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«PATRICONSEIL» –

a new organisation at the service of Swiss expatriates

Although there are today in existence several organisations, co-operative companies and others, whose function it is to provide support for the Swiss expatriate, there are nonetheless particular problems today for which they do not provide solutions. It is in this light that Compagnie Foncière SA – real estate and personal property administrators – has been assessed.

We had the opportunity to interview the company president Mr. Bertrand Coigny who provided us with information concerning the new department of his company – «PATRICONSEIL» by agreeing to reply to our questions.

Editorial Staff: What is the fundamental idea behind the «PATRICONSEIL»?

B. Coigny: The basic idea is to provide Swiss expatriates with the benefit of our experience in the management of their affairs in Switzerland. The pace of life is increasingly rapid, time is at a premium for all, moving becomes more and more irksome, and finally, as you know, the absent are often in the wrong!

Any Swiss expatriate with interests in Switzerland can have need for advice, mediation or assistance in one sphere or another.

«PATRICONSEIL» has been created to assist Swiss expatriates in resolving the problems caused by their absence.

Editorial Staff: Could you provide us with some details of the type of services «PATRICONSEIL» is able to offer our fellow-citizens resident abroad.

B. Coigny: «PATRICONSEIL» will have two general types of provision: «PATRICONSEIL – Services» and «PATRICONSEIL – Information». We are making serious consideration of a third sector to our activities, namely «PATRICONSEIL – Support».

Editorial Staff: What do the provisions of «PATRICONSEIL – Services» comprise?

B. Coigny: This concerns a range of services offered to Swiss expatriates which we can group under three main headings:

1. *Property administration* consisting of a general property management service, con-

sultations on all forms of investments (shares, bonds, artwork, precious stones, etc.) enquiries into investment proposals in Switzerland, recommendations regarding banking portfolios and other provisions.

2. *Real Estate* including the selection of real estate investments, all real estate transactions, management of real estate; apartments, houses or chalets.

3. *Legal and fiscal*, comprising assistance for all legal and fiscal problems, for dispute proceedings, fiscal declarations and domiciliations, mediation, acting as contract signatory, etc.

Editorial Staff: That is certainly a field of activities which is going to require the service of a large and highly qualified staff!

B. Coigny: Since Switzerland is a country consisting of 23 cantons each having special legal and fiscal features, «PATRICONSEIL» will mainly function as a co-ordinator between its members on the one hand, and a team of lawyers, notaries and tax advisers, selected with care in each canton and affiliated to the «PATRICONSEIL».

Editorial Staff: You have just mentioned the «members» of «PATRICONSEIL». How does a Swiss expatriate call upon your services, and what is «PATRICONSEIL – Information» which you just spoke of?

B. Coigny: «PATRICONSEIL – Information» represents an important section of our activities. We publish a bulletin strictly reserved for the use of «PATRICONSEIL» members which will be issued in two possibly three languages. This will be compiled by specialists and deal with all subjects of possible interest to Swiss expatriates: investment procedures, new insurance schemes, real estate programmes and a selection of articles abstracted from the Swiss press. In reply to the first part of your question, all Swiss expatriates can become members of «PATRICONSEIL» by paying a yearly subscription which will provide them with the monthly bulletin together with the initial consultation concerning our services. Should this consultation not suffice, a scheme will be compiled

for any necessary supplementary provisions and «PATRICONSEIL» will then act in the role of authorised agent representing the interests of their principal.

This subscription to the «PATRICONSEIL» services will also include the issue of a card of the credit card type which will permit the use of services outside «PATRICONSEIL», such as the Garde Aérienne Suisse de Sauvetage (GASS) or SOS Assistance SA in the case of repatriation following accident or serious illness. Also the Coopérative Fonds de Solidarité des Suisses de l'étranger and others with whom we are negotiating.

Editorial Staff: And when is «PATRICONSEIL» to make a definitive start?

B. Coigny: On January 1st 1982. Any requests for information or subscriptions may be sent prior to this date.

Editorial Staff: Thank you for these explanations concerning your new venture. All our best wishes to «PATRICONSEIL».

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