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Audience with the president of the Swiss Confederation: special attention to migration policies in Europe

Vatican City, 7 May 2016 – Today the Holy Father Francis received in audience Johann Schneider-Ammann, president of the Swiss Confederation, who subsequently met with Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, secretary for Relations with States.

The cordial discussions offered the opportunity to affirm the good relations between the Holy See and Switzerland, with particular acknowledgement of the faithful and professional service rendered by the Pontifical Swiss Guard. Appreciation was expressed for the positive contribution the Church makes in different fields in the country, in an atmosphere of serene collaboration. Mention was made of the professional education of young people, which plays an effective role in access to the world of work.

Special attention was reserved to the theme of migration and policies of reception and integration, in the current European context. The parties then discussed the conflicts in the Middle East and the situation of sub-Saharan countries, revealing the need to strengthen efforts in favour of security and peace.