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The Council for the Swiss Abroad as a link with politicians

Advocates for the Fifth Switzerland in parliament

The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad does not itself nominate candidates for the Federal Assembly. But parliamentarians sit on its committees, and these act as a link to politicians and look after the interests of the Fifth Switzerland in parliament.

Both houses of parliament are in session. In the corridors politicians meet not only each other but also journalists and representatives of the most varied institutions who want to make their opinions known just before a debate. If, for example, a decision on the future of the optional state pension scheme or the federal subsidy for Swiss Review is to be decided upon, the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) will also be there trying to put forward its views.

in the cause they are representing so that they can marshal convincing arguments in regular contacts with politicians willing to listen.

An ideal body for such contacts is the Council for the Swiss Abroad (CSA) which is made up of about 100 delegates from all over the world as well as 40 home members from the political, cultural and economic spectrums. At present all four coalition parties and the Liberal Party are represented in the CSA.

Permanent contacts

But it would be an illusion to suppose that parliamentary decisions can actually be influenced at the last minute – or for that matter at all. It is permanent lobbying with a long-term aim in view which is indispensable for an interest group like the OSA. Those involved must believe

CSA members standing for the Federal Assembly

National Council: Jean-Pierre Bonny, FDP Berne-Central (present member); Roselyne Crausaz Németh, SVP Fribourg; Jacques-Simon Eggly, LP Geneva (present member); Pierre Jonneret, SVP Fribourg; Hans Ulrich Pestalozzi, FDP Zurich-Meilen; Georg Stucky, FDP Zug (present member); Peter Vollmer, SP Berne (present member); Peter Wüthrich, FDP Berne-Rural

Council of States: Gilbert Couteau, LP Geneva (present member) (As of July 31, 1995)

that we should use this space to introduce them by name (see box) to you as Swiss Abroad voters and recommend you to elect them. There is of course the technical problem that you can do this only if you are registered in a canton in which one of

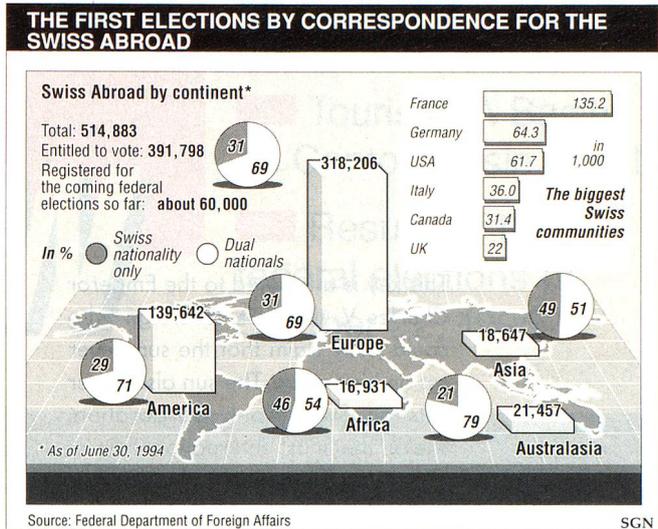
them is a candidate. (For how to vote, see page 8.)

The candidates on the list include those already in parliament from the Liberal Democratic, Social Democratic and Liberal parties. There are no present members representing the Christian Democrats or the Swiss People's Party. This is because either the member is not standing again (Eva Segmüller, CVP) or has recently retired from the National Council and has not yet been replaced in the CSA (Gianfranco Cotti, CVP; Elisabeth Zölch, SVP). Pierre Duvoisin, SP, is also not standing again.

The list also includes new candidates, two of whom live abroad and if elected will be members of the National Council as Swiss Abroad. Another Swiss Abroad is also standing for the National Council, but she does not belong to the CSA and is therefore not on the list (see also page 6/7).

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Recommended for election

Members of the OSA who sit in the National Council or the Council of States may be described with reason as advocates of the Fifth Switzerland. It is therefore natural

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AJAS, the Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad, has established a list of accommodation possibilities in most Swiss cantons for students, apprentices and young professional people. If you let us know where you would like a room, we can give you addresses of places to let in that area.
AJAS
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16

Ski and snowboard camps 95/96
The Youth Service of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad is once again organising ski and snowboard camps for Swiss Abroad aged 15 to 25 over the New Year and Easter. They are to be held from December 27, 1995, to January 5, 1996, in Splügen/Grisons and from April 5 to 14 in Grimentz/Valais. Further information and registration forms from: SSA Youth Service
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