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■ The socialist Hermes Binner, the grandson of emigrants from Valais who arrived in Argentina in the 19th century, has announced his presidential candidacy. If he wins the election on 23 October, he will become the first Argentinean president to hold Swiss nationality.

■ **Patty Schnyder** from Basel has retired from tennis at the age of 32 after 17 years on the circuit. After being ranked 7th in the world in 2005, she experienced a slow but irreversible slide down the world rankings.

■ A freight train travelling from Italy to Germany caught fire in the **Simplon tunnel** at the start of June. Ten wagons were ablaze causing major infrastructural damage. It took around 50 firefighters over a day to bring the blaze under control. Work on damage to the tunnel will last several months. Rail traffic was able to recommence several days later.

■ Marcel Fässler from Schwyz became the first Swiss driver to win the famous endurance car race, the **"24 Hours of Le Mans"**. The race, which has been contested since 1923, found its way into the movies with Steve McQueen in 1970.

■ After an excellent performance, the Swiss national team lost to Spain in the final of the **European Under-21 Championship**. This is the closest a professional Swiss team has ever come to winning one of the most coveted trophies in football. The team's showing means it will take part in the 2012 Olympic Games for the first time in 84 years.

■ In 2010, the **Swiss tourism balance of trade** showed a surplus of CHF 4 billion. Foreign tourists spent CHF 15.6 billion (up 1.5% on 2009) on holidays and day trips in Switzerland compared with CHF

"If the stage is small, the play is magnified."

Alexis de Tocqueville, French philosopher,
in his "Report on Democracy in Switzerland" (1848)

"If a major disaster occurred and tens of thousands of people had to be resettled, I don't know where they would go at the moment, to be honest with you."

Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer responding to a question about what would happen to the population in the event of a nuclear accident

"Is it wiser to do nothing for ten or fifteen years and then to hope for majority support for a nuclear power station or to use the time now to start getting things underway?"

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard
on the Federal Council resolution to withdraw from nuclear power

"We are sorry to note that the EU is making life unnecessarily and unjustifiably difficult for us. Given the EU's current position, there can be no positive developments. However, we will not allow ourselves to be pressurised."

Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation

"We haven't done anything or made any threats. We have just said that we will wait. Perhaps that's what is out of the ordinary."

Michael Reiterer, EU ambassador to Switzerland,
in response to the statement by Swiss President Calmy-Rey

"Our bankers are spoilt children who refuse to understand when they have to moderate their demands."

Comment by Carsten Kengeter, head of UBS Investment Bank, during an internal conference call, according to the "Wall Street Journal"



She had set her sights on a medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Now the gymnast Ariella Kaeslin - Sportswoman of the Year three times from 2008 to 2010 - has announced her retirement at the age of just 23. "It was a fairytale career but my heart is no longer totally committed to the sacrifices required to compete at the top level of gymnastics", she told journalists when announcing her decision. Kaeslin is now looking forward to the following: "Having a lie-in and waking up in bed thinking about what I'd like to do today."

11.6 billion spent by the Swiss on holidays abroad.

■ Switzerland and the EU have signed an agreement which provides for the mutual recognition of **registered designations of origin** and protected designations of origin. This

completes the 1999 agreement on agriculture. In an initial stage, it will cover 818 traditional European and 22 Swiss specialities (gruyère and vacherin cheese, Grisons beef, etc.).

■ The former justice minister, **Ruth Metzler**, a federal coun-

cillor until 2003, will succeed Rolf Jeker as the head of the competence centre for Swiss foreign trade promotion (OSEC). The organisation has set up 22 Swiss business hubs worldwide since 2001 aimed at opening up commercial opportunities abroad for SMEs seeking to export.

■ There have been several significant movements in the positions of the **City Rankings** study commissioned annually by the magazine "bilanz".

The top spot is now held by Zurich, followed by Zug, which came first in 2009 and 2010.

There were lots of climbers in French-speaking Switzerland, with Geneva rising from 39th to 10th, Lausanne from 41st to 14th and Fribourg from 51st to 21st. 136 communes with over 10,000 inhabitants were assessed. The assessment criteria included: "employment market", "population development & housing market", "education", "culture & leisure time", "relaxation", "shopping infrastructure", "health & safety", "social issues", "mobility & transport", "attractiveness for taxation reasons, purchasing power & health insurance premiums" and "special attractions and administration".

(AW / BE)

Right of reply: In the June 2011 edition of "Swiss Review", it was incorrectly claimed that I was a "leading candidate" for Swiss People's Party International. The fact is that SVP International has many qualified candidates in other cantons with international experience to whom the term "leading candidate" could be applied. The quotation attributed to me also said that I had "no idea" why I was standing for the National Council. This statement was taken out of context.

Paul Accola