

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE SWISS ABROAD

S W I S S

REVIEW

MARCH 2011 / NO. 2



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under scrutiny

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ballet icon set to retire

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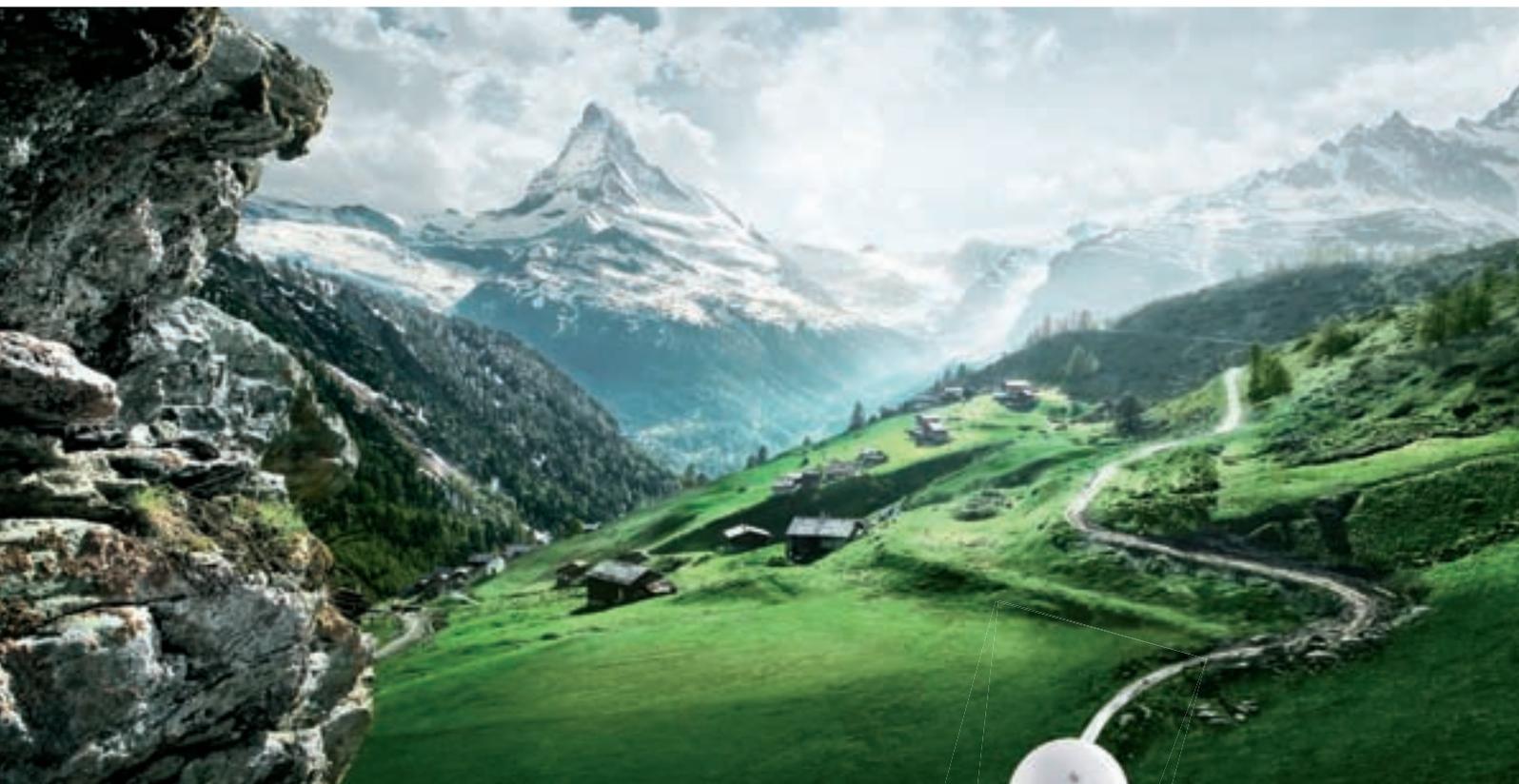
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SWISS NEWS, WORLD WIDE

New prospects

POLITICAL COMMENTATORS and analysts believe that 2011 is set to be a momentous election year for Switzerland, which may even result in far-reaching changes to the political system. The party landscape has changed enormously over the past four years. You can read about how this situation has arisen and who the new and main protagonists are from page 8 onwards.

The Swiss media all agree that Parliament and, even more so, the Federal Council have failed to make a good impression over recent years. Mistrust, animosity and antagonism have dominated politics for long periods. Is this really the kind of government the people have wanted? Of course not. This inevitably raises the question of whether the problem lies with the present incumbents – would an influx of fresh faces make everything better? Or do we perhaps need a new system?

Is the system of political concordance with all the major parties in government, which has been in place since 1959, perhaps outdated? Does this system no longer meet the requirements of modern times? That may well be the case. The issue is certain to be the subject of heated debate this year. In the past, political parties have on several occasions threatened to leave the government and go into opposition, and the Social Democrats (SP) now suspect others of plotting to throw them out of government as well.

That would result in a system with a coalition government and an opposition – a system that is commonplace outside Switzerland. But is that desirable? The immediate response would be “no”, as it would obstruct our unique, highly sophisticated system of direct democracy with its power of referenda for parties and interest groups, with federalism and cantonal majority. Such an idea is bound to provoke fear and a defensive reaction. However, it is also evident that under a system of coalition government and opposition it would be much clearer who bears responsibility for what. It would prevent



Barbara Engel

parties from participating in government while behaving like the opposition – an approach successfully adopted by the Swiss People's Party (SVP) for many years.

Realistically, the chances of a change of system at the grand finale to the election year – the complete re-election of the Federal Council on 14 December – are slim. This would require the middle-ground parties, the FDP and CVP, to opt for the centre-right with the SVP or the centre-left with the SP. The FDP and CVP are unlikely to risk making such a move as both lack strong leaders.

Incidentally, “direct democracy in an international context” will be the main theme of the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano in August.

And now to matters concerning our magazine. My predecessor, Heinz Eckert, announced in the last edition of “Swiss Review” that I would be taking up the position of Editor-in-Chief at the beginning of the year. To produce a good magazine, we, as the editorial staff, are reliant on interaction with our readers. We cannot always know at our offices in Switzerland which issues matter to the Swiss abroad in Berlin, Ouagadougou, Shanghai or New York. I therefore welcome your suggestions, feedback and criticism, and hope this results in a fruitful exchange.

BARBARA ENGEL

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Cover photo: The official photograph of the new Federal Council. More on the photo and on the goals and policies of the Swiss government on pages 8 to 11 and 18 (Photo: donated)

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Luginbühl's "Pandora" in flames at the Albisgüetli in Zurich in 1998



"Balls with wheel and chain"

Iron sculptor Bernhard Luginbühl has passed away

He always enjoyed shocking people with both his words and his works. He gave his sculptures names like "Rage", "Aggression" and "Atlas" and did not shy away from playing the maladjusted fighter on the art scene. The iron sculptor Bernhard Luginbühl passed away on 19 February at the age of 82. Luginbühl was born on 16 February 1929 in Berne. His father was a butcher, but Bernhard decided at a young age not to take over his father's business and to become an artist instead. He did an apprenticeship as a sculptor at the School of Applied Arts in Berne

and from then onwards always worked as a freelance artist.

His unmistakable sculptures are gigantic works made from iron, waste products of heavy industry. One art critic once called them a "farewell to the industrial age". In his art, Luginbühl combined the constructive with the dadaistic and surreal and, together with Daniel Spoerri and Jean Tinguely, was part of the Swiss avant-garde in the 1960s which attracted international attention. Luginbühl



produced a vast collection of works, an impression of which can be obtained at his sculpture park in Mötschwil near Burgdorf. He also destroyed many of his works over the years, often burning them in staged art events. He once said of himself and his art: "I produce sculptures, write books, draw and all that stuff. The worst thing for me is that I still get very bored."

He can't really have expected anyone to believe him. BE

Sculpture park: www.luginbuehlstiftung.ch

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DAVOS
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Open letter to Credit Suisse

Dear Sirs,

As you will be able to confirm, I was the holder of a savings account, which I have just closed for obvious reasons. This ac-

count was opened in 1967 with the "Leu Stäfa" bank by my employer at the time for the payment of my modest salary when I was a 15-year-old apprentice.

This account has served me through the ups and downs of life. You can imagine my happiness at receiving my first salary payment, seeing growth in my small savings at the end of the year, being able to withdraw some money during my visits to Switzerland later on and knowing that the small pension that I will receive from Switzerland would shortly be paid into this account.

You will also understand my annoyance at being refused a loan because I lived outside Switzerland, making potential recovery problematic, and my sadness at the death of those who were dear to me and the payment of a small part of the inheritance. But what distressed me most was opening your letter yesterday evening. Your new charges are CHF 40 per month, which is 8.7% a month or 104% a year on the balance at 31 December 2010 – would it have been too expensive to have notified your clients more effectively and to have set a more reasonable threshold of perhaps CHF 1000 before incurring fees?

What are the charges for on an account like mine? I've got no chequebook, no credit card and no overdraft. The few transfers that I made were covered by their own fees. And



you only issue one statement at year-end. I have since learned that these measures were taken to ensure complete transparency towards the countries where your clients abroad

are domiciled. What do you think I am hiding from the French tax authorities? The TWO FRANCS in interest that I received?

It is disgraceful because who is it thanks to that you won the award for best bank in 2010 and the federal authorities congratulated you for having repaid your debts more quickly than the other institutions? I hope you don't overlook the fact that you brought about the crisis yourselves. And now you have to undermine a sacred institution, the savings of small clients! I certainly do not congratulate you.

I am leaving you because I do not have enough francs to cover this year's fees but that is what you were hoping for in any case, wasn't it?

Oh, I almost forgot, as in all divorces, I am returning the only gift you ever gave me, an anti-drip collar, when you held my entire inheritance in 2004 (almost CHF 100,000).

G. FERAUD-FREI, FRANCE

Not an elite island

I have lived in Munich for 35 years and therefore obviously do not have such an objective perspective on the political issues as my compatriots who read the Swiss press and can speak from their own experience. However, the reaction here in Germany to the ban on minarets and now to the expulsion initiative has given me food for thought despite the fact that people I know in Switzerland have had ex-

Legends from the cantons

SWITZERLAND IS FULL OF LEGENDS – mythical exploits, fantastical creatures, talking animals, wizards, goddesses and curses. Every canton has its share. Some tell of their mythical foundation and others of the exploits of their heroes. The book "Suisse: 26 cantons, 26 légendes" (Switzerland: 26 cantons, 26 legends) invites readers to explore the fantastical stories which, for some, remain important symbolically or for tourism purposes. A commentary containing information on origin, meaning and historical context follows each story.

The book inevitably takes us to the canton of Uri to explore William Tell. From Nidwalden, there's Winkelried, the hero of the Battle of Sempach (1386). It covers the dragons' den at Mont Pilate high above Lucerne, and goes on to the canton of Zug with the Baron of Wildenburg and the droit de seigneur.

We learn how, in the canton of Schwyz, the crows of the hermit Meinrad pursued his murderers until they were brought to justice. In Appenzell Ausserrhoden, the author goes on the trail of the wizard Dovi, who saved the son and daughter of the King of Spain. In Grisons, we learn of the alpine meadow of the beautiful alpine goddess, Sontga Margriata. The book also features the Count of Gruyere and Chalamala, his quick-witted, flute-playing jester, and visits the border between the cantons of Zurich and Zug where Catholics and Protestants prepared to do battle with one another in 1529 and ate "Kappel milk soup" together as a symbol of compromise.

Let's take a closer look at two of these legends. The king of Berne had a reputation as a bear hunter. A bear spared him from being devoured during a hunt. In the meantime, the Burgundians had invaded his kingdom. Narrowly escaping from his adversaries, he was saved by the hermit Wilfried, who had taken care of the "king of the bears", for which he was very grateful. The monarch implored the bear to help him win back his kingdom. In return, he promised to ban bear hunting, to give him the forests and to engrave his image



on his coat of arms and flag. The king of the bears and his army of fellow animals annihilated the invader and ever since the Bernese flag has contained a black bear. In the canton of Obwalden, a mountain lake served as a burial place for Pontius Pilate. After having condemned Jesus to crucifixion, the Roman governor of Judea was struck by a curse. An indelible bloodstain in the form of a cross appeared on his hand. His mood darkened,

he neglected the affairs of state and he died in prison. His body was sent to the waters of the Tiber but a storm blew up. The corpse was recovered but the curse continued. Pilate was finally thrown into the pure waters of a lake in central Switzerland. As he was submerging, his arm suddenly appeared from the waves and his palm, turned towards the sky, showed that the bloodstain had disappeared.

ALAIN WEY

"Suisse: 26 cantons, 26 légendes" by Christian Vellas, Editions Slatkine, 2010; so far in French only. www.slatkine.com

tremely bad experiences with “foreigners” (for example, the murder of a teacher in St. Gallen).

I nevertheless believe that the majority of foreign nationals living in Switzerland are very well integrated. Switzerland must therefore also think of its image in Europe and beyond as it is particularly susceptible to criticism from abroad on account of its relative isolation as a nation outside the European Union. Switzerland is not an elite island, as I sometimes hear in discussions with friends and family. This perception should not be enhanced through outspoken opinion that even contravenes international law!

Y. AESCHBACH, GERMANY

Where is the logic?

I read R. H. TUCKER's letter on voting rights for the Swiss living abroad with great interest. I left Switzerland 22 years ago without any intention of returning. This is why I have not used my right to vote. What do I know about life in Switzerland? What right do I have to give my opinion on matters that no longer concern me? I vote in my adopted country, which seems logical since I live, work and bring up my children here.

In my view, Swiss expatriates should be able to use their right to vote for a short period – no longer than a few years – if they are working abroad, for example, but people like myself who are detached from what is going on in Switzerland should not be able to take part in referenda or elections. Why should foreigners who have lived in Switzerland for many years not have their say while Swiss people living in Timbuktu for 30 years can still vote? I don't understand the logic.

C. ZITOUN, ISRAEL

Ignoramuses?

In January's “Swiss Review”, an appeal was made urging the Swiss abroad to vote en masse in Switzerland. Like R.H. Tucker in Hawaii, I question how well founded this practice is and I would like to thank him most sincerely for his letter on the vote for the Swiss abroad. He wrote: “How can people who do not pay taxes in Switzerland and do not know conditions first-hand make really informed decisions on what is right and what is wrong for the country???” He is absolutely right, particularly if these people have never even set foot in Switzerland.

I read in the flyer that came with the January 2011 edition of “Swiss Review”: “We are firmly convinced that the Swiss resident abroad have a major role to play in national political debate. Strengthened by their international experience, they can contribute a different and fresh viewpoint from those of their fellow-citizens at home on Swiss political issues. It is therefore absolutely vital that their voice be heard in Switzerland.”

Does this mean that the Swiss at home are ignoramuses who are dull-witted, shut off from the outside world, incapable of judgement and lacking in political experience? What Jacques-Simon Eggly, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, suggests shows a lack of respect towards Swiss people. I am flabbergasted and outraged.

N. HERING, FRANCE

Classifying the Swiss abroad as foreigners

I read with great interest the readers' letters on CS who are demanding a disproportionately high fee from us Swiss abroad for the management of our accounts. We have now also

received a letter from the Zürcher Kantonalbank. They are also demanding exorbitant fees. I have been a loyal customer of theirs since I was born and I am now being politely told that I am being classified as a foreigner and generate huge costs because I leave holiday money in Switzerland for my children who were born there. If I had 100,000 Swiss francs with the Zürcher Kantonalbank, they would of course manage my account free of charge. After all, who is responsible for creating the situation we are in? Certainly not us, the small customers. The authorities in the countries where we live are not chasing us. We have got small amounts of savings, but are not tax evaders and do not have illegal assets in Switzerland. The management of our accounts would cost 7% per year with an interest rate paid by the bank of 0.375%. We are withdrawing our money and hopefully hundreds of thousands of small customers will do the same thing.

S. STUDHALTER, CANADA

Foreign in one's own country

I read Rolf Ribi's article. It's unfortunate that he seems to be fixated on money and prosperity only. Out-of-control immigration changes the culture of Switzerland (and the west-

ern world in general) at such a rapid pace that one ends up feeling foreign in one's own country.

D. SCHOCH, USA

Unrestrained greed

All Swiss people should read Rolf Ribi's excellent article on migration! As a Swiss person living abroad, I return to Switzerland for several months each year. I notice that people are living in increasingly confined spaces and are very concerned about the issue of overpopulation. The greed of the Swiss unfortunately knows no bounds. I would never want to live in Switzerland permanently in the conditions that the Swiss have created.

I. K. DICKEY-SCHMID, USA

Would our politicians please wake up!

At least some criteria should have to be met before allowing immigration to Switzerland: an extract from the criminal records authority, attested by the Swiss consulate, and, in the case of non-European Muslims, immigration should only be allowed with a special permit, otherwise we will end up with a situation like in France, Italy and Germany. Would our politicians please wake up and take action.

A. GUBELMANN, BRAZIL



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Help us to help you!

Munich retour. How do you define national, Swiss art? Is it the works of artists born in a Swiss canton? But what if the artist rose to fame outside his or her homeland? Can a particular kind of Swissness be identified if you look back over seven centuries? These are all questions that the Director of Munich's "Kunsthalle" art museum asked herself when putting together an exhibition of the highlights of seven centuries of Swiss art entitled "Giacometti, Hodler, Klee". Under the title "Munich retour", this exhibition can now also be seen at the Museum of Fine Arts in Berne (until 26 June) and at the "Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design" in Oslo from 29 September 2011 until 8 January 2012. BE



Caspar Wolf
(1735–1783)
Schneebrücke und Regenbogen im
Gadmental, circa 1778



Alexandre Calame
(1810–1864)
Le grand Eiger, 1844



Paul Klee
(1879–1940)
Sirene zwei mit der Altstimme, 1939



Johannes Itten
(1888–1967)
Komposition in Blau, 1918



Félix Vallotton
(1865–1925)
Der Deich von Honfleur bei Sonnenuntergang, 1915

In the mid-18th century, Switzerland became a popular travel destination and the image of the alpine idyll was fostered intensely. Caspar Wolf's "Schneebrücke und Regenbogen im Gadmental" (Snowbridge and Rainbow in the Gadmental) and Alexandre Calame's "Le Grand Eiger" (The Grand Eiger) are two famous works from this period.

Paul Klee – his "Sirene mit der Altstimme" (Siren in Alto) is pictured – is extremely popular today, thanks in part to the Paul Klee Centre in his home city of Berne. "Komposition in Blau" (Composition in Blue) is one of Johannes Itten's most famous works. Itten was one of the main exponents of the Weimar Bauhaus, where he also taught.

And finally we have the avant-garde artist Félix Vallotton, a contemporary of Ferdinand Hodler. His "Deich von Honfleur bei Sonnenuntergang" (Dike at Honfleur at Sunset) is a fine example of his conceptual representation of nature.

Switzerland in 2011 – solitary, divided, successful, pressured and envied

Switzerland is shifting to the right politically. There is fresh demand for a return to self-rule, and enthusiasm for a more open approach is on the wane. However, Switzerland's success shows that its position as an autonomous special case has many benefits. We assess the political landscape at the start of election year 2011. By Niklaus Ramseyer

The Swiss People's Party (SVP) is becoming more and more powerful on the far right. The Greens and the Social Democrats (SP) are losing ground on the left, while the Christian Democrats (CVP) are also on the slide. In the centre, the Green Liberals are making their policies increasingly broad. These are the results of the first 2011 election year poll on the Swiss party landscape in January. According to the study conducted by the GfS Institute in Berne, the right-wing SVP has increased its share of the vote to an historic record level of 29.8%. On the left, the SP's support has fallen to 18% and that for the Greens to 8.8%. In the centre, the Free Democrats' (FDP) share of the vote has remained steady at 17.7%. The new Conservative Democratic Party (BDP), led by Fed-

eral Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, which broke away from the SVP in 2008, polled just 2.6% of the vote. In contrast, the Green Liberals (GLP) climbed to 5.2%, while the CVP slumped to 12.9%.

With an error rate of 2.2%, most of these shifts are to be regarded as trends. Nevertheless, the Bernese political researchers concluded: "Compared to the poll conducted in autumn 2010, there has been a significant swing to the right."

This is also the case compared to the last election results in 2007 when the SVP won an historic 28.9% of the vote. The SP vote dwindled to 19.5%, while the Greens took almost 10%. Between these two ends of the spectrum, each with just under 30%, the CVP (14.5%) and FDP (17.7%) shared the remaining 40%

of the vote with the small Christian conservative parties. The Green Liberals won 1.4% – and three seats on the National Council.

The 2007 election year ended in December with a dramatic turn of events in federal politics. The Zurich SVP Federal Councillor, Christoph Blocher, was surprisingly dethroned after four years as a member of national government and Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, the SVP cantonal councillor for Grisons, was narrowly elected to the Federal Council. This episode led to heated debate and in-fighting. The SVP expelled Widmer-Schlumpf and the entire Grisons section from the party. This resulted in the foundation of the new Conservative Democratic Party (BDP) in Grisons, Glarus and Berne.



Green Liberals fill the void in the centre

The conservative middle ground is now occupied by two large and four small parties, which together hold 42% of the vote. Alongside the following two parties represented on the Federal Council – the FDP (17.7% and two Federal Councillors) and the CVP (12.9% and one Federal Councillor) – there are also the political Protestants in the form of the Evangelical People's Party (EVP) and the far-right Federal Democratic Union (EDU).

The Green Liberals (GLP) have gained enormous ground in this contest, now holding over 5%, according to the poll. A gap in the market has opened up, and environmentally aware citizens now have a political representative. The GLP wants to continue with deregulation and the liberal market economy. However, it wishes to put a stop to unfair competition at the expense of nature, which is unable to defend itself. It also favours greater selective state intervention to achieve this, and its policies are proving popular.

BDP makes no headway

The BDP finds itself in a very different position. With less than 3% support, it no longer has a share required for one of the seven Federal Council seats under the concordance system. When national government is completely re-elected in December, "EWS", as Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf is now known in Berne, is unlikely to be returned to office, despite general appreciation for her performance.

With almost a third of the vote, the SVP has long been entitled to two seats on the Federal Council. In addition to the one currently held by Ueli Maurer, it should take back its second seat from Federal Councillor Widmer-Schlumpf. The party of Christoph Blocher, who may once again stand for the National Council in autumn on the Zurich SVP list, has clearly weathered the storm after the breakaway of the BDP. It now has almost the complete backing of voters on the right of the political spectrum. The SVP is winning the support of previous non-voters among the large number of ab-

stainers, representing 50% of the electorate in Switzerland, rather than attracting voters from other parties.

SVP ahead in terms of funding and issues

Three key factors are of major importance for electoral success: issues, figureheads and funding. The SVP is only weak in one area; it has very few high-profile figures. However, the SVP is well ahead of its competitors in the other two areas, particularly funding, where there is still no transparency. Estimates indicate that the party, which counts millionaires and billionaires, such as Christoph Blocher and Walter Frey, among its members, will easily invest between CHF 15 and CHF 20 million in the 2011 electoral campaign. That is ten times more than the Social Democrats, who have a budget of around CHF 1.5 million. The SVP's budget is also much higher than that of its conservative rivals, as the CVP and FDP each have a war chest of CHF 2 to 3 million.

In its constant election campaigning, the SVP is handling two popular issues more astutely than its competition: immigration, foreigners, asylum and refugees on the one hand, and Switzerland's relationship with

the EU on the other. With the surprising adoption of its initiatives against minarets and in favour of the automatic expulsion of foreign criminals, the party has been able to attract majority support for its policies since the last election. By putting forward the simple proposition "Don't want to join the EU? Then vote SVP", it is attempting to put all the other parties on the back foot.

This approach has also proved successful vis-à-vis the second largest party, the SP, whose base support reacts extremely sensitively to both SVP issues, according to surveys. At the end of last year, the Social Democrats announced a new, left-wing manifesto. The SP is now "once again a recognisable issues party for social and economic affairs", confirm the researchers from the GfS Institute. It could counter the swing to the right, but in order to do so the party will have to mobilise potential left-wing voters in the autumn who have not voted previously.

However, the SP's virtually uncritical acceptance of the EU and its renewed more forceful call for Switzerland's rapid accession are annoying large swathes of the working classes on lower incomes who have traditionally supported the SP. A proposal from the



young socialists (Juso) to at least draw up requirements concerning direct democracy or social standards in the EU before a new accession debate has proven unsuccessful. The party's call to "overcome capitalism" has been widely quoted despite being nothing new. This stance also contrasts starkly with EU policy, which remains fully focused on the freedom of capital and economic liberalism.

The Swiss trade unions now believe that the EU is fostering a new, Europe-wide proletariat of underpaid migrant workers under its mantra of "free movement of persons". The federation of trade unions and Unia, Switzerland's largest union with around 200,000 members, warned at the start of February that "the European Court of Justice would rule against protecting employees". To the benefit of employers, EU lawyers overturned the principle that "Swiss wages have to be paid in Switzerland".

As regards security policy, the SP leadership had for many years also advocated the opening-up of the country and cross-border military cooperation. The party wanted to move away from neutrality and national defence in favour of a small, professional army. But the party conference in Lausanne put an abrupt stop to these sandtable exercises by left-wing office generals last autumn. The party base unceremoniously voted to abandon this kind of army by a clear majority. Political commentators generally believe that international cooperation initiatives are no longer attractive in Switzerland.

Reaction to SVP instead of own initiatives

The euphoria about a policy of openness, a principle of the left for decades, has waned everywhere. This is also reflected in immigration policy, which according to polls is currently regarded as the "most pressing issue" by the entire population, including the SP base (see interview on page 12). Last autumn, the party became embroiled in endless rows over the SVP expulsion initiative and the FDP counterproposal. Its own simultaneous referendum proposal for greater fairness in taxation would actually have been much more important, but was almost overlooked amid the rows. The upshot of this became appar-

ent on 28 November. Despite good interim poll results, the SP initiative was rejected with just 42% in favour. In contrast, the SVP celebrated an overwhelming victory, which meant that the SP lost on two fronts.

The SVP's conservative rivals in the centre are not faring much better at the moment. Blocher's well-organised party is sweeping the FDP and CVP aside with popular and populist issues. Both these parties are constantly fluctuating between differentiating themselves from the strong right-wing party and taking up its positions, such as on immigration policy. The FDP is now trying to score points with an "anti-bureaucracy" initiative. The CVP has announced a "families" initiative, which has not yet been clearly defined.

Pseudo issues are driving the election

For some time now, more and more referenda have been launched on marginal issues, which are populist, emotive and easy to sell. The SVP has also excelled here. The parties have been scheduling such initiatives as carefully as possible with a view to the elections. They serve to stimulate debate, mobilise their base support and profile their candidates.

The minaret initiative is a striking example. It deliberately focused on the sacred buildings of just one religion. It did not re-

solve any issues in relation to the increasingly totalitarian tendencies of religions, but it nevertheless received majority support. The expulsion initiative, which now has to be legally "repaired" following its approval, is very similar.

On the left, the opponents of the army focused on an equally marginal issue that could be exploited in the run-up to the elections, with its weapons initiative. This referendum also targeted the most emotive aspect of an issue – the weapons of the militia army, which make up less than 10% of small weapons in Switzerland. Such moves are one of the reasons why referenda are not generally held in the last six months before an election. This year is no exception, with no more referenda planned before 23 October.

However, most referenda do concern important issues. Taking part in elections in Switzerland's highly developed, direct democracy is just one opportunity for political co-determination: referenda at communal, cantonal and federal level seem far more important to many voters. One recently published survey shows that a large portion of the electorate almost never votes in elections, but takes part in referenda at every opportunity.



"We are the people!!"

Politics on the defensive

Forty years since the introduction of the right to vote for women, female critics in Switzerland believe that the National Council, which will be re-elected on 23 October, is very selective in its representation of the Swiss people. For example, with 104 votes out of 200, the minority group of entrepreneurs is massively overrepresented in the people's chamber – especially the management levels of large companies with 88 board members (often representing manifold interests) on the National Council. Women are still very much in the minority on both councils. This is having a discouraging effect: “In particular, younger women seem to have very little interest in politics today”, the researchers were disappointed to note.

In general terms, politics has gone on the defensive in Switzerland in recent years, most notably with regard to the economy. This was particularly evident during the banking crisis when the Federal Council provided almost CHF 70 billion to save UBS in a surprise move. It was later explained to the astonished public that the position the major bank was in jeopardised the entire nation. Parliament had no option but to approve the proposal. The Federal Council bowed down to the US government and signed an illegal

agreement. The politicians then did little to counter the much-talked-about cluster risks caused by poorly regulated speculative banks. Direct democracy was left out of all this.

Such machinations caused a feeling of powerlessness among the people. Switzerland has nevertheless come through the crisis surprisingly well in comparison with other countries. Despite a dangerously strong Swiss franc, the Swiss export industry achieved 7% growth last year. And while countless other countries – including the USA, the superpower that is still feared militarily – are perilously close to bankruptcy, Switzerland is posting net profits running into billions.

Autonomy more important once again

Most Swiss people are becoming more and more convinced that national self-rule, long criticised as “going it alone” and “Blocher's policy of isolation”, has major benefits despite all the problems. Political commentators are saying: “Great confidence has emerged in Switzerland's ability to stand its own ground.”

This trend is enhanced by the knowledge that the perilous crisis, which has been steadily overcome, was imported by major globalised banks and that to begin with it dam-

aged and threatened the most important part of the economy where SMEs work according to the principle of “from the region for the region”. The Bernese researchers confirm: “Switzerland has been relatively successful in overcoming the consequences of the global financial market crisis, at least more so than many other countries.”

And more so than the EU is the opinion of more and more Swiss, including the better educated and those in higher income brackets. The first official election poll this year concludes: “It is evident that Switzerland is extremely polarised ideologically by identity issues, with nationalist conservative ideas, and to an extent also nationalist liberal ones, imposing themselves.”

This is putting the conservative middle-ground parties on the defensive. The FDP and CVP are now clearly distancing themselves from, or attempting to conceal, their previous commitment to rapid EU accession or an intensification of the NATO partnership. Both hope that these kinds of minority foreign policy issues do not become major election issues. However, the SVP is playing the EU card mercilessly in the new climate, which is characterised by renewed pride in comparatively successful Switzerland. In the canton of Berne, the SVP candidate for the Council of States went into battle with the catchy slogan “Don't want the EU? Then vote for me”.

After in-depth studies, political scientists conclude: “The mood in Switzerland is divided between contrasting values of national autonomy and international integration.” This is nothing new for SVP strategists; they have long been reducing the complex findings of academics to a simple battle cry: “The Swiss vote SVP”.

The reaction of the other parties from left to centre-right has ranged from anxiety to anger. They are well aware that they are being attacked on a front that they have long since abandoned and left to populist SVP politicians: this is the right mindset in this sophisticated, direct democracy with its multicultural society that largely coexists harmoniously in this country at the centre of Europe that calls itself “Switzerland”.



“Most people see themselves as losers”. Each year, political scientists are commissioned by Credit Suisse to identify which issues and developments cause the most concern to Swiss people. This survey is known as the “Worry Barometer”. Unemployment, the welfare institutions and healthcare were right at the top of the list of worries last year. Concerns among people in Switzerland about their personal security, the immigration issue and the relationship with the European Union have increased. David Bosshart, head of the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, analyses the fears of the Swiss people in an interview with Barbara Engel.

“SWISS REVIEW”: *Unemployment is top of the list of worries for Swiss people. 10% more than last year said that unemployment was their main concern, despite the fact that unemployment continued to fall in 2010 and relatively few people are actually affected by it personally. Why is there so much fear about unemployment?*

DR DAVID BOSSHART: Work is a more important facet of people’s lives than ever before. This is why we’ve coined the term workstyle, as people now organise their lives and plan their time around their job or jobs. Workstyle is today more important than lifestyle. The economic uncertainty and constant flow of contradictory information are unsettling, and the media like to dramatise developments. What really matters is how people feel. If they think they are going to lose their jobs tomorrow, even though objectively there is no reason for concern, then they will also behave as though they are going to lose their jobs tomorrow.

Does this great worry about unemployment indicate that the Swiss primarily define themselves through their work?

It would be good if that were the case as people are active beings and productive work is one of the most important things in life – these days more than ever because retirement is quite rightly being postponed and will become more and more flexible.

Concerns about the welfare institutions and healthcare rank immediately behind unemployment. Does this mean that the Swiss believe our social order and our social solidarity – one of the cornerstones of Swiss society – are in jeopardy?

A lot of subconscious fears are revealed here because people feel that the increasingly glo-

balised world is undergoing dramatic change. Demography, in other words economic and social population changes, is our destiny. We all established and expanded great social welfare institutions at a time when a lot of young people financially supported far fewer elderly people. This situation is now changing constantly. Immigration eases the burden to an extent but also increases the complexity of society enormously because other people also bring different values with them. And this, in turn, also increases costs.

Do politicians show too little interest in possible fears about decreasing solidarity in our society? Or are such fears in fact deliberately stoked up?

There is a trend towards more populism throughout the western world. From the US with its Tea Party movement to countries such as Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands and Switzerland, we are seeing the same thing. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find majorities, which is dangerous. Liberal democracy is still the best of a bad bunch of political systems, but politicians need voters and the media needs subscribers and readers and so they all overdramatise events. Everything that is emotive is emotionalised.

Rows in the Federal Council and deadlock in Parliament were constant media topics last year, but the conduct of the authorities and politicians is still not among the major concerns of the Swiss people. Is there a sense of basic trust or perhaps confidence in self-regulation?

We have to ask what we are drawing comparisons with. I firmly believe that we can still essentially take great pride in our political system. However, the challenges that have to be overcome today are much more com-

plex. Owing to federalism and direct democracy, people in Switzerland also feel responsible for what goes on in politics. From this perspective, we do have the politicians we deserve.

The immigration issue, or more precisely the integration of foreign nationals and the free movement of persons (position 5), as well as the relationship with the EU (position 7) have moved up the list of worries. Does the fear of losing national identity play a role here?

Yes and no. Small states can usually deal with migration better than large ones. The USA, Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the UK have much bigger problems than Switzerland. Most people see themselves as losers and believe that globalisation and migration are taking away their jobs, reducing their quality of life and threatening their identity. Indeed, identity, belonging and responsibility constitute major challenges for a country. Switzerland needs a strong basic consensus – without this we will become a segmented society of special interest groups.

Does this basic consensus still exist today?

I suspect that it does, but it would take a serious crisis or a great deal of suffering for it to become evident again in our highly prosperous world.

You say that most people see themselves as losers in the globalised world. Will this outlook and the fears inevitably associated with it increasingly become a hindrance or burden to Switzerland?

The success and failure of nations will, in future, be measured by how the middle classes fare. However, you have to bear in mind that middle class is not primarily defined by in-



DAVID BOSSHART AND THE GDI

Dr David Bosshart (52) studied philosophy and political theory at the University of Zurich and has been head of the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute (GDI) in Rüschlikon, near Zurich, since 1999. The GDI is an independent European think-tank for economic and socio-political issues. It was established by the founder of Migros, Gottlieb Duttweiler, in 1962. Duttweiler's principle of "focusing on people rather than capital" continues to shape the institute's approach to lecturing and research.

come, but the hope of a better life. If people stop hoping and instead just respond with cynicism and aggression, then we have all lost. Mental strength and the belief that things can be improved are key. And, in my view, Switzerland is still well placed in this respect.

The main concerns that Swiss people have also reveal that economic considerations are a top priority. Has the economy overtaken politics in terms of importance?

This was, in fact, the case in the period of great illusion from 1990 to around 2008. The euphoria surrounding seemingly boundless global growth thanks to the manipulation of key financial indicators has now given way to disenchantment. The view that we are only

successful if the economy and politics are both strong is once again widely held. The Chinese impressively demonstrate that the market is an instrument of the state and not an ideology, as in the West. Parag Khanna, an expert in geopolitics from the USA, who will give a presentation at the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute's Trend Conference in March, says that we are currently experiencing both an institutional and a geographical shift of power at the same time.

The concerns of Swiss people revolve mainly around domestic issues; global problems are not viewed as priorities. It would appear that the Swiss still see themselves as an insular nation and a special case. Is this so?

Again, you have to ask who we are comparing ourselves with. We are obviously an island of privileged people and I can't really see which of the emerging global economic and political constellations we could belong to. We are not part of BRIC – Brazil, Russia, India and China; we do not belong to PIGS – Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain; we are not a member of the EU; and we are not an "olive republic", the name given to the attractive tourist destinations of southern Europe, stretching from Bulgaria to Greece and all the way to Spain and Portugal. We are a stand-alone nation. Another consideration is that the more global the world becomes, the more interest people take in matters close to home. Who is my neighbour? This explains the emphasis on domestic issues among people's concerns.

In France, the book "Indignez-vous" (Cry Out!) by Stéphane Hessel has sold 900,000 copies within a very short space of time. 93-year-old Hessel, a veteran of the Résistance and a Holocaust survivor, rails against inequality, financial capital and xenophobia in his book and launches an impassioned appeal for people to stand up for the basic universal rights set out in the UN Charter on Human Rights and to react with outrage at their constant infringement. Could we do with a similar pamphlet in Switzerland?

Outrage doesn't really help. I prefer to focus on putting forward arguments and highlighting contradictions. We must avoid too much populism and scaremongering. And, above all, we must ensure that we do not become a segmented Switzerland where special interest groups make majorities impossible.

Do you believe a culture of outrage against the infringement of basic rights, which Hessel calls for in his book, could be fostered in Switzerland?

We are not France. We have never held ambitions of being a major power. France is unfortunately in a state of rapid decline, and it seems unaware of this. "La Grande Nation" is becoming a "Nation Moyenne", an average nation.

The greatest figure in Swiss dance

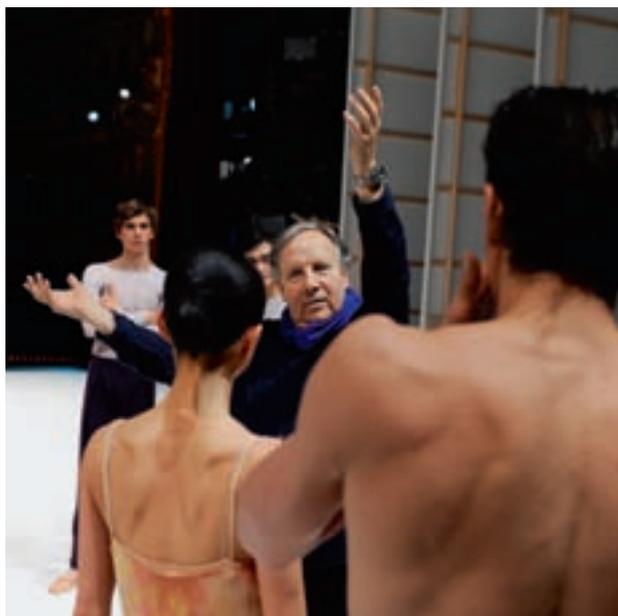
Heinz Spoerli has been a leading choreographer for decades and has had a major influence on ballet far beyond Swiss borders. He is entering his last season as Director and Chief Choreographer at the Zurich Ballet, but will remain the figurehead of dance in Switzerland. By Heinz Eckert

Nobody would think that Heinz Spoerli was 71. He is bursting with ideas, is agile and creative and continues to work hard in the ballet studio every day to ensure the Zurich Ballet remains among the most highly regarded ballet companies in Europe. Spoerli has been in charge of the Zurich ensemble since 1996. In this period, he has interpreted many abstract ballets as well as the classics, such as “Swan Lake” and “Peer Gynt”. Guest performances have taken the Zurich Ballet under Spoerli’s management to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Edinburgh, Cairo, London, Lyon, Paris, Tel Aviv, Warsaw, Madrid, Frankfurt, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Moscow, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Shanghai, Singapore, Osaka, Tokyo and Taipei. And the dancers and their choreographer from Switzerland have received exuberant praise wherever they have gone.

Basel-born Spoerli did his dance training – against the will of his parents – initially with Walter Kleiber in his home city before going on to continue his education in London and New York. The young Spoerli was given his first job by Wazlav Orlikowsky at the municipal theatre in Basel in the ballet company that he would later take to the very top of classical dance.

However, from 1963 to 1973 Spoerli left Basel, going first to Todd Bolender in Cologne, then on to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal and finally the Grand Théâtre in Geneva. Heinz Spoerli first worked as a choreographer whilst still dancing. He achieved his breakthrough in 1972 with “Le chemin”

to the music of Eric Gaudibert at the Grand Théâtre in Geneva. The ballet was even recorded by Swiss television. On the back of this success, Werner Düggelin, the Director of the Basel theatre at the time, appointed him as Chief Choreographer and Ballet Director at the largest theatre in Switzerland with three sections – theatre, opera and ballet.



Heinz Spoerli during a rehearsal at the Zurich Opera House

HEINZ SPOERLI

Spoerli, born in 1940, also serves the ballet world outside the studio. He founded the Heinz Spoerli Foundation, which seeks to make a contribution to maintaining the art of dance and fostering public interest in dance. It also regularly awards prizes to outstanding dancers and choreographers. He also founded the Zurich Junior Ballet as an

Basel, Düsseldorf, Zurich

Spoerli remained with the “Theater Basel” for 17 years and made “his” Basel ballet one of the leading classical dance companies in Europe. Spoerli quickly gained himself an international reputation as an outstanding choreographer for full-length narrative ballets, such as “La belle vie”, and stylish new interpretations of classical works, such as “La fille mal gardée”, “Giselle”, “Coppelia”, “Romeo and Juliet”, “The Nutcracker” and “Swan Lake”, which enjoyed international success, even in New York, the epicentre of ballet at the time.

Heinz Spoerli was the Director of Ballet at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf from 1991 to 1996. He produced some of his major ballets during this period. These include his “Goldberg Variations” to the music of Bach, a masterpiece of lucid, abstract dance.

In 1996, he moved to Zurich and quickly turned the Opera House’s ballet company into a top-class ensemble. In Zurich, Heinz Spoerli consolidated his reputation as one of the most important choreographers of our time unfazed by trends. To highlight his artistic independence, Spoerli has referred to himself as a “Tanzmacher”, or creator of dance, for the last ten years. “As a creator of dance, I can work across a wide spectrum of styles and am not tied to any one in particular, like other choreographers. This allows me to keep all my options open”, says Spoerli of the change to his job title. “There used to be two movements in dance – modern with Martha Graham and classical with George Balanchine, Marius Petipa and the old Russian school. Everything has changed since the 1960s. Dance has become increasingly diverse and much broader, which is a good thing”, explains Spoerli. The fact that classical dance is still very much alive is underlined by the success of the Zurich Ballet: “What other form of dance can fill a 1000-seat theatre for 50 performances a year?” asks Spoerli with a mischievous laugh.

When Alexander Pereira, the Director of Opera in Zurich, takes up his new position as head of the Salzburg Festival in 2012, Spoerli will also place the management of the Zurich Ballet in younger hands. "At my age, it is time to go", says Spoerli. His successor is the 40-year-old German, Christian Spuck, currently resident choreographer of the Stuttgart Ballet. Spoerli will not be an easy act to follow.

Dance perfection

Spoerli possesses enormous creativity and is an absolute perfectionist. He says: "My dancers are almost all soloists who have to be able to do everything. I demand absolute perfection from them. There is no room for mediocrity in top dance. And with ticket prices as high as they are in Zurich, the audience is entitled to an outstanding performance."

With new ballets, Spoerli always takes his inspiration from stories or music. "In the case of the former, I look for music to go with the story and, for the latter, I devise steps to the music. I listen to a lot of music, even for hours on end when I'm looking for something in particular", he explains. When the auditions begin for a new ballet, he does not have any clear notion of how the dance should be performed: "I know how the plot has to develop and who has to dance which roles, but I always work out the steps with the dancers." This makes the work more creative and interesting for everyone and often, by the end, he no longer knows which ideas have come from him and which from the dancers. However, there is one thing Spoerli has no doubts about: "The key success factor is always the quality of the dancers. If poor choreography is at least danced well, the evening can still be a success."

Heinz Spoerli's artistic work is characterised not just by his style and sense of aesthetics, but also by his creative ability to keep on renewing himself as an artist. The older he gets, the more relaxed and radical his approach to dance becomes. This will not change after he steps down as Director of Ballet in Zurich. He will continue to work at major opera houses as a guest choreographer. There are already offers on the table. Shanghai is also trying to entice him to train talented young dancers. So, Spoerli will not be lost to the international dance scene after the 2011/2012 season, his last in Zurich.



A perennial favourite in the repertoire – Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky dusted off and danced to perfection



In 2009, Spoerli created the ballet "Wäre heute morgen und gestern jetzt" to the music of Bach



A timeless classic: the Zurich version of Stravinsky's Sacre du Printemps



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Federal Council approves 2010 Foreign Policy Report

At its session on 10 December 2010, the Federal Council approved the 2010 Foreign Policy Report, which gives a complete overview of Switzerland's foreign policy. In particular, the report shows how Switzerland can exercise influence in today's globalised world and the instruments it has at its disposal to do so. In addition, this comprehensive document outlines Switzerland's most important foreign policy activities between mid-2009 and mid-2010.

The global trends and challenges described by the Federal Council in last year's Foreign Policy Report have been confirmed, in particular the shift in economic and political influence towards Asia, the complexity and interdependencies of global crises, and global climate change. Switzerland has responded to these developments, fulfilling its role in the international community and consolidating its network of influence. The country has worked to resolve problems in various regions of the world and thus reinforced its foreign policy commitment, which is based on a policy of bilateral and multilateral protection of interests and a desire to enhance its influence.

Situated at the heart of Europe, Switzerland is closely linked to European developments. The 2010 Foreign Policy Report affirms that, in future, relations with non-European countries will also become more important as the result of new balances of power in the international community and the growing influence of emerging nations.

Today, most foreign policy problems exceed the capabilities of a single state and must therefore be tackled jointly with other countries and be the subject of collective consideration within the international community. The report presents the challenges facing Swiss foreign policy and the solutions it puts forward, particularly in the fields of international financial and economic policy, human security and migration, and development cooperation.

The reconciliation of national autonomy and the need to cooperate with other states is, according to the report, one of the key challenges that our foreign policy must address. The Federal Council believes that it is possible to uphold national sovereignty while exercising influence in the international arena. International cooperation, far from being synonymous with dependence and loss of sovereignty, presents an opportunity to defend one's own interests in a responsible manner. The 2010 Foreign Policy Report therefore concludes that it is vital for Switzerland to do everything in its power, through its international activities, to extend its influence in the international community.

Penal code, civil code and code of obligations now available in English

The Federal Chancellery has published English translations of the Swiss penal code, civil code and code of obligations. The translations will be added to the collection of legislative texts already available in English, which amounts to some 90 acts and ordinances. The texts are available online at: www.admin.ch.

The English language service of the Federal Chancellery has translated the Swiss penal code and updated the existing translations of the civil code and the code of obligations. The three documents are now available online.

The new translations supplement the collection of legislative texts translated into English, which amounts to some 90 acts and ordinances covering a whole range of topics as diverse as political rights, the monitoring of financial markets, the protection of the environment, human genetic analysis and professional training.

Although there are no plans to translate the whole body of Swiss law, the collection of legislative texts in English will continue to grow with the addition of certain acts of international significance. As part

of this process, the code of penal procedure and the code of civil procedure will be added to the collection during the course of 2011.

The texts are being published using the structure of the Classified Compilation of Federal Legislation, which allows users to switch easily between the English version of the text and the other official language versions. The texts can be viewed in HTML or PDF format.

The English translations of Federal legislation are available at: www.admin.ch/ch/e/rs/rs.html. Please note that, since English is not an official language of the Swiss Confederation, English translations of Swiss legislation are provided for information purposes only and have no legal force.



Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey with President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, the representative of one of the most important foreign policy partners



Federal Council 2011 – photo and objectives

For 2011, the Federal Council has defined 17 objectives in the following areas: to reinforce Switzerland's economic role, to guarantee security, to promote social cohesion, to utilise resources with due regard for sustainable development, and to consolidate Switzerland's position in a globalised world.

For more information, visit: www.admin.ch/br
– Objectives of the Federal Council 2011 (in German)



The members of the Federal Council (from left to right): Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, President of the Confederation Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf (Vice-President), Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga, Chancellor of the Confederation Corina Casanova

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- Human rights, humanitarian policy and migration
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These publications can be downloaded as PDF files or ordered online. www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/doc/publi.html

Federal acts and ordinances which came into force on 1 January 2011

A list of new Federal acts and ordinances passed by the Federal Assembly and Federal Council, as well as amendments and repeals, which came into force on 1 January 2011, is available at www.admin.ch/ch/d/gg/ikt/2011_1.html. Available only in German, French, Italian

These relate to:

1. State, population, authorities
2. Private law, administration of civil justice and enforcement
3. Criminal law, administration of criminal justice and execution of sentences
4. Education, science, culture
5. National defence
6. Finance
7. Public works, energy, transport and communication
8. Health, employment, social security
9. Economy, technical cooperation

NEW POPULAR INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

By the time of going to press, the following new popular initiatives had been launched since the last edition:

- "Für ein EU-Beitrittsmoratorium" (For a moratorium on membership of the EU), committee: Interest Group for a Moratorium on Membership of the EU, deadline for collection of signatures: 23.05.2012
- "Unsere Pensionskassen nicht missbrauchen!" (Stop the misuse of our pension funds!), committee: "Unsere Pensionskassen nicht missbrauchen!" inter-party committee, deadline for collection of signatures: 18.07.2012
- "Unsere Nationalbank gehört uns allen!" (The Swiss National Bank belongs to us all!), committee: "Unsere Nationalbank gehört uns al-

len!" inter-party committee, deadline for collection of signatures: 18.07.2012

■ "Unsere Armee benötigt eine klare Kompetenzregelung für den Einsatz im Ernstfall!" (Clarify competences in respect of real engagements of the armed forces), committee: "Unsere Armee benötigt eine klare Kompetenzregelung für den Einsatz im Ernstfall!" inter-party committee, deadline for collection of signatures: 18.07.2012

By the time of going to press, there were other referenda pending, but the deadlines for the collection of signatures will expire by the time that "Swiss Review" is published. We have therefore decided not to list them.

At www.bk.admin.ch/aktuell/abstimmung/ you will find a list of pending referenda and popular initiatives and the corresponding signature forms if available. Please complete, sign and send the forms directly to the relevant initiative committee.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND YOU OF THE DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL RIGHTS.

Right of initiative:

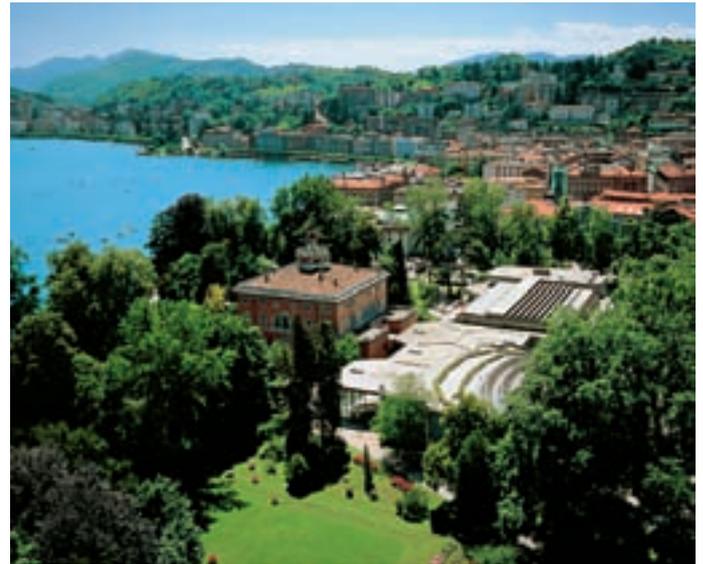
Citizens may use their right of initiative to demand that a proposed change to the Federal Constitution be subjected to a popular vote. For the initiative to proceed, its promoters must collect the signatures of 100,000 citizens who are entitled to vote within 18 months. Popular initiatives do not originate with Parliament or the government, but with citizens themselves. The right of initiative is equally recognised at both cantonal and communal levels.

Right of referendum:

If a group of citizens do not agree with a law passed by the Federal Parliament, they may demand a referendum. The legislation in question is subjected to a national vote if 50,000 citizens sign the demand for a referendum within 100 days. This is known as a facultative referendum. Only a national majority is required. Any change to the Constitution, and also the joining of a supranational organisation, must be the subject of an obligatory referendum. It must therefore be subjected to a national vote. Referenda of this type require a "double majority", i.e. a majority at both national and cantonal levels (a canton being a member state of the Swiss Confederation).

Right of petition

Any person capable of exercising judgement – who does not necessarily have to be an "active citizen" – has the right to address a written request to an authority concerning any activity of the state. The authority is obliged to acknowledge the petition, but is not obliged to respond. However, as a general rule, the Swiss authorities do consider and respond to petitions.



89th Congress of the Swiss Abroad: 26 to 28 August 2011, Palazzo dei Congressi in Lugano

Participants at the 89th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano will debate direct democracy in an international context. Among other speakers, Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard will honour us with her presence. More about the topic and the latest information on the 2011 Congress can be found at: www.aso.ch/de/angebote/auslandschweizer-kongress.

Put the Congress dates in your diary today. We look forward to seeing you.



Please send me the registration documents for the 89th Congress of the Swiss Abroad (26–28.8.2011 in Lugano) in spring 2011.

My contact details are:

Surname/first name: _____

Address: _____

City/postcode/country: _____

E-mail: _____

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Please send the completed form to: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Communications & Marketing, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Fax: +41 (0)31 356 61 01 or send us an e-mail to communication@aso.ch.

Motorists and rail passengers to pay more for the roads and railways. The financing of Switzerland's infrastructure is on a sound footing by international comparison, with special funds for both road and rail transport. However, current funding is insufficient to meet future expansion and maintenance costs. The Federal Council now wants motorists and rail passengers to make a greater contribution. By René Lenzin

Switzerland's transport infrastructure is worth around CHF 280 billion. It costs some CHF 6 billion a year to maintain and will require expansion work costing around CHF 97 billion up to 2030. These figures were recently produced by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Actual expenditure on this infrastructure is as follows: Switzerland invested around CHF 8 billion in roads and railways in 2008, with 55% of the outlay going on roads and 45% on railways.

Switzerland is in a very good position by international comparison when it comes to financing transport. Specially earmarked resources enable long-term and virtually recession-proof planning for this economically pivotal infrastructure. In addition to the ordinary budgets of communes, cantons and federal government, there are three pots of money exclusively available for transport:

Switzerland has created a fixed-term fund for major railway projects, such as the new base tunnels at the Gotthard and Lötschberg, the "Bahn 2000" project and the connection to the European high-speed network. It is financed by the output-related heavy goods vehicle tax and a proportion of fuel duty and

value added tax. The fund generates around CHF 1.8 billion a year.

Half the fuel duty, the fuel duty surcharge and income from motorway tolls go into what is known as the special road transport fund. This currently produces an annual income of CHF 6.5 billion.

Over the next 20 years, CHF 20 billion from this special fund will go into an infrastructure fund for the completion of the national road network and elimination of bottlenecks as well as for public and private transport in urban areas.

Costs underestimated

Many neighbouring countries envy Switzerland for this type of sustainable financing programme, particularly at a time of economic downturn and exorbitant national debt for some. However, Switzerland cannot afford to rest on its laurels. On the contrary, the above estimates by the Swiss National Science Foundation show that future funding requirements will not be met by current expenditure without meticulous planning involving sacrifices. On the one hand, the authorities have underestimated the operating costs of the new railway infrastructure. On the other, economic growth and the increase in traffic will create new demands that are not taken into account by the existing planning.

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, who moved from the Federal Department of Economic Affairs to the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications after the departure of Moritz Leuenberger, appears to want to tackle this problem resolutely. After just over two months in her new post, she has already presented an outline proposal on transport financing to the government. In mid-January, the entire Federal Council gave her the green light to develop the proposed measures in greater depth. Leuthard's project is based on earmarked special funding as described above.

A new railway infrastructure fund

For the railways, the Federal Council is planning to remove the fixed-term restriction on the existing fund and to assign the annual resources for the railways to this pot as well. Operation, maintenance and expansion of the railways would be funded from the new railway infrastructure fund. As things stand, the railway infrastructure fund would receive around CHF 4 billion a year. However, according to the Federal Council, this will not be sufficient to cover future requirements – for the two variants of the "Bahn 2030" project alone, expansions on the scale of CHF 12 or CHF 21 billion are anticipated. Even if the Federal Council splits the project up into individual expansion stages, the project, together with the costs for operating and maintaining the existing network, will still exceed the income of the railway infrastructure fund. The Federal Council is therefore proposing additional income of around CHF 900 million a year (see box).

The road transport situation is somewhat less dramatic. However, according to the Federal Council, there is also the risk of a funding shortfall here from around 2015. It wants to prevent this by increasing the special road transport fund. Its revenue is to be increased in two stages by CHF 0.8 billion to CHF 1.15 billion a year (see box). The consultation process for the railway funding proposals is set to begin. As for the road funding concept, Federal Councillor Leuthard still has to examine this in greater detail with the Federal Department of Finance, which is responsible for motorway tolls and fuel duty.



Commuters are already causing traffic jams



Crowds at rush hour on the Swiss railways

Opposition from all sides

The Federal Council's proposals constitute an indirect counterproposal to the recently submitted popular initiative on public transport. This project launched by environmental associations and left-wing/green parties calls for half the earmarked fuel duty to be made available to public transport. The Federal Council's plan also intends the use of fuel duty for the railways but it believes the level of redistribution proposed by the initiative's organisers goes too far.

Whether its concept can win majority support will only become clear during the political debate. However, there is widespread opposition. The cantons are against additional expenditure on the railways. The SP and the Greens will not accept tariff increases for public transport because this offers environmentally misguided incentives, and many conservative politicians want to prevent public transport from being permanently financed in part by road transport duties.

ADDITIONAL INCOME

Road: As a first step, the price of the motorway toll would be increased from CHF 40 to between CHF 80 and CHF 100. This would produce additional annual revenue of CHF 300 to 450 million.

The fuel duty surcharge would later increase by 7 cents to 10 cents per litre, generating additional annual income of CHF 500 to 700 million.

Rail: The railways would have to pay CHF 300 million a year more for use of the tracks. As they would pass on this increase in train path charges to customers, the average cost of rail travel would increase by 10%.

Anyone commuting long distances would in future be allowed to deduct less in travel expenses from taxes. This would produce additional income of CHF 250 million, which would go to the railways.

The cantons would contribute CHF 300 million to the railway infrastructure fund.

The fund would receive an additional CHF 40 million a year from redeployment of the existing guarantee credit for noise protection.

RL

Military weapons to remain at home in the cupboard

56.3% of voters and 20 cantons have rejected the weapons initiative. Members of the army will not have to store their weapons in armouries in the future. By René Lenzin

The popular initiative entitled "Protection against armed violence" suffered defeat at the ballot box. With a turnout of just under 49%, the proposal was opposed by the majority of cantons and the Swiss people. Only four French-speaking cantons as well as Basel-Stadt and Zurich supported the initiative (see map).

Overall, differences in voting behaviour were evident between urban and rural areas rather than between linguistic regions. Although the overall outcome in French-speaking Switzerland was narrow approval, the rural cantons of Fribourg and Valais rejected the initiative with a "no" vote above the national average. The urban-rural divide was best illustrated in the two cantons with the largest populations. In the canton of Zurich, 33.9% voted in favour in the Andelfingen district compared to 65.4% in the Zurich district. 40.6% of voters approved the initiative overall in the canton of Berne compared to 66.4% in Berne city.

The popular initiative called for military weapons to be stored in armouries rather than at home, as they are now. It also demanded a national weapons register as well

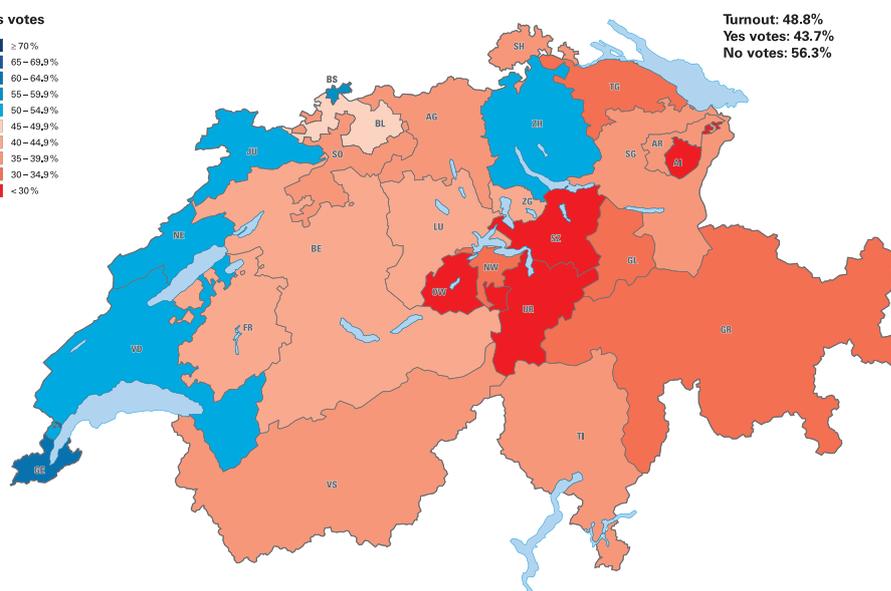
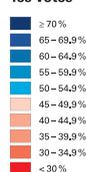
as evidence of the need to purchase and ability to use firearms. It aimed to have a preventive effect as the Federal Council and Parliament had already tightened up firearms legislation prior to the vote. Soldiers can no longer keep ammunition for their army pistols or assault rifles at home. They can also deposit their weapons at armouries voluntarily, but very few have done so thus far.

After the referendum, Simonetta Sommaruga, the Minister of Justice, announced further plans to tighten firearms legislation to prevent fatal accidents and suicides involving military weapons.

No referenda on 15 May

No more national referenda will be held before the federal elections on 23 October 2011. Given that there are no proposals ready to be put to the vote, the Federal Council has decided no referenda will take place on the originally scheduled date of 15 May. However, various elections and referenda will still take place on this date at cantonal and communal level.

Yes votes



I vote! More than a tenth of the Swiss population lives abroad. According to the latest statistics, there are precisely 695,101 Swiss abroad and 135,877 of them were entered in electoral registers in Switzerland at the end of last year. A quarter of all Swiss adults abroad participate directly in political life and decision-making in Switzerland – that is 2.4% of the electorate.



*First name: Ursula
Surname: Deplazes
Age: 41
Place of residence: Rome, Italy
Since: Autumn 2008*



*First name: Rudolf
Surname: Arn
Age: 66
Place of residence:
North Brookfield, MA
Since: 1990
Moved to the USA in 1978*

Will you take part in the elections on 23 October. Do you vote regularly?

URSULA DEPLAZES: Provided I receive the voting material on time, I take part in elections and referenda.

RUDOLF ARN: Yes.

What are your memories of the first election or referendum you took part in?

I can't remember when I first voted, but I take part in elections and referenda. I have lived in various countries and have always enjoyed playing a part in determining the fate of my homeland. I see this as a privilege.

I was elated and proud to have the opportunity to participate and have a say in matters I felt were important to me as a Swiss citizen living abroad.

And why do you take part in elections and referenda?

Elections and referenda in Switzerland also concern me as a Swiss citizen abroad. I am therefore pleased to assume my political responsibility.

I feel that it is important to be part of the process to express my view. Even though I have been living abroad for many years, I still feel closely connected to Switzerland and a proud Swiss citizen.

How do you decide who to vote for?

I mainly follow political developments in Switzerland online, but I also read the press. Discussion with my friends in Switzerland is also very important. Of course, I also read the electoral material.

I read the information and material included with the voting pack. If I am not sure or can't decide I discuss it with my sisters or brother living in Switzerland.

The Swiss abroad are entitled to vote although they don't pay taxes and therefore don't assume any responsibility. This is currently being met with

Assuming responsibility for a country means much more than paying taxes. The Swiss abroad are important ambassadors for Switzerland in the world and provide it with a sustainable network. I have noticed that the Swiss abroad are increasingly well-organised and want to assume greater responsibility.

Swiss living abroad can contribute a lot to Swiss culture and life in Switzerland with educated decisions and opinions while living away from their old country.

What are the key issues that Swiss politicians have to resolve?

As a Swiss abroad, Switzerland's position on the international stage concerns me. In this respect, we are going through a key phase where Switzerland must find a balance between integration and preservation of our Swiss identity.

One of the main issues is the immigration situation. The immigration of undesirable people and illegal immigrants calls for strict immigration laws. And the problem of high unemployment is another issue for Switzerland that has to be seriously addressed.

“Swiss Review” is featuring some of these “Swiss voters from abroad” in this election year and asks what their reasons are for taking part in politics from afar. Voter profiles can also be found at www.SwissCommunity.org.



*First name: Nasha
Surname: Gagnebin
Age: 29
Place of residence: Paris, France
Since: 2006*



*First name: Bernhard
Surname: Beutler
Age: 48
Place of residence:
São Paulo, Brazil
Since: 2009
Moved to Brazil in 2005*

NASHA GAGNEBIN: Yes. I believe it is very important. I have not missed a single opportunity to vote since I obtained my right to vote in 1999. I even took part in a Great Council of Berne election in 2002 and the National Council election in 2003.

BERNHARD BEUTLER: Yes, I vote regularly because I believe it is important that we as Swiss citizens abroad help select our political representatives. The Swiss abroad should also be able to make their contribution, particularly in view of their internationality.

I had just turned 18 and I was on an exchange year (Intercultural Programs Switzerland) in New Zealand. My mother sent me the voting material on maternity insurance. She wrote: “Vote how you want to, but remember we have wanted this for a long time.”

It was 1984 and the issue was a future “without nuclear power stations”. What interested me most in the electoral debate were the opinions of young people. I always thought “it’s our future, the future of us young people”.

As I’m given the right to voice my opinion, I make use of it! If you don’t vote, then you’re not entitled to moan that nothing is happening. Voting isn’t difficult, you simply have to take an interest.

We have this democratic tool and should use it. It is important that all Swiss citizens exercise their vote, otherwise the result is falsified. We Swiss abroad also bear responsibility for the future of Switzerland.

I don’t vote for a list. I give my vote to a party and then I choose primarily based on language. I favour French-speaking candidates and then young candidates. I try to vote more for women than men because I think they have a different and better approach to politics.

I have various criteria, but the most important are the credibility shown by politicians in the past and their attitude towards domestic and foreign policy.

criticism. What’s your view?

The Swiss abroad cannot swing the result one way or the other. However, we have great responsibility as ambassadors for the nation and constantly have to explain and sometimes apologise for the image Switzerland has in our countries of residence.

As a Swiss citizen abroad, you don’t just represent yourself but also your country. If the Swiss abroad perform well, Switzerland benefits in various ways. In any case, lots of us will return at some point and have the right to decide the future.

They should amend the Constitution to enable minimal representation of the Swiss abroad in Parliament as they constitute almost a tenth of the total population.

The politicians must primarily resolve the issue of the aging population and sort out the old-age pension system, but also deal with the integration of foreign nationals, Swiss isolationism, healthcare and social welfare costs, education and the environment.



OSA advice

QUESTION:

I am a Swiss citizen living abroad outside the European Union and EFTA. What are my rights with regard to unemployment insurance should I return to Switzerland?

ANSWER:

The law on unemployment insurance has just been revised, and the amendments will enter into force on 1 April 2011. The aim of this revision was to make savings with a view to restructuring unemployment insurance, and a series of measures to this end were adopted. As far as the Swiss abroad are concerned, the main amendment affects the duration of benefits, which falls from 260 to 90 days of allowance at the most. This means that Swiss citizens returning from countries that are not members of the EU or EFTA are entitled to receive unemployment benefits for 90 workdays. The conditions that have to be met for entitlement to unemployment insurance benefits are as follows: the citizen is returning to Switzerland after a stay of more than a year in a country outside the EU and EFTA; the citizen has been in paid employment abroad for a period of at least 12 months over the last two years; the citizen claims the right to benefits from the commune of domicile or the regional employment office within one year after returning to Switzerland; the citizen is able to present an attestation from the employer abroad indicating the duration of employment. The benefits amount to 70% or 80% of the insured income, which is calculated on the basis of fixed rates depending on the level of professional training.

Persons who have worked abroad for companies that have their registered office in Switzerland and who have therefore contributed to unemployment insurance are subject to the regulations that govern benefits for persons working in Switzerland. They will therefore, in principle, be entitled to benefits for a longer period.

Persons returning to Switzerland after a stay in an EU/EFTA state are subject to different regulations owing to the coordination of social security systems included in the agreement on the free movement of persons. In principle, it is the last country of employment that is responsible for paying unemployment insurance benefits unless proof of having worked in Switzerland as an employee for 12 months over the pre-

vious two years prior to registration as unemployed can be produced.

For further information in German:
www.treffpunkt-arbeit.ch/dateien/Broschuere/b_ausland.pdf
www.treffpunkt-arbeit.ch/dateien/Broschuere/b_arbeitslos.pdf

Correction: An error was made in the October 2010 edition of "Swiss Review", in the "OSA advice" section. The representations abroad can neither certify the document concerned nor certify the signature on attestations issued by cantonal traffic departments. In the case of documents issued by cantonal authorities, authentication has to be obtained from the cantonal chancellery. If this has been provided, the Swiss representation responsible can re-certify the stamp and signature of the cantonal chancellery.

Young people meet in Switzerland

OSA is offering a wide range of holidays and educational visits to Switzerland this summer. We provide the opportunity for young people to establish relationships with Switzerland, Swiss people and Swiss living abroad all over the world.

This year, OSA is expecting around 150 young people at its summer camps alone where activity holidays are organised with participants from over 40 countries. Young people will take part in various sporting and creative activities at the camps in the Flumserberg region. We will assist the municipality of Saas Balen with conservation work at a charitable camp in Valais. The adventure trip project in the Bernese Oberland will provide young people with the opportunity to learn to cook, navigate, canoe, build a place to sleep and many other skills, and to apply these skills directly at the camp.

Details

Charitable summer camp in Saas Balen
 3/7 – 9/7/2011
Summer camp 1 Flumserberg
 16/7 – 29/7/2011
Summer camp 2 Flumserberg
 30/7 – 12/8/2011
Adventure trip in the Bernese Oberland
 2/8 – 12/8/2011

Discover Switzerland

OSA has created a new project for Swiss from abroad this year. We will put together two-week programmes for participants

that they can complete on their own or with a guide. Visitors can take trips all over Switzerland focusing on particular areas of touristic interest, such as water, history or architecture. OSA will set a task for each trip that will bring Swiss from abroad closer to the diversity of their homeland. The young people will stay with host families, bringing them into direct contact with everyday life in Switzerland.

Educational holidays

On two-week language courses, Swiss from abroad have the opportunity to learn German or French. Our "Training in Switzerland" programme is aimed at young people who want to find out more about attending schools, universities or other educational institutions in Switzerland.

This is just some of what OSA offers. Young people will find all the latest information at www.aso.ch under the "Offers" section.

Interview with a young Swiss abroad

29-year-old James Schuler grew up in Peru. He recently completed his training at the Ecole Hôtelière in Lausanne.

AJAS: *Why did you decide to come to Switzerland for your studies?*

JAMES: There were three important reasons: first of all, many diplomas issued in Peru are not fully recognised abroad. This would narrow my possibilities for finding a



James Schuler

job outside Peru. Secondly, the subject I took, Hotel Management, is only offered in Peru by a few private universities that are extremely expensive and I could not afford them. And the third reason is that Switzerland is considered one of the best countries in the world for studying Hotel Management.

Did the image you had of Switzerland before coming here correspond to the reality?

It was my first trip to Europe and I came here without a plan, which was not so clever. I brought some money which I thought was going to last for a month. But after a week it was all gone! I underestimated how expensive life in Switzerland can be. Apart from that, Switzerland is as people stereotype it: kind people, big mountains, blue lakes, cows, watches, cheese, etc...

Today you know that you should have prepared better before travelling to Switzerland. What advice could you give to young people who, like you, desire to study in Switzerland?

I recommend to all of you that you are well prepared mentally and economically before coming here. Plan where you are going to stay, where you are going to study, and how you are going to finance your studies and your lifestyle.

What is it that you miss most from home?

The same as all the Swiss abroad who live here: family, friends and food. But now I also enjoy Swiss food!

Do you think you have changed since coming to Switzerland?

Sure I have! I have learned to be independent, to plan and organise, and I have become a less individualistic person.

*AJAS – Association for the Promotion of Education for Young Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26 – CH-3006 Berne
Phone: 031 356 61 22
E-mail: ajas@aso.ch
www.ajas.ch*



Lynn Allemann from South Africa, Andreas Christ and Ellen Schäffel from Germany (from left to right)

From the height of summer to the depths of winter – halfway around the world for Juskila

Lynn Allemann spent 12 hours on an aeroplane so she could cheerfully stand before me in Lenk one Monday morning in early January. At home in South Africa, temperatures were around 30°C – Lynn is on her summer holidays.

Those of us who are half-frozen can only dream of warm sunshine. The opening event of the 70th Juskila ski camp is highly impressive but hands and feet soon get extremely cold with temperatures well below zero. Everyone is, of course, excited to see the wrestling champion, Kilian Wenger, ski cross world champion, Mike Schmid, and former Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi, who has agreed to act as patron for the 70 Swiss abroad who are attending this year's Juskila free of charge. Normally only 20 Swiss abroad are able to take part in this winter sports week, but the number has been increased to 70 this year to mark the anniversary.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad carried out the draw for places and handled the organisation on behalf of Swiss Ski. It also organises ten other camps – in five languages – for Swiss children living abroad aged 8 to 14. Expertise and enthusiasm go hand in hand to ensure success.

The young Swiss abroad come from countries on all five continents: Germany, France, Ireland, Sweden, Spain, Hungary, UK, Italy, Rumania, USA, Canada, Australia, Mexico, Tunisia and even South Africa, like Lynn. She is particularly looking forward to making new friends, but she is a bit down at the moment after falling over a lot during the morning's snowboarding lessons. But she will definitely return home an accomplished snowboarder at the end of the camp, dreaming about snow and the slopes on her twelve-hour return flight.

The young Swiss abroad in her group are incredibly grateful, according to group leader Sabine Kamm, "even more grateful than the 330 Swiss youngsters". But everyone is, of course, enjoying the snow and having fun being part of the group.

25 JANUARY 2011, SIMONE RINER

PRO JUVENTUTE PEN PALS

Making new friendships

Friends are important. The Pro Juventute Pen Pal initiative allows children and young people to form friendships, find out about foreign countries and cultures, and discover more about what life is like for people of the same age abroad. Lots of young people still like writing and receiving real letters even though today almost all communication is via the Internet, e-mail and SMS. Pro Juventute arranges pen pals for children and young people aged 10 to 18 in over 30 countries. The languages of correspondence are German, French, Italian and English. Are you interested? Register online at: www.projuventute.ch

Through the depths of the Eiger to the Jungfrauoch

The Jungfrau railway will celebrate its centenary in 2012. Running through a tunnel that passes inside the Eiger and Mönch mountains, it reaches Europe's highest railway station and remains the jewel of the Bernese Oberland.
By Alain Wey

The train passes through the depths of the mountain. Passengers look on in astonishment as the north face of the Eiger (3,970 m) passes by. The 7.2-km tunnel snakes its way through the rock, passing through the Mönch (4,107 m) before emerging at the Jungfrauoch (the Jungfrau Col) at an altitude of 3,454 metres. Europe's highest railway station was the most audacious Swiss railway project in the early 20th century. At the foot of the trinity of Bernese Alps, a clock counts down the minutes to the centenary of the Jungfrau railway service on 1 August 2012. There is much to be celebrated about this company rich in history. In 2010, almost 672,000 passengers travelled the 1393-metre ascent to reach the breathtaking panorama of eternal snow. To the south, Aletsch glacier slopes away for 22 km into the canton of Valais and to the west stands the majestic Jungfrau (4,158 m). Here, the mountain retains the memories of a project that took 16 years to complete and was the crowning glory of the mountain railway boom that gripped Switzerland at the end of the 19th century. Let's turn back the clock to take a look at the project of a dreamer, Adolf Guyer-Zeller, without whom none of this would have happened.

Mountain railway fever

The boom in railway construction at altitude really took off a decade after the inauguration of the first cog railway in 1874 in Vitznau, which climbs the Rigi (canton of Schwyz, 1,800 m). In 1912, there were 15 cog railways and 45 funicular railways in Switzerland. This railway fever undoubtedly culminated with the Jungfraubahn railway. In 1893, the Wengernalpbahn railway reached the Kleine Scheidegg (2,061 m) at the foot of the Eiger from Lauterbrunnen (795 m) to descend into Grindelwald (1,034 m). In 1869 and 1889, negotiations were held about a railway ascending the Jungfrau but those behind the project encountered difficulties obtaining authorisation and funding. In 1893, the Zurich-based industrialist Adolf Guyer-Zeller (1839–1899) put forward a new proposal. The head of the north-eastern railway company (Nordostbahn) envisaged an electric open-top line between Kleine Scheidegg and the Eiger glacier that would enter a tunnel through the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau to arrive at the summit of the latter. It was granted authorisation from the federal authorities in 1894 and work began in 1896 under the management of the recently estab-

lished Jungfraubahn railway company. Instead of the seven years anticipated, the construction work took 16 years to complete. The destination station was no longer at the summit of the Jungfrau but instead at the Jungfrauoch.

Cog railways driven by tourism

This railway was primarily aimed at foreign tourists and not local people. From 1830, English visitors invaded the Interlaken region, which became a well-known English colony of the period. From 1880, they would lose ground to the Germans, Americans and French. Foreign tourism peaked between 1890 and 1914. More than 21 million overnight stays were recorded in Switzerland in 1910. This figure would not be reached again until 1955. The Bernese Oberland cornered a third of the Swiss tourism market from 1895, and the region's railways experienced a real boom between 1890 and 1905 with the opening of numerous lines: Berner Oberland Railway, Interlaken-Lauterbrunnen, Interlaken-Grindelwald, Thun-Interlaken, Spiez-Frutigen and Spiez-Gstaad.

Sixteen years of work

In 1898, the open-top Eiger glacier line was inaugurated at 2,320 m. Tunnelling work in the Eiger started in 1897, and Rotstock (2,520 m) was reached in 1899. In the same year, Adolf Guyer-Zeller passed away and his son took up the reins. The work was delayed, and the Eigerwand station (2,865 m) did not open to the public until June 1903. The section then reached the Eismeer (sea



Tunnelling miners shortly before the breakthrough at the Jungfrauoch on 21 February 1912



Eigerwand station on 28 June 1903



Kleine Scheidegg with Eiger,

of ice, 3,160 m) station in 1905. At this stage, the initial plans were modified for financial reasons. Instead of a station at Mönchsjoch and then at the summit of the Jungfrau, the Jungfrauoch was chosen as the terminal and was inaugurated in 1912. Over the years, the project claimed the lives of 30 miners (dynamite explosions, electrocutions, avalanches, rock slides, etc.), witnessed six strikes and financial problems (actual cost of CHF 15 million compared to the CHF 10 million forecast) and took 16 years rather than the seven anticipated.

A world of caverns and underground passageways

The development of the Jungfrauoch during the 20th century enhanced its reputation. A world of subterranean passageways and caverns was created in the mountain. A first tourism centre was built in 1912 before the opening of the ambitious “Berghaus” in 1924, which is nestled on the south side. The Jungfrauoch research centre (3,450 m) was opened in 1931. The Sphinx observatory, which stands at an altitude of 3,571 metres, was opened in 1937, and its astronomic dome was installed in 1950. It is accessed via two elevators, which climb another 111.4 metres. Initially, the research focused on meteorology, glaciology and physiological medicine, whereas today it mainly concerns astronomy, astrophysics and cosmic radiation. The Ice Palace was chiselled out and sculpted in the 1930s. In 1972, a fire destroyed the “Berghaus” and the tourist centre, which were replaced by the “Taverne de la Jungfrau” and the

“Gletscherrestaurant”. A new wave of construction on the Jungfrauoch began between 1983 and 2002. The new “Berghaus” (16,200 m³, 7 floors) was opened in 1987 and renamed the “Top of Europe”. A second Jungfrauoch railway station hall and a new way out onto the Aletsch glacier were opened in 1991, the opening of a storage yard for the rolling stock at Kleine Scheidegg and the redevelopment of the Ice Palace took place in 1992, a new viewing terrace on the Sphinx rock was built in 1996, and the Ice Gateway (3,471 m) building was constructed in 2002.

The aura of the Jungfrauoch

In addition to mass tourism, one of the most significant effects of the Jungfrau railway is the electrification of the villages throughout the region with the construction of power stations and hydroelectric power plants in Lauterbrunnen, in particular. They were initially intended to supply the railway. Then came the attraction of winter sports and the first ski slopes, including Lauberhorn (2,472 m) from 1930. The descent to Wengen is the longest in the world, covering 4.5 km. It featured in the movie “Downhill Racer” starring Robert Redford and Gene Hackman in 1969. The Jungfrau-Aletsch-

Bietschhorn region’s aura saw it become the first alpine area to be included in UNESCO’s prestigious world heritage site list in 2001. Another award highlights its historical significance. The “Bellevue des Alpes” hotel (1840) in Kleine Scheidegg was named “Historical Hotel of the Year 2011” by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (Icomos), which describes it as a “true time machine”.

One man’s dream has become an incredible attraction, and the celebrations ahead should further enhance the region’s reputation. If Adolf Guyer-Zeller had not obtained authorisation from the federal authorities based on his promise to invest CHF 100,000 of his fortune in a meteorological station at the terminal, the railway simply would not have been constructed. The Jungfrauoch has been Europe’s highest railway station for almost 100 years.

www.jungfraubahn.ch

www.scheidegg-hotels.ch

www.ifjungo.ch/jungfrauoch (Jungfrauoch research centre)

VISITOR NUMBERS

672,000 people visited the Jungfrauoch “Top of Europe” in 2010. This represents a 3.2% increase compared to

2009. The line recorded 42,880 visitors in 1913 and attracted 100,000 in 1952, 200,000 in 1967, 300,000 in 1972, 400,000 in 1980,

500,000 in 1997 and 600,000 in 2000. Its record is 704,312 in 2007.



Mönch and Jungfrau



The old mountain hotel was named the “house above the clouds” – in the foreground, the Aletsch glacier; in the background, the Mönch

When Icarus flirts with the sun

Supported by his team, young engineer Marc Muller has embarked on a round-the-world journey in a solar and wind-powered vehicle. His goal is to visit sustainable development projects on four continents and to publish his reports in the media and online. Alain Wey puts this audacious venture under the spotlight.

Having set out on 15 May 2010 from Yverdon-les-Bains, Marc Muller, an engineer from Vaud, and his alternating co-pilots are currently crossing Latin America after journeying through North Africa and the USA. They are aiming to reach Buenos Aires by the end of April before heading off to Asia. Their goal is to arrive in Lausanne by autumn 2011. They have already been confronted with many challenges, including administrative (customs, residence permits), technical and meteorological obstacles. During their journey, they have met a number of environment ministers and have been warmly received by the people in the countries visited. They have also often been provided with accommodation by local people or members of the Swiss consulates.

In the starting blocks

Prior to departure, the Icare Project required 14 months of preparation and the involvement of 70 people working in the fields of engineering, vehicle construction, project management, logistics, media and sponsorship. The Icarette was developed from an electric car, the Twike (two-seater German tricycle), by the School of Engineering in the canton of Vaud (HEIG-VD) in partnership with the School of Engineering in Fribourg. It tows a six-metre-long, solar-panel trailer and is fitted with a fold-down wind-power system. "This project is a research project and one that focuses on how the term 'sustainable development' is understood and what changes have to be made in society in order to achieve it", explained Marc Muller.

After leaving Yverdon-les-Bains, Icarette headed for Lausanne, Martigny, and then Italy, passing through the Saint Bernard tunnel. The initial stretch also provided the opportunity to make the first adjustments, which required all the skills of the engineer and the technical team back in Switzerland. Having gone through the Aosta Valley, the Twike reached the port of Genoa and embarked on the ferry for Tunisia.

Under the North African sun

In Tunisia, Icare came under close scrutiny. Marc Muller visited the Djebel Chekir waste disposal site where technology prevents the release of thousands of tonnes of methane into the atmosphere. The landfill gas is used to produce electricity and to heat buildings. Muller also visited the Sidi Daoud wind-power plant, which produces 2% of the country's electricity. The vehicle then headed for Morocco, its solar power plants and the Rif wind farm. To reduce its energy dependency, the government has launched large-scale green projects aimed at enabling renewable energy to contribute 15% of national energy requirements by 2020. The Icare team also met students from the Mohammedia de Rabat School of Engineering. In Casablanca, the car was to be put on the ferry for New York but was held up for two weeks because of strict US customs regulations.

Across the USA

Icarette finally reached the port of New York at the beginning of August. Here, Marc Muller had a real fight on his hands before the customs authorities allowed the vehicle to enter. After 50 days of administrative wrangling, Icarette took to the streets of the Big Apple and headed for Boston, where the intrepid adventurer took part in GreenFest 2010. He then continued his journey to Detroit where he met with engineers from Ford and members of the University of Michigan.

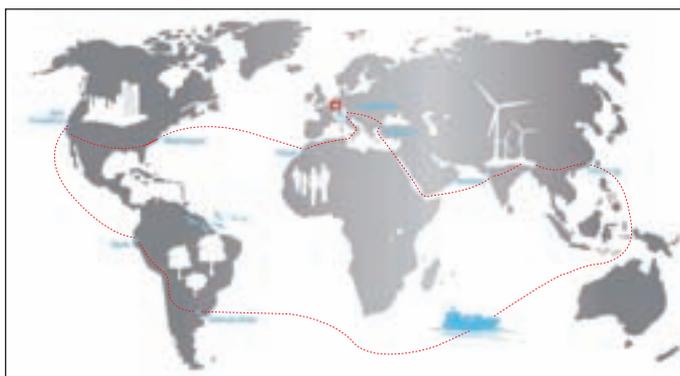
After visiting Indianapolis and Saint Louis, he went on to Illinois and Kansas where millions of tonnes of corn and soya are used to produce bio-ethanol. He then travelled to Colorado where almost 10% of electricity is clean (wind, solar and biomass energy). Marc Muller said: "It is one of the most innovative green states in terms of educating children, allowances for green companies, government aids, technological innovations and research centres." The governor of Colorado is in fact aiming to reach 30% renewable energy by 2020.



Marc Muller

Setbacks in Latin America

Accompanied by a new co-pilot, Muller left Denver for the Rocky Mountains where he set up his wind power system on Pikes Peak at 4,301 metres above sea level. After stopping in Arizona and New Mexico, he reached Los Angeles in November, where the car had to wait before embarking on a ferry for Ecuador.



A ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP:
Departure: May 2010
Arrival: October 2011

A 40,000-km journey through 30 countries to produce 40 reports on CO₂ compensation methods

WHERE AND WHEN?

16 May 2010, Saint Bernard tunnel
 23 May 2010, Genoa, Italy
 1 June 2010: Raf Raf, Tunisia
 5 June 2010, Rif Valley, Morocco
 5 July 2010, Casablanca, Morocco
 5 August 2010, New York
 19 August 2010, Boston
 7 September 2010, Detroit
 26 September 2010, Kansas
 12 October 2010, Colorado
 21 October 2010, Pikes Peak (4,301 m),
 Rocky Mountains, Colorado

4 November 2010, Los Angeles
 14 November 2010, Bogotá, Colombia
 25 December 2010, Guayaquil, Ecuador
 18 January 2011, Lima, Peru

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT ICARE

Vehicle: solar panels with 450 photovoltaic cells, wind-power system on a fold-down mast which can be used when stationary (diameter: 2.8 m), 5000-watt electric engine, max. speed 80 kmph
 9000 km completed, 55% with solar power, 5% with wind power, 40% with bio-ethanol,

more than 20 reports produced (press and video)

Technological production: CHF 150,000 on engineering, CHF 50,000 on materials, CHF 25,000 on manufacturing, 15 companies involved, CHF 60,000 marketing budget

Academic output: 2 bachelor projects, 10 semester projects, 2 universities involved, hundreds of research hours

Waiting time to get through customs: Peru 2 hours, Tunisia 4 hours, Morocco 6 hours, Ecuador 13 days, USA 2 months



The "Icurette", a converted Twike, is powered by solar and wind energy

The pair flew to Colombia without Icurette to find out about sustainable development projects there. They visited the "metro-cable" public transport system in Medellín where cable cars sail above the city, connecting the poor quarters to the city centre, and the El Dorado nature reserve funded by eco-tourism. Icurette finally reached Guayaquil in Ecuador at the end of December but had to wait 12 days before getting through customs. "Scams, lies, dishonesty and even an armed assault, we saw it all in this place", recalled Muller. Destination Peru – 400 kilometres after crossing the border, one of the vehicle's two batteries developed a fault with 1,400 kilometres of desert ahead in temperatures of over 40°C. In the end, Muller loaded Icurette onto a vegetable truck to reach Lima, where spare parts had been sent for him. "So far, we've had nothing but problems in

South America", explained Muller. He was unable to confirm his plans for arrival in Buenos Aires. "It may no longer be possible to go to Asia because we'll arrive too late in terms of the weather. If that's the case, we have the option of going to Japan and doing a tour of the island to get some insight into Asian culture", he said. They would then return to Turkey at the end of the summer before going on to Eastern Europe and Russia. "We may visit India briefly (without the car) on the way back from Japan to take a look at CO₂ compensation projects and to see Asia's approach to sustainable development", he added.

"We are primarily interested in learning about the attitudes of communities and societies, as reflected in their sustainable development projects." According to Muller, the most significant factor is the reason why

such projects are or are not implemented. The approach is very different depending on the continent because the objectives are not the same. He believes North Africa very much looks to follow Europe's lead. "The South American approach is very focused on social aspects - they primarily see sustainable development as human development", says Muller. "This is a completely different vision to that of North America, which adopts an extremely technological approach."

Marc Muller's adventures can be followed on his website: www.projet-icare.ch. For the remainder of his journey through Argentina, Japan, Turkey, Eastern Europe and Russia, Marc Muller is looking for places where he can stay with his team, or simply for contact with Swiss abroad. You can contact him on info@projet-icare.ch.

On journeys of discovery in Switzerland

The magazine "Transhelvetica", which was launched just a few months ago, is aimed at travellers who would rather bypass the conventional tourist destinations, such as the Rhine Falls, Lucerne's Chapel Bridge, Interlaken and the Matterhorn, because they are more interested in Switzerland off the tourist trail. Its publishers call it a travel culture magazine and its target audience is people who enjoy travel and new experiences, who are always looking to find something new, get pleasure from making discoveries, enjoy surprises and take delight in small gems.

A small team led by 38-year-old Jon Bollmann, who has realised a long-cherished dream with "Transhelvetica", are behind the magazine. Even while studying law in Fribourg, Bollmann, whenever he found lectures a bit dull, would travel the length and

shape of the Cross), readers are treated to an enticing guided tour of the city on the Rhine in a highly personal and unusual way. An article on the little-known crossroads of Biasca in this issue is a highly informative read. Art history, religion, politics and nature



breadth of Switzerland, usually without any particular destination in mind but with great curiosity and pleasure in new discoveries. Bollmann has also been able to win over well-known Swiss authors for his travel magazine project aimed at people who like to take travel at a slower pace. The cabaret artist and author, Franz Hohler, describes walks with his unique blend of humour and philosophy in the section "Gedankengang" (Train of Thought). Gion Mathias Cavelti is another name on the list of prominent writers.

The cross is the main theme of the first issue of "Transhelvetica". In an article entitled "Basel aufs Kreuz gelegt" (Basel in the

nature are interwoven along the Via Curcis as well as the proof provided by Benito Mussolini in Biasca that God does not exist.

The second issue, with the subtitle "Miniaturen" (Miniatures), joins marmot hunters in Grisons and contains a recipe for marmot ragout. "Die dreidimensionale Postkarte der Schweiz" (The three-dimensional postcard of Switzerland) is the title of an article on the origins of

"Swissminiatur" (Miniature Switzerland) in Melide. This issue also features the ghosts and demons of "Les Diablerets" and the particle accelerator at the CERN laboratory.

"Transhelvetica", of course, also provides tips for gourmets and gourmands and offers information on accommodation in quaint guesthouses and hotels as well as unusual souvenirs and gifts.

The magazine is carefully designed, and the production team have adopted a unique illustrative style. The layout has been adapted slightly after each issue. The smooth, velvety paper is a pleasure to flick through and read, and the clear format and additional information are very helpful.

"Transhelvetica" will be published six times a year. The next issue with the special theme of "the horse" will be out on 17 April 2011. It will be on sale at major kiosks in Switzerland priced at 10 Swiss francs or available on subscription from www.transhelvetica.ch for 45 Swiss francs a year (75 Swiss francs abroad). Individual articles can be viewed on the website. BE



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■ Despite the strength of the franc, Switzerland experienced **strong growth** in 2010. Exports increased by 7.1% compared to 2009, while imports rose by 8.4%. No fewer than eight out of ten export sectors moved back into the black, including watch-making, metallurgy and the chemical-pharmaceutical industry.

■ Last year, **UBS** achieved a profit for the first time over a full financial year since 2006. The bank announced a net profit of CHF 7.16 billion compared to a net loss of CHF 2.74 billion in 2009. Credit Suisse posted a net profit of CHF 5.1 billion compared to CHF 6.72 billion in the previous year.

■ On 7 February, Switzerland celebrated the 40th anniversary of the **vote for women**. In 1971, men gave women the right to vote, making Switzerland the penultimate country in Europe to do so (ahead of Portugal). The first 11 women were elected to Federal Parliament in October 1971.

■ Switzerland has confirmed its participation in the **2015 World Expo in Milan**. It is the first country to officially announce its presence and hopes to reaffirm friendly relations with Italy in light of political tension over fiscal matters.

■ In February, Swiss President Micheline Calmy-Rey presented the **"Bilaterals III"** round of negotiations in Brussels. The EU 27 are far from enthusiastic about the new proposals as they wish to depart from the bilateral approach after the first two agreements of 1999 and 2004.

■ According to a study conducted in 2006 by the Berne University of Applied Sciences, 44% of the recipients of **welfare benefits** in Switzerland in 2006 were under the age of 25, amounting to almost 31,600 young people. That represents 4.5% of all 18 to 25-year-olds in

"The wages paid by banks cannot be twice or three times as high as in the real economy. That's not tenable from a social policy perspective."

Konrad Hummler, President of the Swiss Private Bankers Association

"I try to do my best every day and get extremely annoyed at my own mistakes. I even yell sometimes."

Oswald J. Grübel, CEO of UBS

"As one of the world's richest cities, Zurich has not constructed a single building since the war that is worth photographing. There is nothing you wouldn't find elsewhere."

Gottfried Honegger, Zurich artist

"The better integrated foreigners are, the less they are perceived as a problem. We have neglected this in recent decades."

Simonetta Sommaruga, Minister of Justice

"We face an extremely challenging task; it is almost mission impossible."

Federal Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Micheline Calmy-Rey, on negotiations with the EU over "Bilaterals III"

"The Europeans know that Switzerland is their second-largest trading partner with a balance of trade surplus of CHF 20 billion. We are not a small player."

Johann Schneider-Ammann, Minister of Economic Affairs, on the EU

"There are propaganda teams in the individual departments of the Federal Council that influence the media, even with untruths."

Moritz Leuenberger, former Federal Councillor

"Those who claim to be good tend not to be there long."

Oswald J. Grübel, CEO of UBS



Swiss author Melinda Nadj Abonji has won the German Book Prize and shortly afterwards the Swiss Book Prize. Literary critics have been enthralled by "Falcons without Falconers" (original ti-

tle: "Tauben fliegen auf"), "Falcons without Falconers" she depicts the everyday life of an immigrant family masterfully and with great humour. Her former Yugoslavia, came to Switzerland with her family at the age of five, and in this year.

contrast to a rate of 3.3% for the entire population.

■ At the Swiss Awards, Rolf Maibach, a doctor from

Grisons, and the Bernese nurse, Marianne Kaufmann, were voted the **"Swiss of the Year 2010"** for their work in

Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquakes in January 2010. Lucerne humorist Emil Steinberger received a lifetime achievement award.

■ Sarah Meier won the European figure skating title in Berne. Having picked up the silver medal in 2007 and 2008, the 28-year-old from Zurich had not taken part in any competitions this season and retired from competition after her achievement.

■ According to a survey by the Isopublic institute, Switzerland ranks as **the happiest country in Europe** with an average score of 8.29. It occupies first place along with Denmark and is ahead of Germany (7.1), Italy (6.7) and France (6.6). In Switzerland, 46% of those on low incomes fear losing their job in 2011 compared to 19% on high incomes. And in the event of being made unemployed, Swiss Germans expect to bounce back better than French-speaking Swiss.

■ In a consultative vote, the people of Berne accepted the proposal for the construction of a new **nuclear power station** in Mühleberg by a narrow majority. Having been in service since 1972, the current site is to be removed from the network in ten years' time.

■ The 41st **World Economic Forum** (WEF) welcomed 35 heads of state and government as well as 2,500 decision-makers from all over the world to Davos at the end of January. Debates concerned the slow growth of the developed economies, fears over the euro and national debt. Forum Chairman, Klaus Schwab, called for optimism and idealism despite the fact that we are close to a "global burnout".



Tinguely Fountain, Basel

The charm of Swiss cities.

What should be your next travel destinations for a vibrant combination of culture, nature and leisure activities? Swiss cities, of course!

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Network Switzerland

Register at MySwitzerland.com/aso before June 30th, 2011 and win a two-night for 2 persons at the Hotel Schweizerhof*** in Basel with a museum pass.

Further information:

MySwitzerland.com
SEARCH 54532 >>

Unlimited culture

Basel, Switzerland's 3rd-largest city, also has the attributes of a cultural capital: this home of contemporary architecture with some forty museums which host exhibitions with an international outreach will delight art lovers.



Tip 1

Further information:

MySwitzerland.com
SEARCH 28358 >>

A Roman city

Set amid the vineyards and orchards of Canton of Valais, Martigny brings to life again its historical past as a Roman city. Discover the history of the town and visit its restored amphitheatre, together with the Roman baths, temples and residential districts.



Tip 2

Further information:

MySwitzerland.com
SEARCH 28359 >>

A garden city

Are you tempted by a visit to a magnificent private art collection or a museum of photography which enjoys an international reputation? Winterthur will surprise you with its dynamic culture. You are sure to succumb to the charm of its delightful old city and gardens!



Tip 3

Further information:

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