

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 18 (1991)  
**Heft:** 3

**Rubrik:** 700 Jahre/ans/anni/onns Confoederatio Helvetica

### **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:** 22.08.2025

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

## Swiss Abroad Reception for Federal Council

*On 1 August 1991 all seven members of the Federal Council visited the Place of the Swiss Abroad. Hundreds of Swiss Abroad received the Federal Council in the tent designed by Ticino architect Mario Botta. Congratulatory messages from all over the world underlined the presence of the «Fifth Switzerland» in every continent.*

The Botta-designed tent gave a special aspect to the Place of the Swiss Abroad, which is intended to symbolise the solidarity of the Swiss Abroad with their homeland this year and in the years to come. The Swiss Abroad warmly applauded the distinguished guests, the Federal Council, the Speakers of European Parliaments and the members of the Council for the Swiss Abroad. In his address Professor Walther Hofer, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, stressed that Switzerland and Europe depended on each other. In view of the historic decisions they would be called upon to make, Professor Hofer urged the Swiss Abroad to make active use of the newly-acquired right to

vote by post and to set a good example to their fellow-citizens in Switzerland as regards voting figures.

As representative of the federal

government, Federal Councillor René Felber gave a further indication of Switzerland's positive attitude in its approach to Europe. In their messages of congratulation, five Swiss living abroad, representing all five continents, emphasised their belief in an open-minded attitude to Europe and the world. They all expressed their faith in Switzerland, whose fortunes they followed with great interest, even though living abroad.

Here are two quotations from the congratulatory messages:

*«Home for us is Switzerland... But home for us is also where we live, where our children grow up...» (Elisabeth Michel)*

*«... I congratulate Switzerland on this very special day. May Switzerland remain forever prosperous, may its mountains never crumble and may it keep producing chocolate...» (Indira Varma)*



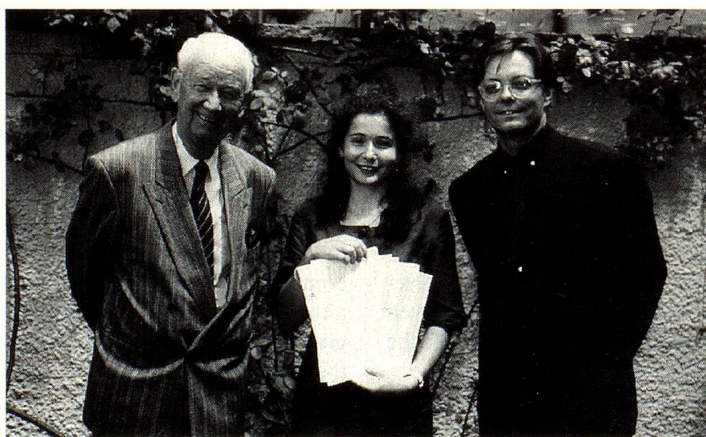
*All seven members of the Federal Council sign the official guest book. (Photo: Keystone)*

Fund-raising campaign for the Place of the Swiss Abroad

## Draw for Five Weekends

All donors whose contributions helped to make possible the purchase of the Place of the Swiss Abroad were entitled to take part in a draw for five weekends at the Hotel Waldstätterhof in Brunnen. It took place at the offices of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne at the end of June, under the supervision of a notary.

The winners were: André Vaucher, Paris; Berta Dobler and Gerhard Belz, Bregenz (Austria); Edith Bowman, Mt. Vernon (USA) and Clara Leonhardt, Singen (Germany).



*From left: Professor Walther Hofer (President, Organisation of the Swiss Abroad), Michèle Burnier (Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad) and Hans Peter Aeberhard, lawyer and notary.*

## Parties courting the Swiss Abroad

The introduction of the right to vote by post some time next year has prompted the Swiss political parties to think about how they can enlist Swiss living abroad for their cause.

The Radical Party (FDP), for instance, has founded an organisation called «FDP Switzerland International» aimed at promoting relations with the Swiss Abroad. Other parties are taking similar steps or are considering doing so.