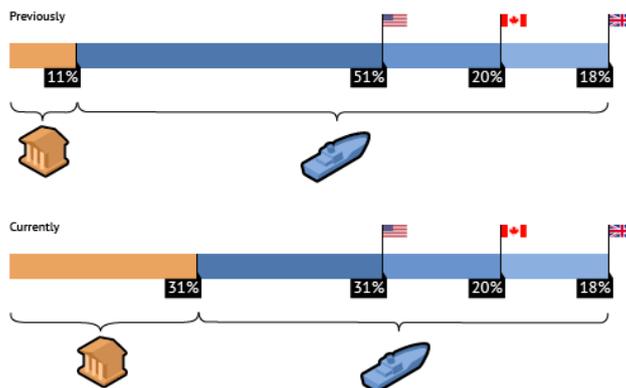
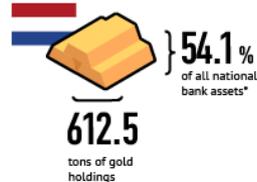
He also noted that the United States appears to be incapable to return the gold reserves that have once been entrusted by the central banks. Moreover, according to Egon von Greyerz, the [United States](#) might not even have the 8,000 tons of their own gold.

European countries repatriate gold bullion reserves from overseas vaults

Many European countries used to store their national gold reserves in overseas banks in order to ensure the security of the national treasure. However, recently European states have called upon their banks to repatriate the gold bullion reserves from the United States and other foreign banks. This movement has been provoked by the economic crisis of 2008 and the consequences that ensued, as well as the unprecedented volume of new money being printed

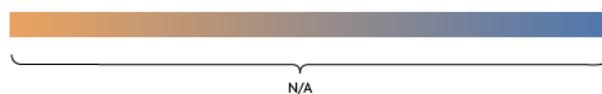
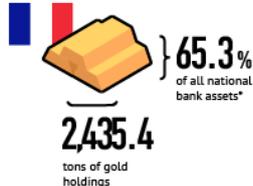


Netherlands



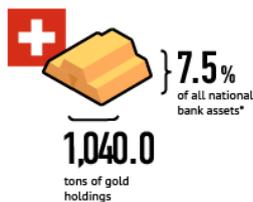
122 tons of gold bullion has been repatriated by the Netherlands from the US from the start of November 2014. The Dutch Central Bank stated that this move was aimed at increasing public confidence in the ability of the bank to maintain control over crises. The question remains open as to whether the Netherlands will remove its remaining gold from the US Vaults

France



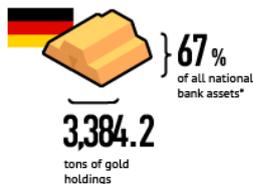
Marine Le Pen, the leader of the National Front of France has urged the Bank of France to repatriate its gold reserves from overseas vaults. She also recommends increasing gold bullion assets by 20%, taking advantage of the recent price slide, as well as undertaking an audit of France's current gold holdings

Switzerland



"Save Our Swiss Gold" campaign would require the Swiss National Bank to repatriate gold bullion reserves from overseas banks back to Switzerland. The campaigners want the bank to convert 20% of the nation's reserves into gold bullion and restrict the bank from selling it. Experts estimate that in the period between 2000-2008 about 1,300 tons of gold had been sold by the Swiss National Bank

Germany



Germany announced a plan in 2013 to repatriate all of its gold bullion stored in the US by 2020. However, by 2014 the plan had already fizzled out, despite pressure from German Eurosceptics

* According to the World Gold Council, November, 2014

Source: World Gold Council, November 2014

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