

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 38 (2011)  
**Heft:** 4: 2011 parliamentary elections

**Vorwort:** Changes and reforms  
**Autor:** Engel, Barbara

### **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>**

## Changes and reforms

**T**HE ELECTION CAMPAIGNING IN SWITZERLAND is now in full swing. The parliamentary elections on 23 October, which this special edition of "Swiss Review" focuses on, may result in fundamental changes to Switzerland's political system. Professor Georg Kohler, a philosopher specialising in politics at the University of Zurich, believes it is quite possible that government will no longer be based on concordance after the Federal Council elections in December owing to a new distribution of power within parliament. In an interview on page 12 onwards, he also says that this does not bode well for the future. However, Kohler believes the key challenge for Switzerland is to implement urgently required reforms while, at the same time, protecting Switzerland's identity.

In this election edition, we have, of course, also given the main political parties the opportunity to set out their positions on various issues. And as lots of promises are always made during election campaigns, we look back over the past four years. We show you how parliament in Berne voted on proposals directly concerning the Swiss abroad.

We also have some changes to announce in the editorial team of "Swiss Review". Rolf Ribi, who has been closely associated with this magazine for decades – firstly as a member of the editorial board and then as editor – has now decided to enjoy his retirement. In Rolf Ribi we are losing a colleague who has made a major contribution to the face of "Swiss Review" over the years and who will certainly be very missed by readers. We thank him for his efforts and wish him many happy hours in his beloved vineyard.



Barbara Engel

Two new employees joined the editorial team at the start of June: Marc Lettau and Manuel Gnos. Marc Lettau lives in Berne and has worked for many years as an editor in various departments at the daily newspaper "Der Bund". He has family roots in Bulgaria and a close relationship with the Swiss abroad community as some of his family have lived in Tasmania for many years. Marc Lettau's first article for "Swiss Review" looks at the part-time system in Swiss politics. Manuel Gnos was head of the online editorial team at "Der Bund" for ten years. He now works as a freelance journalist and as an organiser of cultural events at Café Kairo in Berne. He will not just be working as a journalist but will also be supporting the editorial team in their use of new media. We have already introduced our first change – you can now read "Swiss Review" on an iPad or Android tablet.

Another new feature is that information from the Federal Palace and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) will be towards the back of "Swiss Review" from now on. This should make it easier for you to find this information and the "OSA advice" section.

I would finally like to urge you once again to take part in the elections, as a large turnout from the Swiss abroad will lend more weight to your concerns.

BARBARA ENGEL

5	Mailbag
5	Books: Observing Switzerland closely
7	Images: Franz Gertsch - the reserved Swiss artist and his gigantic works
8	The financial impact of the increasing professionalisation of Swiss politics
12	Interview with a political philosopher on the election campaigns, the EU, Christoph Blocher and Switzerland's successful schizophrenia
16	Key election campaign issues – immigration and the free movement of persons
18	The Federal Council wants a Switzerland free of nuclear power
20	The main parties answer questions on Switzerland's future
23	What have the political parties done for the Swiss abroad? A review of parliament's work
24	Swiss abroad standing for election to the National Council introduce themselves
26	OSA news
28	Notes from Parliament – voting procedure information
31	Echo

**Cover image: Peter Gut, the Zurich caricaturist, has contributed illustrations to this special edition of "Swiss Review". A perceptive, humorous observer, he provides an offbeat perspective on political events in Switzerland.**

**IMPRINT:** "Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 38<sup>th</sup> year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 395,000. Regional news appears four times a year. The ordering parties are fully responsible for the content of advertisements and promotional inserts. These contents do not necessarily represent the opinion of either the editorial office or the publisher.

■ EDITORS: Barbara Engel (BE), Editor-in-Chief; René Lenzin (RL); Alain Wey (AW); Marc Lettau (MUL); Manuel Gnos (MAG); Jean-François Lichtenstern (JFL), responsible for "Notes from Parliament", Relations with the Swiss Abroad, FDFA, CH-3003 Berne Translation: CLS Communication AG ■ LAYOUT: Herzog Design, Zurich ■ POSTAL ADDRESS: Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne. Tel.: +41313566110, Fax: +41313566101, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. ■ E-MAIL: revue@aso.ch ■ INTERNET: [www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch) ■ PRINT: Swissprinters St.Gallen AG, CH-9001 St.Gallen. ■ CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to Berne. ■ All Swiss abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / abroad: CHF 50). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne. Copy deadline for this edition: 18.07.11