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Survey of the current scene **The European challenge**

European integration, social security, information about the Fifth Switzerland, recognition of new Swiss clubs – these were the main subjects considered at the very wide-ranging spring meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

The "Parliament for the Fifth Switzerland" met for the first time in the super-modern headquarters of the Swiss postal administration in Berne on March 14, 1992. With the president of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Professor Walther Hofer, in the chair, the council proceeded to a broad survey of Swiss politics and took up positions on the main matters of current interest.

Information ever more important

Those responsible for providing information for the Fifth Switzerland are faced with a new challenge with the approaching introduction of the postal vote for the Swiss

The Council proceeded to elect the first members of this new Commission. They are Mrs. Monika Scheurer, from Germany, Mr. Peter Wüthrich, a prominent lawyer, National Councillor Jacques-Simon Eggly of the "Journal de Genève" and Mr. Rolf C. Ribl of the weekly "Brükkenbauer". The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is to be represented on the Programme Commission by its information chief, Mr. Marco Cameroni.

New Swiss clubs

The Council was also extremely happy to extend its recognition to a number of new Swiss associations abroad. These are the Aspen Swiss Club (USA), the Salentino Swiss Circle (Italy) and the Young Swiss Association (Belgium and Luxembourg). The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad now includes about 700 groups from all five continents.

1993 Congress

The CSA has now decided on the keynote subject for the

Switzerland is at present faced with a parting of the ways on the question of European integration. And the Fifth Switzerland will certainly be affected in many different ways by the choice which our country makes.

Where in fact are we going? And what will be the main effects of the choice on Swiss citizens living abroad? In order to examine fully all aspects of this question, the Council of the Swiss Abroad has decided that this year's Congress will be devoted to the many-sided subject "Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad faced with the European challenge".

Between four and five hundred Swiss Abroad from all parts of the world are expected to take part in this now traditional event, which



The Abbey Church of St. Gall. (Photo: A. Steinmann)

is to be held in St. Gall on August 21–23, 1992.

All our readers, wherever they may be, are once more very warmly invited to participate and to join in the discussions. But please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to come. ■

Friends of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Help us to help others

The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has now been in existence for 75 years. Its task is to advise, support and promote the interests of our fellow-citizens in whichever part of the world they live. But in order to continue its work in favour

of the Fifth Switzerland it urgently needs extra support from individuals. We call upon our compatriots abroad to help us if they are in a position to do so. The best way to help is to join the Friends of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad. ■

Friends of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad

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Please return this form to: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16. Fax: 41 31 44 21 58. Many thanks for your interest. Membership contributions may be made to our Swiss National Giro (postal cheque) account no. 30-10580-7 in Berne.



Abroad. The Council was provided with a general overview of the new format of the Swiss Review and of Swiss Radio International (SRI).

In view of its increased political role, the editors of the Swiss Review will be assisted and advised by a new consultative Programme Commission.

Hard at work: the Council for the Swiss Abroad at its 1991 meeting in Lucerne. (SSA Photo-archive)

1993 Congress for the Swiss Abroad. This will be "Embassies, Consulates and the Fifth Switzerland". ■