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

Artikel: Unification process in the GDR : property of former expatriate Swiss
Autor: Bühler, Othmar
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-906853

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: 05.01.2026

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

Unification process in the GDR

Property of former expatriate Swiss

It is well known that in spite of negotiations lasting for many years, no agreement has as yet been concluded between Switzerland and the GDR in relation to the assets left behind in the GDR by expatriate Swiss, regardless of whether such assets have been expropriated or are subjected to compulsory administration by the State.

In view of the most recent happenings in the GDR the section of the EDA responsible for "Compensation Agreements" has informed the Swiss nationals concerned, who had registered their claims on grounds of the two public appeals made in 1975 and 1977, by what was then the Federal Political Department, as to the present situation.

In accordance with the terms of a decree of the GDR dated July 11 1990 claims in respect of property in the GDR which were or are confiscated, or administered by the State or by a trustee (real estate, movable assets, business undertakings, credit balances on accounts of other debtors in the GFR etc.) are in each case to be notified in writing not later than October 13 1990, by the party entitled, to the Rural District Office, or in urban areas to the Municipality in which the party entitled had his/her last residence, or where the property is located, respectively. The decision regarding the claims notified and their settlement (by return or financial compensation) will be in accordance with a law whose enactment is expected to take place in the autumn of 1990.

The property affected will in particular be the assets subjected to "protective administration", belonging to former residents in the GRD of Swiss nationality, such property having so far been the subject of bilateral discussions, but also claims rejected by the GDR in those negotiations, as well as privately administered rights that have been impaired by governmental measures of the GDR.

For the settlement of what are termed to be "ruhende Anteilrechte an der Altguthaben-Ablösungsanleihe", the deadline for notification is different (December 31 1990 – see the official communications sector of this issue of "Swiss Review" for details).

Requests for further information in this matter should be addressed to the special section of the EDA dealing with Compensation Agreements, c/o Management Office for International Law, EDA, 3003 Berne

Othmar Bühler, Section for Compensation Agreements

How many "Swiss abroad" at the end of 1989?

Every three years, the number of expatriate Swiss nationals registered with Switzerland's diplomatic and consular representations is ascertained.

At the end of 1989, the total world population of "Swiss Abroad" amounted to 456 025, of whom 149 892 were of only Swiss nationality, while 306 133 had dual nationality. At the last previous "census" at the end of 1986, the corresponding numbers had been 402 785, 151 279 and 251 506 respectively. Thus the proportion of persons with dual nationality had increased to 67% (1986: 62%).

Thus the increase in the total number of "Swiss Abroad" is due entirely to the rise in dual nationality. And this development stems above all from the revision of the Federal Law on the Acquisition and Loss of Swiss Civil Rights, which took effect on July 1 1985. Thereby it became possible for children born after 1953, with a Swiss mother and a foreign father to petition the relevant authorities up to the end of 1988 for recognition, retrospectively, of their Swiss citizenship. Moreover, children of a Swiss mother and a foreign father, who have been born since July 1 1985 are Swiss citizens from the time of their birth.

On the other hand, the number of persons of solely Swiss nationality, resident abroad, has continued to decline.

The biggest Swiss community by far is that in France (120 072, of whom five sixths enjoy dual nationality). It is followed by the USA with 59 980, the Federal Republic of Germany with 54 234, Italy with 30 582 and Canada with 28 228. One finds other important Swiss colonies in Great Britain (19 534), Australia (14 758), Argentina (13 105), Spain (12 589) and Brazil (10 664).

In the countries of the EC, 55% of all "Swiss Abroad" reside. Of them, 76 391 have only Swiss nationality while 177 229 have dual citizenship.

It is at present impossible to comment in greater detail on these figures. As soon as the IMMAPRO informatics system has been installed in all Swiss diplomatic or consular representations abroad, further data about our expatriate fellow citizens will become available for evaluation (e.g., regarding the afflux of newcomers, migration, etc.).

In the EDA (Federal Department for Foreign Affairs) it is hoped that such statistics will become available by the end of 1992.

Service of the Swiss Abroad

Compensation to former Congo Swiss

On May 23 1990, the Federal Council issued its recommendations in connection with claims in respect of social insurance submitted by Swiss nationals who had been resident in the former Belgian colonies of Congo and Rwanda-Urundi. It did so in view of the fact that – in spite of repeated applications from the Federal authorities – the Belgian authorities have not been willing to offer any help for finding a solution, claiming that there is no legal obligation for them to do so. The Swiss government is however of the opinion that – even though the Federation is not responsible – an internal solution of a political nature ought to be found.

It is proposed to allocate a total sum of 25 million francs in order to make it possible to effect a non-recurring lump-sum payment to Swiss citizens who paid contributions during at least three years to the social insurance authorities of the colonies in question, and who will not later than December 31 1994 have reached the age of 65 (in the case of men) or 62 (in that of women) respectively.

The calculation of the amounts of the various compensation payments and the notification of the persons affected will be undertaken automatically by the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs, after the Federal decree has been accepted by Parliament and its text has been published in the official Federal Gazette.

The body known as the VSVKS (Association for the social defence of the Congo-Swiss) has already expressed its opposition to the above solution, which it regards as inadequate and unsatisfactory.

BEA / Service of the Swiss Abroad