

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 19 (1992)  
**Heft:** 2

**Vorwort:** Editorial  
**Autor:** Wyder, Rudolf

#### **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:** 22.02.2026

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

## CONTENTS

## Forum

Does Swiss democracy  
need reform?



4

## Official News

Vote by correspondence:  
how to set about it

9

## Politics

The EEA treaty

11

## Youth

Rock around  
the Swiss clock

18

## Cover:

Nowhere is direct democracy more obvious to the eye than in the "Landsgemeinde" – now everywhere open to women citizens (Photo: KeyColor).

## IMPRESSUM

Swiss Review, the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 19th year of issue and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in more than 20 regional editions. It has a total circulation of over 286 000.

Editors: Rudolf Wyder, Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Berne (ad interim); Heidi Willumat, Service for the Swiss Abroad, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne; Pierre-André Tschanz, Swiss Radio International, Berne; Editor of Official News: Anne Gueissaz, Service for the Swiss Abroad, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, CH-3003 Berne. Translator: Ian Tickle.

Publisher, Editorial Office, Advertising: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16; Tel: 41 31 44 66 25, Fax: 41 31 44 21 58; Postal Cheque Account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. Printed by: Buri Druck AG, CH-3001 Berne.



Well, here we are again. The good old Swiss Review, in your hands once more. But, as you see, it's a completely new Review. Take a look for yourself.

After a good five years without change, we thought our Review ought to move with the times and put on a new coat. But it is not only the look of the Review which has changed. The contents too. And in future it will be appearing twice as often as previously.

The new Review intends to be more varied, more informative and much more colourful than it was before. Alongside the main focal subjects of our little world, each issue will reflect a much wider range of different topics than in the past. But the main things which you must on no account miss reading – in your own interest – will still be gathered together in the fully comprehensive Official News, previously Official Communications.

We will be laying a stronger accent than in the past on information about political events here in Switzerland. And we have a very good reason for this. The main stimulus for the new concept of our magazine has come from the introduction of the right to vote by correspondence for the Swiss Abroad.

From the middle of this year all Swiss citizens domiciled in foreign countries will be able to take part in federal referendums and elections by post. The only thing they have to do in order to be eligible is to register with their responsible embassy or consulate. You can read all about it further on in this issue.

This substantial extension of the opportunity of becoming involved marks an important gesture as well as an outstretched hand by the federal government to Swiss citizens living abroad. It is also the outward sign of a substantial measure of political success by the "Fifth Switzerland" and

its lobby here at home. With the introduction of the vote by correspondence, one of the oldest demands – and the one maintained with the greatest persistence over very many years – of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has been finally achieved.

The next thing is for optimal use to be made of this new and very valuable right. We are well aware that it is no simple matter to reach a well-founded opinion on the key subjects of Swiss politics from a distance which may be very far away indeed from the frontiers of your country. But it is also true that it is sometimes easier to pick out the essential from a distance – where one is not too deeply involved in the turbulence of everyday political life.

There is no doubt that this extension of political rights requires the provision of more information. The Swiss Review – proud of its new mantle – is here to bring you its contribution. We are not of course alone in this. Swiss Radio International is beamed to you – on short wave and by satellite – in your own language with current information on many subjects direct from Switzerland.

But whether you decide to use your vote or not – the Swiss Review, published by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad with the highly valued support of the federal government – will continue on tap to supplement your existing links with Switzerland and to provide you with more comprehensive information more frequently than before. We hope that you will make maximum use of what we would like you to think of as your "hot line" to your old homeland.



Rudolf Wyder  
Director of the Secretariat for  
the Swiss Abroad