

Party seeks to banish PowerPoint

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Switzerland could become the first country to outlaw a “tyranny” that blights the modern world: the PowerPoint presentation. Matthias Poehm, the founder of a single-issue political party, aims to use the Swiss system of direct democracy to spare employees the boredom of enduring talks that use the software or other brands of electronic slide projection.

The Anti-PowerPoint Party (APPP), which claims almost 1,000 members, says that €350 billion (£308 billion) could be saved globally each year by dropping soporific presentations that take people away from “real” work. “The party is serious and the cause is serious,” Mr Poehm, a public speaking coach, told *The Times*.



“The problem with PowerPoint is that it creates boredom. There is no suspense.”

He believes that using paper and pens for presentations is “much more effective”. “We want the world to take note of this cause. Everybody complains but nobody does anything,” says the APPP’s manifesto Mr Poehm aims to raise 100,000 signatures to stage a referendum on the “prohibition of PowerPoint during presentations”.

He also hopes to win enough votes for a seat in the Swiss Parliament in elections in October.

Microsoft, which has owned PowerPoint since 1987, declined to comment.