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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.

LS

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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:

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