

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 40 (2013)
Heft: 2

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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: 21.02.2026

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

Decisions on the country's future

THREE IMPORTANT PROPOSALS were the subject of referenda in Switzerland on 3 March. One of the three sent out a clear signal: the vast majority of Swiss people have had enough of the excessive demands and greed – often accompanied by arrogance – shown by an increasing number of CEOs and senior executives in recent years. Almost 68% of the electorate voted in favour of the initiative against fat-cat pay: the third-best result for any initiative in the history of the Swiss Confederation.

Judging by the reaction abroad, the Swiss are not alone in their outrage. Reputable newspapers throughout the world reported extensively and approvingly on the vote. Thomas Minder, the mastermind behind the initiative, is even said to have received a request for the text of his initiative from the UK's Department for Business.

Now it is up to the Federal Council and Parliament to implement the initiative. This will be done “with no ifs or buts”, promised Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga after the vote. Whether this will really happen remains to be seen.

Whatever the outcome of the tug-of-war to implement the fat-cat initiative, the question of who should have a share of Switzerland's prosperity and affluence, and just how much this share should be, will continue to occupy people and politicians here. Several



popular initiatives on this subject have already been submitted: an initiative for a minimum wage, a proposal to abolish the flat-rate tax for wealthy foreigners, the “1:12 – For fair pay” initiative, which would impose a maximum salary bandwidth of 1:12 for companies, and the initiative for an inheritance tax on endowments and legacies in excess of 2 million Swiss francs.

We have chosen to focus in this edition on migration, in particular immigration to our country and its consequences. A good eight million people now live in Switzerland, of whom more than 1.8 million are migrants. Immigration – in effect, the result of Switzerland's economic success – is linked to a wide range of problems, such as traffic congestion and rocketing rents. Switzerland is suffering from “density stress”, wavering between anxiety and hostility: a state which has given rise to a growing number of demands for tough measures that in the longer term may prove counterproductive. In the article on page 8 onwards, Jürg Müller describes the social and political challenges surrounding this topic. It is interesting to look back and perhaps draw some encouragement. Switzerland was suffering from “density stress” as long ago as the early 1960s, even if the phrase had not yet been coined. Back then, Professor Francesco Kneschaurek of the University of St. Gallen was predicting that the influx of foreign labour would trigger a population explosion, resulting in a population of 10 million in Switzerland by 2000. Today experts are forecasting the same figure for 2040.

BARBARA ENGEL

IMPRINT: “Swiss Review”, the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 40th year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 400,000, including 140,000 electronic copies. 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; Marc Lettau (MUL); Jürg Müller (JM); Alain Wey (AW); Jean-François Lichtenstern (JFL), responsible for “Notes from Parliament”, Relations with the Swiss Abroad, FDFA, 3003 Berne, Switzerland. Translation: CLS Communication AG ■ **LAYOUT:** Herzog Design, Zurich ■ **POSTAL ADDRESS:** Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Tel.: +41313566110, Fax: +41313566101, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. ■ **EMAIL:** revue@aso.ch ■ **PRINT:** Vogt-Schild Druck AG, 4552 Dierendingen. ■ **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. ■ **INTERNET:** www.revue.ch

5

Mailbag

5

Books: Legends and myths about K2

6

Images: Architecture in Grisons documented by photographers.

8

Immigration triggers political activism in Switzerland.

14

Direct election of the Federal Council – the initiative goes to referendum.

16

Literature series: Monique Saint-Hélier.

Regional news

20

Claude Nobs: A farewell tribute.

22

An interview with Andrew Holland, Director of Pro Helvetia.

24

AOSA advice

27

Notes from parliament

30

Echo

Cover image:

Claude Nobs made an enormous contribution to Swiss culture as the founder of the Montreux Jazz Festival. He died on January 10, 2013 at age 77.

Photo: Lionel Flusin – FFJM