

Candidacy of Rahim Taghizadegan for president

Renewal and Strategic Direction for the Bitcoin Association Switzerland

Introduction

I joined the board at a too late stage and, like most members of the Association, have been deeply dissatisfied with the way our operations have evolved. The potential and relevance of the Bitcoin Association Switzerland remain significant — yet our structure and processes have not kept pace with the maturity and needs of the ecosystem we represent.

Having now gained direct insight into the Association's internal dynamics, I bring both valuable lessons from past challenges and a measure of continuity that is crucial for restoring stability and trust. Over recent months, I have been encouraged and urged by many members to put forward my candidacy for the presidency. Their support stems from a shared conviction that the association must evolve — toward a leaner, more strategic, and more credible organization.

Importantly, several highly qualified potential board members have expressed their willingness to serve only if this renewal takes place under the strategic framework outlined below. This document therefore represents not just my personal vision, but the foundation for a competent and future-oriented leadership team ready to rebuild the Association in alignment with Bitcoin's principles of decentralization, integrity, and voluntary collaboration.

1. Governance Structure: A True Supervisory Board

The Board of the Association should function as a supervisory and strategic body, not an operational one.

- The Board meets once per month to review progress, approve budgets, and set direction.
- Board members focus on oversight, accountability, and strategic alignment rather than organizing events or daily operations.
- No separate “Board-driven” projects or event series are maintained.

Instead, the Association acts as a philanthropic enabler: It provides strategic and financial support to independent, decentralized initiatives aligned with its mission. These may include:

- Local Bitcoin meetups and community hubs
- Conferences and educational events
- Advocacy campaigns and media initiatives
- Academic research and publications on Bitcoin-related topics

This decentralized funding approach strengthens the grassroots Bitcoin ecosystem while ensuring institutional coherence and credibility.

2. Process Automation

The association will continue implementing process automation across its administrative and communication workflows, working with a highly qualified and efficient developer who delivers excellent results at outstanding value. The goal is to significantly reduce manual workload, increase efficiency, and ensure smooth operations even with a lean organizational structure. This includes:

- Automating membership management, renewals, and communications to ensure timely, consistent engagement with members.
- Streamlining event coordination and documentation.
- Enhancing public communication through active social media presence and a modern, dynamic website that serves as both an educational platform and an information hub — aggregating key updates, research, and opportunities relevant to members and the broader Bitcoin community.

Administrative overhead is minimized, freeing up resources and human capacity for strategic initiatives and community impact.

3. Focus on Research and Thought Leadership

A central pillar of the Association's new direction is research and policy engagement.

Support and co-publish regular reports on the state of the Bitcoin ecosystem in Switzerland, including adoption, regulation, infrastructure, and innovation.

- Develop a credible and data-driven foundation for public communication and advocacy.
- Serve as a competent, research-backed voice representing Bitcoin in dialogue with lawmakers, regulators, and the public.

Objectives:

- Enhance understanding of Bitcoin's economic and technological role in Switzerland.
- Inform public policy with rigorous, non-partisan analysis.
- Establish BAS as the authoritative reference point for Bitcoin-related research and advocacy in the country.

The Bitcoin Association Switzerland transitions from an event-driven community organizer to a strategic, research-based, and philanthropically oriented institution. It will enable others to act, reduce bureaucracy, and strengthen Bitcoin's position in Swiss society through credibility, knowledge, and decentralized empowerment.

Learnings from the Previous Board

1. Continuity and Alignment Are Essential

- Continuity ensures accountability and coherence — each board should build upon the previous one rather than restarting from scratch.
- Alignment around a shared strategy must exist before operations begin. That is why defining and agreeing on the strategic direction *before* electing or onboarding new members is critical.
- Without clear alignment, even the most capable individuals will pull in different directions, resulting in inefficiency and frustration.

2. Purely Voluntary Committee Operations Don't Work

The experience has shown that **voluntary committees**, without structure or clear accountability, tend to underperform.

- Competent people have limited time, and voluntary work is often deprioritized against professional and personal obligations.
- Coordination without clear ownership results in delays, inconsistency, and burnout among the few who actually execute.
- In the absence of incentives or accountability, decisions are postponed, and initiatives lose momentum.

A successful organization must rely on lightweight but professionalized execution, even if partially compensated, rather than hoping voluntary committees can manage operational complexity.

3. Support Decentralized Initiatives – Don't Compete with Them

The association should not act as a competing entity to the many decentralized and volunteer-driven Bitcoin projects across Switzerland.

Instead, its role is to enable, coordinate, and empower these initiatives — not to dominate or replicate them.

- Encourage and support local meetups, research projects, advocacy campaigns, and independent community efforts.
- Avoid bureaucratic overhead that slows decision-making or alienates volunteers.
- Stay humble and facilitative: act as a partner and amplifier, not as a top-down controller.

This approach strengthens trust and aligns BAS with Bitcoin's core ethos of decentralization and voluntary collaboration.

4. Leadership Must Be Present and Accountable

A recurring challenge has been the absence of active leadership. When the president or key leaders disappears before setting a clear strategy or building an operational structure, the entire organization stalls.

- Leadership must first define and communicate a clear strategy, ensuring all stakeholders understand the mission and priorities.
- Only after this foundation is laid can delegation, decentralization, and autonomous projects succeed.
- A disappearing or inactive president leaves a vacuum that fragments the organization and erodes credibility.

Personal background

- Last Austrian representative of the Austrian School in the direct tradition.
- Originally educated as a physicist, I studied at Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien) and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).
- I have authored more than fifteen books, including standard works on the Austrian School.
- I was among the first to teach about Bitcoin at university level: I've been observing Bitcoin since 2009, teaching and publishing about it since 2011, and speaking at Bitcoin conferences since 2018.
- Entrepreneur and investor, involved in many Bitcoin-related projects.
- As the author of *Alpine Philosophy*, having lived in Switzerland at various stages of my life, raising my children here, and being deeply knowledgeable and passionate about Swiss history and culture, I hope that my one shortcoming — not yet being Swiss or fluent in Swiss German — may be kindly overlooked. German, with a light Viennese accent, is my first language, I am fluent in French, and understand some Italian.

<http://scholarium.at/rahim-taghizadegan>

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