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Switzerland's participation in the ERASMUS programme

## Mobility and cooperation

*From the academic year 1992/93 Switzerland will be participating in the EC action programme ERASMUS whose aims are to promote mobility amongst university students and teachers and to encourage interuniversity cooperation (see communications from the SSA, page 16).*

The agreement to this effect between Switzerland and the EC was signed on October 9, 1991, and ratified by the European Parliament at the end of that month. On March 22, 1991, the Swiss Parliament had approved a federal Ordinance which laid down the legal and financial basis for Switzerland's participation in ERASMUS. The other EFTA countries have concluded similar agreements with the EC.

### Four fields of action

The ERASMUS programme contains four fields of action. Action 1 concerns subsidies to universities which implement exchange programmes by which study periods and examination results are mutually recognised as valid by all the institutions involved. Action 2 concerns mobility grants for students. Action 3 aims to improve mutual recognition of degrees and periods of study by means of a system of equivalent values. Action 4 concerns subsidies for

associations, publications, distribution of information and other similar initiatives, as well as for awarding ERASMUS prizes.

### Who can take part?

Since May 1, 1991, a «Bureau ERASMUS Switzerland» has been in existence at the Central Office of the Swiss Universities in Berne; this bureau functions as national grant awarding authority for Switzerland and is also in a position to provide advice and administrative support to Swiss higher education institutions in connection with the ERASMUS programme. Any student registered at a university in the EC possessing a permanent residence permit (a category which includes Swiss citizens) may participate in the ERASMUS programme in all 19 EC and EFTA countries. However, students registered at universities in EFTA countries (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) can participate in ERASMUS only provided that

they wish to attend a university in the EC. (Similar exchanges amongst EFTA countries will be possible after the EEA treaty has come into force.)

### How do you set about it?

Students interested in participating in the ERASMUS programme from the beginning of the 1992/93 academic year should make enquiries as soon as possible with the ERASMUS delegate of the universities at which they are registered. Candidates who apply during the course of the coming spring

will be informed in May as to whether or not they may participate in ERASMUS. Successful candidates will receive detailed information at a later date about the precise form their participation will take and the university which has been selected for them.

For any additional information, please apply to:

*Bureau ERASMUS Switzerland  
Seidenweg 68, CH-3012 Berne  
Tel.: 41 31 24 74 72  
Fax: 41 31 24 68 11*

*BOD/MAN*

### Changes of address

For legal reasons all Swiss publications are obliged to give a return address in Switzerland on their wrappers. However, changes of address for the Swiss Review are in fact dealt with by Swiss embassies and consulates.

In consequence, we would be grateful if you could notify any change of address or name directly to your embassy or consulate – and not to our editorial offices in Berne. In this way you will be spared unnecessary costs and the new postal details will be dealt with more expeditiously.

## Federal Ballots

### 17th May 1992

- Provided that the formal requirements for a referendum are fulfilled

Federal Ordinance of October 4, 1991, concerning Switzerland's Entry to the Bretton Woods Institutions

- Provided that the formal requirements for a referendum are fulfilled

Federal Law of October 4, 1991, on Switzerland's participation in the Bretton Woods Institutions

- Federal Law of January 24, 1991, on the Protection of Rivers, Lakes and Canals

- Popular initiative of October 9, 1984, «to save our rivers, lakes and canals»

- The Federal Parliament's counter-proposal of June 21,

1991, to the popular initiative (which was withdrawn) against abuses of reproduction and gene technology in humans

- Federal Ordinance of December 13, 1991, concerning the introduction of a Civilian Service for Conscientious Objectors

- Amendment of June 21, 1991, to the Swiss Penal Code and the Military Penal Code (punishable acts against sexual integrity).

### September 27, 1992

### December 6, 1992

Subjects not yet decided

Editor (Official Communications),  
Anne Gueissaz (GUA), Service for the  
Swiss Abroad, Federal Department of  
Foreign Affairs.



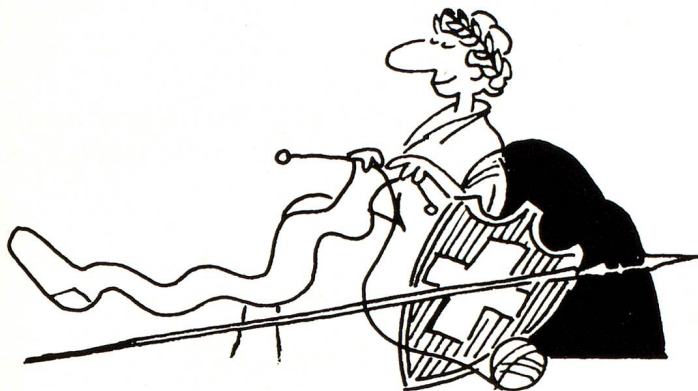
*Any student registered at a university in the EC may participate in the ERASMUS programme. (Photo: Keystone)*



## Your old age pension

Women who have contributed to the Swiss state pension scheme may claim an individual old age pension from their 62nd birthday, while men must wait until they are 65. Married men may lay claim to a married couple's

provided you have contributed to the Swiss state pension scheme for a period of at least one year. The amount of the pension is calculated according to the incomes on which contributions have been paid since the age of 21 and its



The Federal Council has decided to adapt the old age pensions to current prices. (Graphic: Hugo Bossard)

pension if they themselves have reached 65 and their wives are either 62 or are considered disabled to the extent of at least 50%. If the wife is younger than 62 but older than 55 and not disabled, the married man is entitled to a supplement for his wife. If a married woman reaches the pension age earlier than her husband, she is entitled to a pension only in so far as she has herself paid contributions. In addition, old age pensioners may in certain circumstances claim children's allowances: this is the case for children under 18, and for children engaged in full-time education up to the age of 25. In practical terms, you may claim an ordinary old age pension, pro-

The Federal Council has decided to adapt the rates paid by the state pension scheme to current wages and prices by raising them by an average 12.5% from January 1, 1992. The new rates are as follows. The minimum rate for an individual pension goes up from Sfr. 800.- to Sfr. 900.-. The maximum rate for an individual pension goes up from Sfr. 1,600.- to Sfr. 1,800.-. The minimum rate for a married couple's pension goes up from Sfr. 1,200.- to Sfr. 1,350.-. The maximum rate for a married couple's pension goes up from Sfr. 2,400.- to Sfr. 2,700.-.

ratio to the amount of years during which a person of your age could have paid contributions. The actual pension paid is reduced according to the number

of such years during which contributions have not been paid. However, if as a Swiss citizen living abroad you have missed contributing to the scheme during years previous to 1979 one extra year will be added to your pension right automatically and

free of cost if you have paid contributions for a minimum of 20 years, two extra years if you have paid contributions for a minimum of 27 years and three extra years if you have paid contributions for a minimum of 34 years. *GUA*

## Compensation Iraq/Kuwait

The Federal Department for Foreign Affairs (FDFA) communicates that the United Nations Compensation Commission has now provided information on the formalities required of those claiming compensation. This commission was set up to provide compensation for persons who were forced to leave Kuwait or Iraq between August 2, 1990,

and March 2, 1991, and who suffered financial loss or bodily injury as a result.

Persons who suffered serious bodily injury or financial loss as a result of their departure should apply in writing for the appropriate forms – stating whether or not their financial loss exceeded the sum of US\$ 2,500.– – to the following address:

*Section for Consular Protection/FDFA, Bundeshaus, CH-3003 Berne* *DC*

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DOCUMENTATIONS et ADHÉSIONS:

**PERMAGEST**

AGENCE PRINCIPALE

31, boulevard Helvétique - CH 1207 Genève  
Tél. 022 / 786 80 00 - Fax 022 / 786 32 22

## Postal voting

From July, 1992, you will be able to vote by post from abroad. In due course we shall publish a new information sheet on this subject.

For the moment we should just like to tell you that anyone who has already applied will not have to apply again. Those interested in voting by post who have not yet applied can register now at their embassy or consulate. However, postal voting will be possible only as from July 1, 1992.