**Tekst na finałowy konkurs Skrivanka**

Although famed for its neutrality, Switzerland has an army and compulsory national service.

A young person wishing to shirk his or her duty might jokingly offer to join the Swiss Navy, after all, what use would one be to a landlocked country?

In fact, they’d be mistaken, for the country possesses a flotilla of patrol boats to guard the shores of Lake Geneva, Lugano, Maggiore, and the like; all the same, it’s hardly the high seas.

Switching tack, there’s a story afoot that might just rock the boat and send ripples of panic across the stormy political waters of Europe.

Canton Marittimo is a Sardinian Facebook Group petitioning to become Switzerland’s 27th canton and in doing so disown its Italian parents in favour of its chosen Alpine adopters.

Far from being considered a crackpot idea of a few deranged fanatics, the movement is gaining support with nearly 12,000 followers.

So why would the Sardinians wish to become Swiss and abandon their EU membership – is it a love of cuckoo clocks, trains and yodelling, or is there more to it than meets the eye?

In the broader context, Garibaldi’s unification of Italy was always built on rocky ground, with many Italians identifying more strongly with their region.

Sicily has some degree of political autonomy whilst the Northern League periodically pushes for independence from its poorer southern cousins.

Sardinia has its own language and national flag, sporting the black Moor’s head with white pirate-like headband, but there’s more to the cohabitation argument than pure swashbuckling romanticism.

With Sardinian unemployment around 18 percent, limited Island infrastructure, poor housing and prospects for the young, some Sardinians feel that they have been sold short by the European Union and that they are the poor relations to their spendthrift patrons on the mainland.