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Swiss Abroad resident in Europe

Your problems interest us

Are you aware that the SSA has opened a file for problems faced by the Swiss Abroad as a result of the No to the EEA?

On December 6, 1992, Swiss voters took the decision not to join the European Economic Area. When they voted in this way did they realise the consequences the decision would have for citizens wishing to reside elsewhere in Europe?

Since the famous December 6 much water has flowed under the bridge, and it is only now that we can start measuring the effects of our decision. Since that date we

have received reports from Swiss citizens who feel discriminated against in many fields. Our diplomas are not recognised abroad, and our opportunities of building up a professional career elsewhere have been curtailed or eliminated. It is increasingly difficult to renew an establishment or residence permit. Obtaining a work permit in a country of the European Union is often impossible for a Swiss. Some

citizens have faced discrimination in their studies: registration and semester fees in European universities are much higher for non-residents of the European Union.

And you yourself, have you come across difficulties in your daily life which make you sometimes feel discriminated against? If so, your experience would interest us and would be a useful addition to our file. Write to us at: *Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad Alpenstrasse 26 CH-3000 Berne 16*

AJAS

Are you planning to study in Switzerland? AJAS, the Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad, provides information on:

- university courses
- apprenticeships
- learning on the job
- language courses
- integration courses
- accommodation
- grants
- military service

Write to:

AJAS, Alpenstrasse 26,
CH-3000 Berne 16.

Your rights – your duty

And so, my dear fellow countrymen, you will soon be taking part in the federal parliament elections. In according you the right to vote by correspondence, Switzerland has recognised the full significance of the link between its citizens abroad and the institutions which enable its democracy to function. You have already had the opportunity of voting. But next October you are called upon for the first time to choose the representatives of the people and the cantons who must carry out the important tasks delegated to the Federal Assembly.

Allow me to remind you not only of the deliberative role of the latter but also and more particularly of its elective function. It is the Federal Assembly which appoints the members of the Federal Council and the Federal Supreme Court, not to mention the general in time of war. It is a special Swiss characteristic that in electing the seven federal councillors parliament confers upon them both executive power and the function of head of state. This bears witness to



Jean-Jacques Cevey, President of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad

the great responsibility both of the Federal Council itself and your representatives whose role it is to elect them.

It also indicates the importance of the civic duty which every four years falls to the people as sovereign to perform.

The latter embraces Swiss citizens established abroad as well as those living within the country. At a time when the problems faced by a state like ours often require solutions at the international level and when a sense of opening up and solidarity should take the place of the old autarchic, or selfish, reflexes, your large-scale participation in making the decisions which concern the whole of our people is justified more than ever.

I hope that you will exercise your right to vote in great numbers and in the knowledge that it is also your duty. So please register at your diplomatic post as we have been advising you. In this way you will be doing your best for the democratic institutions of our beloved Swiss Confederation

Ski and snowboard camps 95/96



The two SSA ski camps of ten days each promise lots of laughter in the snow with young people from all over the world. They take place at Christmas in Splügen/Grisons and at Easter in Grimentz/Valais. Young Swiss Abroad will have fun and games skiing and snowboarding, and beginners will get special attention. Optional programmes (cross-country, snowboarding, curling, skating, free half-days, excursions, etc.) provide constant change of scenery, and evening events will add spice to the atmosphere.

Dates, places: December 27, 1995 – January 5, 1996, Splügen, Grisons. April 5 – 14, 1996, Grimentz, Valais.

Price: About Sfr. 650.– for each camp, including ski pass, ski school/snowboard lessons and ski hire. Accident insurance: Sfr. 20.– extra.

Leader: Edith Locher Brunner, head of the SSA Youth Service

Conditions: Age 15-25. Mother or father must be a Swiss citizen

Last application dates: Splügen: November 14, 1995; Grimentz: February 22, 1996

To: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16

Tel: 41 31 351 61 00, Fax: 41 31 351 61 50

Only the first 60 applicants can be accepted.