

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 41 (2014)  
**Heft:** 1

## 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:** 31.01.2026

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

## Far-sighted or narrow-minded

THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES are over. We have returned to our day-to-day lives. This column was written in early January but will only reach readers worldwide a month later. Commenting on his work and the global situation in an interview shortly before Christmas, Cornelio Sommaruga, the well-known former Swiss diplomat and ICRC President, said: "Terrorism and violence can largely be avoided if we respect human dignity. We must resolutely tackle the poverty of one third of humanity, the overexploitation of the environment, and legal and illegal arms transfers." Few would argue against that, except perhaps for a handful of potentates and arms smugglers.

There are various possible ways in which we could help combat poverty and war and foster respect for human dignity in our everyday lives: by demonstrating a generous spirit, by not just focusing on our own interests and by taking heed when our actions are detrimental to others. The outcome of the referendum on 9 February this year on the "initiative against mass immigration", put forward by the Swiss People's Party, will provide an indication of how far-sighted or narrow-minded we Swiss are. I presume



that many Swiss abroad in particular would like to see a decision that reflects far-sightedness in Switzerland's relations with the rest of the world rather than small-mindedness and egotism. Didier Burkhalter, Swiss President in 2014, will have a particularly challenging time in dealing with the international community. He will adopt a different approach to that of his predecessor, Ueli Maurer, as he clearly stated after his election. You will find more on his election and that of the presidents of the National Council and Council of States in the "Politics" section, which also includes an interview on diplomatic relations with our neighbouring countries.

In this issue's key focus article one of our editors, Marc Lettau, has taken an in-depth look at something that is quickly disposed of, soon forgotten and which people usually turn their noses up at. He has taken a peek inside Switzerland's rubbish bins and at its mountains of trash, which are growing in line with rising incomes. It is alarming how much food is thrown away and amazing what can be reclaimed from refuse.

Alain Wey profiles the Swiss singer Sophie Hunger in the "Culture" section. She is enjoying major international success with her unconventional, highly diverse music, and creative and surprising collaborations with various artists.

The editorial team wishes you, our readers, a happy and successful New Year and looks forward to hearing from you from afar.

BARBARA ENGEL

**IMPRINT:** "Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 41st 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. This content does 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); Peter Zimmerli (PZ), 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. ■ 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](http://www.revue.ch) ■ Copy deadline for this edition: 16.12.2013 ■ CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to the editorial office in Berne.

4

Mailbag

5

Books: Truths about and opinions on multilingual Switzerland

6

Images: Swiss places outside Switzerland

8

The mountains of waste are gigantic, the recycling business is booming

12

Special representative for neighbouring countries: Interview with Ambassador Hans Jakob Roth

15

Switzerland and China: Big business

## Regional pages

17

Literature series: Paul Nizon

18

Sophie Hunger: A lover of music who is herself loved and celebrated

22

Curling: Almost a national sport in Switzerland

24

OSA advice

27

Notes from parliament

30

Echo

**Cover photo:** Switzerland County with the village of Vevay in Indiana, USA, is one of the places that Swiss photographer Benno Gut photographed for the book "Weltatlas der Schweizer Orte". The texts were written by journalist Petra Koci. Find out more in "Images" on page 6.

**Corrigendum:** The cover picture of the December edition shows Mount Titlis, not Mount Säntis. We apologise for the error.

