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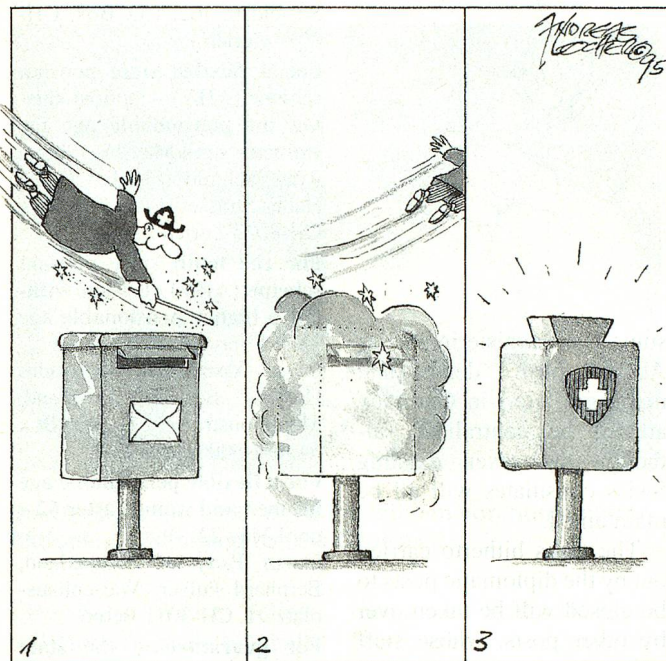
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Voting rights of the Fifth Switzerland

## Who will you be voting for this autumn?

In October Swiss Abroad will be able to vote by correspondence in National Council elections for the first time. By casting their votes for political parties and individual candidates they will have the opportunity of co-determining the main direction of Swiss politics for the next four years.



Since July 1, 1992, Swiss Abroad have been able to exercise voting rights by correspondence. This enables them to take part in referendums and to sign popular initiatives and referendum demands. They may also vote in National Council elections and stand as candidates for federal office. So far more than 54,000 Swiss Abroad have decided to exercise these rights.

A general election to the National Council will be held

on October 22, and Swiss Abroad will be able to take part for the first time. It is obvious that the more Swiss Abroad make use of this right the greater will be the influence of the Fifth Switzerland in the composition of the new parliament. We urge you not to neglect this opportunity.

### Registration

If you are 18 or over and wish to exercise your voting rights, you must first register. To this end you must go in person or write to your responsible diplomatic post (embassy or consulate) or use the form on this page.

In registering, you may take your municipality of origin or one in which you have lived as your voting municipality. Your diplomatic post

### Renewing registration

Sending voting papers abroad means additional expenditure for municipalities. To avoid a situation in which those with the right to vote are registered for years without ever exercising their right, Swiss Abroad must show a continuing interest in Switzerland's political life. Consequently, registration must be renewed every four years. There are three ways of doing this:

- by writing to or calling in person at your voting municipality;
  - by registering a change of address in good time with your diplomatic post;
  - by signing a popular initiative or a referendum demand.
- If registration is not renewed, Swiss Abroad will be removed from the voting register.

will send your registration to the one you choose, and you will be put on its voters' register. In choosing your voting municipality you determine your constituency (canton) for the National Council elections.

After registering, your vo-

ting municipality will in future send you your voting papers directly by post before every referendum and election. You should cast your vote and return it to your voting municipality as soon as possible, also by post.

**Paul Andermatt**

### Registration form for Swiss Abroad entitled to vote

(please write clearly in block letters and send it to your embassy or consulate)

#### Addressee

To the Swiss diplomatic post at

#### Sender

Family name

First name

Maiden name

Precise address abroad

Date of birth

Place of birth

Marital status

since

Place of origin

Canton

Post code

Family name/First name of father

Family name/First name of mother

On the basis of the Federal Law of December 19, 1975, and the Ordinance of October 16, 1991, on Political Rights for the Swiss Abroad, I wish to exercise my right to vote in federal elections and referendums and to sign popular initiatives and demands for referendums.

As voting municipality I wish to choose:

Place

Canton

Post code

\* because this is my municipality of origin

\* because I resided here from 19..... to 19.....

(\* Cross out where not applicable)

Place/Date

Signature

### Delays

If voting papers arrive at your address too late in spite of being posted in Switzerland on the right date or if your returned vote does not reach your voting municipality in time, the federal government cannot be held liable.





Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

## Changes in Swiss diplomatic posts



The Federal Council has authorised the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA) to restructure its diplomatic network. In this way diplomatic staff will have more time to deal with the steadily increasing number of the EDA's tasks both in Berne and abroad.

### The changes are as follows:

- a Swiss consulate general is to be opened in Shanghai

(China), and the Swiss embassy in Beirut (Lebanon) is to be gradually re-activated; ● the Swiss embassies in Luanda (Angola), Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Panama City (Panama) are to be closed; ● the Swiss consulate general in Windhoek (Namibia), the Swiss consulates in Bregenz (Austria), Curitiba (Brazil), Dijon and Le Havre (France) and the Swiss visa office in Casablanca (Morocco) are to be closed; ● as part of a pilot project, certain consular duties (is-

suing visas, registering Swiss Abroad, births, deaths and marriages, etc.) in Germany are to be centralised, although the seven existing Swiss consulates will all be maintained.

The tasks hitherto carried out by the diplomatic posts to be closed will be taken over by other posts, whose staff will be increased if and when necessary. The changes will take place over the next two years.

**Press and Information Service, EDA**

### Current popular initiatives

The following popular initiatives are still open for signature:

**For controlled immigration** – until September 9, 1995  
Philipp Müller, P.O. Box, CH-5734 Reinach, Aargau.

**To reduce by half motorised road traffic in order to maintain and improve living space (traffic reduction initiative)** – until March 20, 1996

Beat Schweingruber, Seefeldstr. 102, P.O. Box, CH-8034 Zurich

**For a flexible state pension scheme (AHV) – against raising the pensionable age for women** – until May 15, 1996  
Rita Schmid Göldi, Hans-Huber-Strasse 4, P.O. Box 687, CH-8027 Zurich

**For the tenth state pension scheme (AHV) revision without a higher pensionable age** – until May 22, 1996

Swiss Association of Trades Unions, Béatrice Despland, Monbijoustrasse 61, P.O. Box 64, CH-3000 Berne 23

**For a flexible pensionable age for men and women after 62** – until May 22, 1996

Green Party of Switzerland, Bernhard Pulver, Waisenhausplatz 21, CH-3011 Berne

**For guaranteeing the state pension scheme (AHV) – to tax energy instead of work** – until May 22, 1996

Green Party of Switzerland, Bernhard Pulver, Waisenhausplatz 21, CH-3011 Berne

Referendums against the revision of the pension scheme and the Lex Friedrich

## The ball now lies in the voters' court

The referendum demands against the tenth revision of the pension scheme (AHV) and against relaxing the Lex Friedrich (see also SR 6/94) have been successful.

Trades unions and a number of women's organisations handed in 145,000 signatures against the tenth AHV revision before the deadline. Their main aim is to prevent

the rise in the women's pensionable age from 62 to 64.

The Swiss Democrats (SD) were also successful with their referendum demand against relaxing the Lex Friedrich, with 58,000 signatures. Their main aim is to prevent liberalisation of the real estate market in favour of foreign purchasers. **ANP**

Initiatives in brief

## For halving traffic

An initiative committee "retro-traffic" aims to add the following provisions to the federal constitution:

Motorised road traffic shall be reduced by half within ten years after the initiative has been accepted.

Municipal authorities shall be authorised to restrict traffic on all roads within their boundaries except national roads. But complete closure of roads designated by the federal government as through

roads shall be possible only with the agreement of the federal government. This shall be without prejudice to the use of roads by public service vehicles.

The committee considers the initiative less as a proposal which is politically possible as a (radical) contribution to the discussion on traffic and environmental problems.

**ANP**