

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 40 (2013)
Heft: 3

Vorwort: Swiss allies drift away
Autor: Engel, Barbara

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 09.01.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Swiss allies drift away

ONE ISSUE IS CURRENTLY HIGH on the agenda for many states, notably Switzerland's neighbours – the collection of taxes on assets which their citizens have concealed from the fiscal authorities using various schemes and often with the assistance of financial institutions. The pursuit of those evading taxation and seeking optimized tax solutions is understandable in light of the debt situation facing many countries. Switzerland “the tax haven” finds itself directly in the firing line of many disgruntled governments. Hardly a day goes by without criticism being levelled at Switzerland or the pressure being stepped up. Switzerland has also in recent months lost its last remaining allies – Luxembourg and Austria – in its fight against the automatic exchange of information and complete transparency.

Switzerland now finds itself in an extremely awkward situation. And what has the response been? The actions and comments of our government and the conduct of our Parliament have done little to inspire confidence. An ill-tempered cacophony has been heard from Berne. This does little to improve our nation's position or image in the world.



Many letters and emails sent by readers to the editorial team lead us to conclude that this situation is increasingly having an impact on the Swiss abroad. And in the midst of all this, the Federal Council has now also activated the safety-valve clause which puts restrictions on immigration from all EU states. This has made everything even more unpleasant even if on closer inspection it is clear that the Federal Council's decision is a measure aimed more at alleviating domestic political tension than an effective means of combating immigration and the issues associated with it. These issues were explored in the April edition of the “Swiss Review”.

In the current edition we pay particular attention to various players and events in Parliament. The focus-topic article looks at the younger generation of politicians under 40 years of age on the national political scene. Many of these young MPs have an advantage over their more senior colleagues – they are highly adept at handling the media and take every opportunity that arises to raise their profile and to enhance their popularity. Some have thereby quickly established themselves as key figures in political opinion-making.

Finally, our reporter Jürg Müller looks at Switzerland's army and defence policy by observing developments during Parliament's spring session. He reveals where uncertainty lies and which contentious issues the Swiss people are ultimately likely to be called to decide upon.

BARBARA ENGEL

5	Mailbag
5	Books: Visions of and for Switzerland
6	Images: Emigration explored at museum
8	Parliament's young generation
13	Turmoil over defence policy
14	Contract children – Federal Council apologises
16	Literature series: Alfonsina Storni
<i>Regional news</i>	
17	Villa Patumbah – A home rich in history
20	Interview with George Andrey, author of a book on French-speaking Switzerland
22	Kite-surfing enjoys huge popularity
24	OSA advice
27	Notes from parliament
30	Echo

Cover image:

The younger members of the Swiss Parliament do not shy away from high-profile or unusual public appearances: Pascale Bruderer at the Swiss Award, Toni Brunner with the mascot “Zottel”, Cédric Wermuth at Credit Suisse's annual general meeting and Christa Markwalder as an advocate of the EU (clockwise).

Photos: Keystone

IMPRINT: “Swiss Review”, the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 40th year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 400,000, including 140,000 electronic copies. Regional news appears four times a year.

The ordering parties are fully responsible for the content of advertisements and promotional inserts. This content does not necessarily represent the opinion of either the editorial office or the publisher.

■ EDITORS: Barbara Engel (BE), Editor-in-Chief; Marc Lettau (MUL); Jürg Müller (JM); Alain Wey (AW); Jean-François Lichtenstern (JFL), responsible for “Notes from Parliament”, Relations with the Swiss Abroad, FDFA, 3003 Berne, Switzerland. Translation: CLS Communication AG ■ LAYOUT: Herzog Design, Zurich ■ POSTAL ADDRESS: Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Tel.: +41313566110, Fax: +41313566101, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. ■ EMAIL: revue@aso.ch ■ PRINT: Vogt-Schild Druck AG, 4552 Derendingen. ■ All Swiss abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / abroad: CHF 50). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne.

■ INTERNET: www.revue.ch ■ Copy deadline for this edition: 15.04.2013

■ CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to the editorial office in Berne.