

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 34 (2007)
Heft: 3

Vorwort: Climate change becomes an election issue
Autor: Eckert, Heinz

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 17.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Climate change becomes an election issue

LATE LAST YEAR, former US vice-president Al Gore had everyone talking about his alarming environmental documentary. In January and February, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its first two reports. These are considered to be the most comprehensive assessments of climate change to date, bringing together the work of hundreds of scientists from around the globe. The reports show that scientists now have empirical proof that human activities around the world cause global warming.

The first IPCC report addresses the physical causes of climate change, i.e. the increase in greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The second describes the possible effects of global warming on humans, plants and animals in various regions of the world. The forecasts make for worrying reading. For instance, a rise in temperature of just 4 per cent could wipe out 40 per cent of the our planet's species of flora and fauna and permanently inundate huge areas of land around river deltas in Africa and Asia. In addition, global warming could cause water shortages for up to 250 million people in Africa. The two reports can be consulted at www.ipcc.ch.

An earlier report by former World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk) caused a similar stir last October. The Stern Review is the most extensive economic survey yet of climate change, and its core message was a bombshell for the economy: unless 1 per cent of global GDP is spent tackling climate change between now and 2050, vast parts of Asia will become uninhabitable and hundreds of millions of people will be forced to flee their homes. The resultant cost would be higher than that of the two world wars combined.



Heinz Eckert

As in the 1987 general elections, environmental issues and particularly climate change will undoubtedly feature highly in campaigning this autumn, and political analysts believe that the Greens will be the main beneficiaries. But the social and political omens are very different to those of 20 years ago. Whereas in the late 1980s the "green" debate was dominated by apocalyptic warnings, today's environmental issues are discussed in a more sober, less ideological manner. Now that even the economy has opened itself up to ecological ideas, centre-right politicians have become far less defensive in their stance. Indeed, ever since Al Gore began preaching environmental protection around the world, the issue has become nothing short of sexy. Defensiveness has given way to the realisation that global warming has to be tackled – even in the United States.

It remains to be seen to what extent the Greens will profit from this sea change. All the pollsters assume that their strong showing at various cantonal elections will be echoed nationally, and that the Greens will gain votes at the federal level.

Swiss citizens abroad who would like to vote in a general election for the first time should contact their local Swiss embassy or consulate now to get on to the electoral register. We sincerely hope that many more Swiss abroad will take an active interest in the Swiss elections and swell the current figure of 110,000 voters registered abroad.

The next edition of the Swiss Review will be devoted entirely to the elections, in line with the motto "Everything you ever wanted to know about voting (but were afraid to ask)".

HEINZ ECKERT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

5
Mailbag

5
Sounds: Swiss music on the Internet

7
Images: A photographic history of Swiss industry



Industrial history:
Brown Boveri lorries transporting generator parts to Wägitalersee lake (1924)

8
Climate change: Will palm trees soon bloom in Switzerland?

Regional news

11
Politics: Environmental issues in parliament

12
SWISS flies out of the red

14
Notes from Parliament

16
OSA news

18
Locarno Film Festival turns 60

19
News in brief

Cover photo:
Global warming threatens even the Aletsch glacier
Photo: Swissimage

IMPRINT: "Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 34rd year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 21 regional editions. It has a total circulation of over 390 000. Regional news appears four times a year.

■ EDITORS: Heinz Eckert (EC), Editor-in-Chief; Rolf Ribi (RR), Alain Wey (AW), Gabriela Brodbeck (BDK), responsible for DFA information pages, Service for the Swiss Abroad, DFA, CH-3003 Berne. René Lenzin (RL), reporting from Parliament. Translation: CLS Communication AG ■ POSTAL ADDRESS: Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Tel.: +41 31 356 61 10, Fax: +41 31 356 61 01, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. Internet: www.revue.ch ■ E-MAIL: revue@aso.ch ■ PRINT: Zollikofer AG, CH-9001 St. Gallen. ■ CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to Berne. Single copy: CHF 5 ■