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New Federal Constitution

Modified article on Swiss abroad

The upcoming popular referendum on constitutional reform on 18 April 1999 is of particular interest for the Fifth Switzerland, since it also proposes a rewording of Article 45bis., which has been in force since 1966 and defines the constitutional relationship between the Confederation and the Fifth Switzerland.

Under the proposed amendment, Article 40 now contains the following sentences: "The Confederation promotes relations between Swiss Abroad among themselves and

with Switzerland. It is entitled to support organisations which pursue this objective. It enacts provisions governing the rights and obligations of Swiss Abroad, in particular with respect to the exercise of political rights within the Confederation, the performance of military or civil obligations, and the provision of support and social security insurance."

In contrast to the existing article governing the Swiss Abroad, this new formulation improves the legal status of the Fifth Switzerland

by expressly laying down the Confederation's social commitment to its citizens abroad. The concerns expressed by the ASO in its statement on the constitutional reform have been taken into account in the modified article. As a result, the sensitive subject of social security insurance would henceforth be incorporated in the wording. In particular, the concept of a voluntary old age and survivors' insurance and disability insurance (AHV/IV) has been embedded more firmly in the constitution.

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AJAS

Studying in Switzerland

Are you planning to study in Switzerland? AJAS, the Association for the Promotion of the Education of Young Swiss Abroad, can advise you on

- Vocational training
- University studies
- Language courses
- Integration courses
- Practical training
- Accommodation
- Financing

AJAS

Alpenstrasse 26

CH-3000 Berne 16

Tel + 41 31 351 61 40

Fax +41 31 351 61 50

E-mail: post_ajas@aso.ch

Wider coverage

SRI via satellite and Internet

Since 1 January this year SRI has been broadcasting its German and English-language programmes throughout Europe via Astra Digital Radio (ADR) as well as short wave.

"Digital satellite technology is significantly cheaper than analog. Because of this, we decided over a year ago to dispose of our analog channels by the end of 1998," says Paul Badertscher, Technical Head of SRI, citing the reason behind this move. "Added to this," he continues, "ADR is very well established in the European market."

Indeed, more than 90 European radio channels can be received via ADR. In line with this rapid spread, the prices for digital receivers have dropped sharply in recent months. Since more and more radio stations are broadcasting via ADR, listeners will soon be forced to change to a new receiver.

From May this year the French-language programme

will also be broadcast in digital form only, via the Eutelsat Hotbird 3 satellite. The analog channel on Hotbird 1 is being discontinued. The Italian-language programme is already broadcast only via Hotbird 3. At the same time, however, SRI continues to broadcast via short wave. Ask for our programme

"Swiss Ping Pong" patronage 1999

Zug is taking over patronage of the «Swiss Ping Pong» Encounter Programme for Swiss Abroad. The canton has pledged CHF 30,000 for implementation of the 1999 programme.

guide. The following is a summary of the SRI satellite programmes in Europe:

- English: Astra Digital Radio, Frequency 10.803 GHz, Carrier frequency 7.92 MHz
- German: Astra Digital Radio, Frequency 10.803 GHz, Carrier frequency 7.74 MHz
- French: Eutelsat (Hotbird 3), Frequency 12.398 GHz
- Italian: Eutelsat (Hotbird 3), Frequency 12.398 GHz

Special receiver tuners are required to receive our digital programmes. Contact your specialist store for advice on buying and installing a receiver system. Further information on receiving SRI and SRG radio channels is available on the Internet at www.srgdist.ch.

SRI programs can also be received over the Internet. You can hear our programmes in RealAudio format at www.sri.ch or www.swissinfo.org.

Manuel Küffer, SRI

Write to us!

- I would like to receive information on SRI in the Internet.
- Please send me your programme guide.
- Please send me your satellite programme.

My address:

Complete and send to:

Schweizer Radio International, Marketing Multimedia, PO Box, CH-3000 Berne 15
Tel +41 31 350 92 22
Fax +41 31 350 95 44
E-mail: marketing@sri.srg-ssr.ch



Summer camps

This year the Youth Service of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad is again running two summer camps for sports and culture for young Swiss Abroad aged between 15 and 25 years old. The venue: Baden in the Canton of Aargau. The dates: 11.7.–24.7. and 25.7.–7.8. The cost: CHF 750.– per person. In the mornings participants will have the opportunity to take part in a range of sports from ball games to water sports and mountain biking. The afternoons are devoted to a programme of excursions around the region. Around 50 young people



from all over the world are awaited. For information and registration please contact the

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16, Tel +41 31 351 61 00
Fax +41 31 351 61 50, E-mail: post_aso@aso.ch

1999 Congress of the Swiss Abroad, Lausanne

The European integration of Switzerland

“Switzerland – Europe”. This year’s Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be devoted to a highly topical issue: the process of Swiss integration in the European Union (EU).

Following four years of negotiations, the bilateral agreement between the EU and Switzerland was concluded on 11 December 1998. The successful outcome was announced in the celebrated ceremonial hall of Vienna’s Hofburg Palace.

Agreement on the seven dossiers represents a historic event for Switzerland. This

significant move marking the beginning of a new relationship with Europe is reason enough to devote the 77th Congress of the Swiss Abroad to the discussion of Switzerland’s further steps towards integration. After all, it also has major implications for the Fifth Switzerland, particularly concerning personal mobility. Moreover, follow-

ing conclusion of the bilateral agreement the Federal Council declared that this would in no way alter the strategic goal of EU membership.

But the Congress of the Swiss Abroad, to be held in Lausanne from 6 to 8 August, is more than just a

meeting of specialists and a forum for exchanging ideas. Our programme also offers participants the unique opportunity of attending a very special cultural event: the Fête des Vignerons, a traditional folk festival held only four times each century.

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JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Gstaad, Switzerland

Employment Opportunities

Small English-language boarding school seeks applications from Swiss nationals or persons with working permission for Switzerland. Positions may be available starting in September 1999 for qualified and experienced teachers trained to teach in an English-language program designed for children 5–14. Persons interested in working with our boarding students as house parents, assistant house parents or cook may also wish apply.

Contact – W. Lovell, CH-3792 Saanen, Switzerland
Tel. (+41 33) 744 13 72, Fax (+41 33) 744 89 82
E-mail: lovell@jfk.ch



Registration for the 77th Congress of the Swiss Abroad

Persons wishing to attend this year’s Congress of the Swiss Abroad can request the relevant documentation from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad:

Please send me documentation on the 77th Congress for the Swiss Abroad, Lausanne (6–8 August 1999):

German French

Name/First Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip/Town: _____

Country: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Complete the above form and send to the following address by the end of May 1999:

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Congress Organisation, PO Box, CH-3000 Berne 16.