

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 17 (1990)
Heft: 3

Vorwort: No hedgehog mentality here!
Autor: Bodenmüller, Rolf

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 17.04.2026

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



Impressum

Swiss Revue

Magazine for the Swiss Abroad

17th year of issue

Published quarterly in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish, in about 30 regional editions.

Printing: Berne, Paris, Lugano, New York, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires
Total circulation: 254 900

Editorial staff:

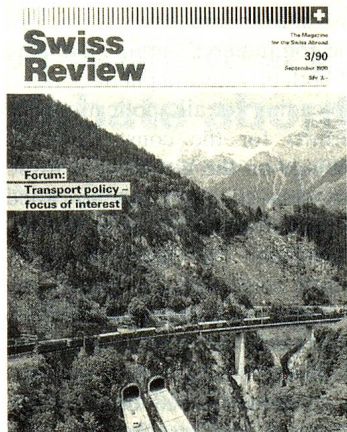
Dr. Stephan Müller, Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Berne
Heidi Willumat, Service for the Swiss Abroad, Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne

Translation:

George Alexander, John Miles

Publisher, central editorial offices and advertising administration:

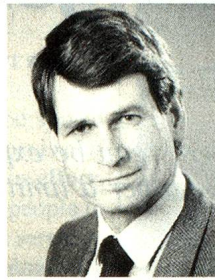
Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Telephone 031 44 66 25
Telex 912 118 asse ch
Telefax 031 44 21 58
Postcheck (Swiss national giro) account: 30-6768-9



Switzerland plays an important role as a transit land. The Gotthard continues to be an important link between north and south. Picture: Swiss federal Railways Gotthard line and N2 motorway. (Photo: Key-color)

Editorial

No Hedgehog Mentality here!



In this, my first editorial for "Swiss Review", I should like first of all, my dear compatriots in foreign countries, to send you sincere and cordial greetings. I look forward to the opportunity of doing all I can to promote your interests, together with my colleagues in the EDA's "Service for the Swiss Abroad". In this connection, may I remind you that this "Service" should not be confused with the "Secretariat for the Swiss

Abroad", which is a private institution. But our "Service" is the only Federal agency which deals officially with matters concerning the 450,000 or so expatriate Swiss. In a forthcoming issue of "Swiss Review" we plan to tell you more about the activities of the EDA "Service".

Now I will say a few words about the principal theme dealt with in this present issue of the magazine, namely Swiss traffic policy. A single glance at a map of Europe is enough to show how our country is literally located in the very heart of the continent. This central location and the control that it involves over the important Alpine passes have long given the Confederation of former times, as well as the Switzerland of today, a significant European role to play. Switzerland is willing to make a substantial contribution towards an extension of the North-South connections and thereby towards the further development of European transport. The Federal Council has recently issued its policy recommendations to the Parliamentary authorities for the construction of a transversal railway crossing the Alps (best known under the acronym NEAT), announcing that in its view, Switzerland must actively collaborate in a dynamic process of European integration. The construction of such a new transversal railway would moreover be completely in line with an ecologically acceptable traffic policy. This gigantic project, which is estimated as costing some ten thousand million Swiss francs would – once it has been approved by Parliament and perhaps by the electorate too if a nation-wide referendum proves necessary – be the most colossal construction undertaking ever tackled by the Confederation. One thing is certain; it will involve a great deal of courage, of risk and of readiness to make sacrifices. Our country too would obviously benefit enormously from the projected undertaking. Connections with Europe would become shorter and quicker, the possibilities for personal contacts more frequent and intensive. And it would enable us to play a part in this unique process of European consolidation and integration – a historical process from which we cannot in any event stand aside. With its recommendation of the NEAT scheme the Federal Council has in my opinion displayed praiseworthy farsightedness and vision in relation to the future of Europe – thus precisely the opposite of what it is sometimes reproached with! It will now be up to our two houses of Parliament, and perhaps to the electorate as well, to give the lie to those malicious tongues that accuse us of "Helvetian Egoism" and the mentality of an isolationist hedgehog that reacts to danger by merely rolling itself up into a ball!

Minister Rolf Bodenmüller, Head of the EDA Service for the Swiss Abroad

Contents

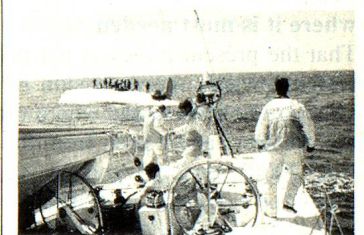


Forum:
Swiss transport policy **4**

Swiss assets in the GDR **12**

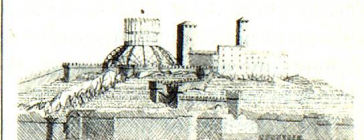
Green pages:
Local News

Mosaic **14**



Sports:
Pierre Fehlmann **17**

100th anniversary
of Gottfried Keller's death **18**



Switzerland's 700th
anniversary **20**

Communications
from the SSA **21**

Official
Communications **22**