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Thank you Ruedi Wyder

Rudolf Wyder, or Ruedi to those who know him well, is from the start of this year no longer director of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. It is hard to believe as he has been an inextricable part of the OSA for the past 28 years. Ruedi Wyder, a historian, quickly developed the abilities required to lead a team with intellectual authority and indisputable ethical standards. He made a major contribution towards structuring the meetings of the Council and the Executive Board. The latter, starting with the first of the successive presidents that it worked with, continually relied upon the management and secretariat that he led. Under his leadership, this body increasingly expanded its activities on behalf of the Swiss abroad, including activities with the associations that are connected to the OSA, while remaining autonomous.

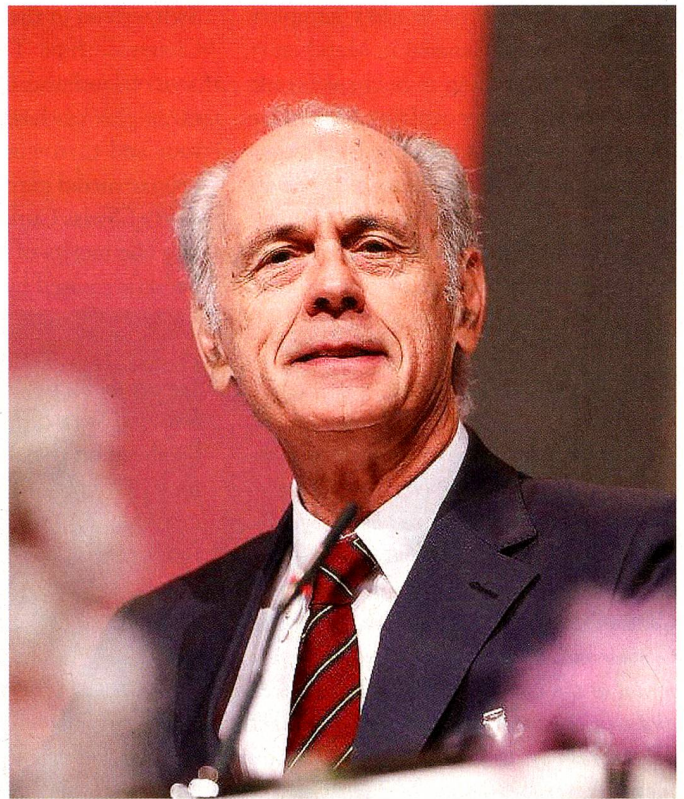
In addition to his professional abilities, Ruedi Wyder also possesses vital attributes: strength of character, dedication to the cause, loyalty towards the presidents, the Executive Board and, of course, his staff. These qualities inspired those who worked with him to show the same attitude in return. He also provided great substance to the annual congresses during his years of office, ensuring they generated interest.

The key task of the director of the OSA is a political one. The contacts and relationships fostered with government, the departments and especially with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, with members of parliament and party leaders, with the cantons and important associations, in short with everyone who matters and on whom the OSA relies are a key part of the role of director of the OSA. Ruedi Wyder was simply outstanding in this respect. He instigated the establishment of the parliamentary group for the Swiss abroad. He was the inspiration behind the draft law on the Swiss abroad currently being debated by the chambers which should give our fellow Swiss citizens abroad a more solid foundation and ensure better recognition and greater impact for our organisation.

One could discuss Ruedi Wyder's achievements at much greater length. We should mention the vital relationships that he maintained with the associations of the Swiss abroad and with the clubs in the different countries where our compatriots abroad live. He attended many of their meetings each year. In a manner of speaking, he personified the diversity and unity of the Swiss abroad. Demonstrating commitment wherever required, Ruedi Wyder proved himself the director the OSA needed as the organisation underwent change.

Approaching statutory retirement age, he knew that nobody would tell him to stand down. He took the lead himself by explaining to the Executive Board that it was in the interests of the OSA to plan for his succession.

The Executive Board acknowledged his decision. A comprehensive and rigorous procedure to evaluate candidates was carried out by the members of the Executive Board elected by their peers. The Executive Board eventually focused upon a solution that offered continuity but also represented a unique gamble. Two OSA employees already in charge of the key departments put forward their



Jacques-Simon Eggly paying tribute to Rudolf Wyder

joint candidature as co-directors. They highlighted how well they complement one another. Sarah Mastantuoni and Ariane Rustichelli therefore took over as directors of the OSA at the beginning of the year. The Council will confirm this decision in March. The first candidate was already well respected as a lawyer and deputy director. All responses to legal consultations passed by her. She had also been head of human resources for several years. The second has produced remarkable innovation for OSA's services: the Swisscommunity.org online network, which has established links between the Swiss abroad themselves and between expatriates and the cantons as well as the secretariat, which is of course available to them. The two candidates still had to present a proposal outlining their strategy and an adapted internal structure. They did so convincingly. The Executive Board was won over and expressed its confidence. The two joint candidates further underlined their credibility by demonstrating that they had together undertaken a course leading to a master's degree in management and business administration on an extra-occupational basis. The Executive Board fully accepts its duty of loyalty and support for the two co-directors.

A person is judged on the manner in which they depart and hand over the reins. Ruedi Wyder was exemplary in this respect. The greatest recognition that one can give him is to show our confidence in the two women who have taken up the directorship with such high levels of motivation, courage and determination.

Jacques-Simon Eggly
President of the OSA

OSA advice

I live abroad and I have lost my driving licence, which was issued in Switzerland. Can I get a new one from the cantonal authority which issued it or from a Swiss representation abroad?

The Swiss authorities are not able to issue a new Swiss driving licence. From the date on which you begin residing abroad, it is the authorities of your country of residence who have authority with regard to your driving licence rather than Switzerland. On account of the principle of territoriality, you are subject to the legal system of the state where you reside. Consequently, the area of road traffic is exclusively governed by the law of the country of residence. The cantonal road traffic authority which issued the driving licence can therefore only provide you with an attestation stating that you are the holder of a Swiss driving licence. By issuing this attestation, the cantonal authority certifies that you have obtained a driving licence based on the conditions stipulated by Swiss law. You will then have to verify with the authorities responsible in your country of residence which conditions have to be met for a driving licence to be issued to you (confirmation of the information contained in the attestation, driving test, etc.). The attestation from the cantonal road traffic authority may be useful to you at this stage. If necessary, this document can be certified by your Swiss representation abroad.

The contact details of the cantonal road traffic authorities can be found at: <http://www.strassenverkehrsamt.ch/>

SARAH MASTANTUONI,
HEAD OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT

OSA's Legal Department provides general legal information on Swiss law and specifically in areas that concern the Swiss abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law and does not intervene in disputes between private parties.

A guest in Switzerland

Young Swiss abroad spend exciting holidays in Switzerland. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) offers attractive and affordable programmes for young people from all over the world. The summer offers have now been published on the OSA websites.

Anyone spending holidays in Switzerland will enjoy a pleasant return to nature. Switzerland's breathtaking mountain scenery and lakes attract large numbers of tourists during the summer. Switzerland as a holiday destination provides wide-ranging opportunities for discovery, enjoyment, exercise and relaxation.

Swiss from all over the world get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere through OSA's activities for young people while enjoying sporting or educational holidays. The OSA programmes provide topical and fascinating insights into Switzerland's culture, geography, history, politics and society. The young people are looked after well by the OSA team, and OSA can offer attractively priced tickets for public transport thanks to its partnership with Swiss Travel System (www.swisstravelsystem.com) This allows participants to explore Switzerland independently.

OSA looks forward to receiving registrations for the offers for young people: at www.aso.ch or at www.swisscommunity.org.

Adults are also welcome:

There are still places available for last-minute participants at the snow sports week in Davos from 29 March to 5 April 2014. The snow sports week for adults was set up at the request of former participants of camps for young people who wanted to meet up again in Switzerland to enjoy winter sports together.

The "Discover Switzerland" offer, which is combined with a stay with a Swiss host, is

also open to young adults. Some longstanding host families express a preference for hosting older Swiss abroad.

Information is available from OSA's Youth Service via:

Tel.: +41 31 356 61 00, youth@aso.ch,
www.aso.ch, www.swisscommunity.org

educationsuisse

Educational and training advice now provided by educationsuisse

The Association promoting Education for Young Swiss Abroad (AJAS) merged with educationsuisse, the body representing the interests of Swiss schools abroad, on 1 January 2014.

Educationsuisse's educational advisory service will continue to support young Swiss abroad and now also other students who have attended Swiss schools abroad and wish to undertake educational courses in Switzerland. educationsuisse will advise young people who have questions about educational opportunities in Switzerland and supply them with the relevant contact details. It will also provide them with assistance in securing cantonal grants.

For information on educational courses and grants: info@educationsuisse.ch

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Young Swiss people from abroad visiting Switzerland in the summer of 2013



Summer camps for 8 to 14 year olds

Are you aged 8 to 14? Would you like to spend 14 days in Switzerland getting to know your homeland better? Then sign up for a holiday camp run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. We organise summer holiday camps in Switzerland's most beautiful regions during July and August.

Programme

Our camps give you the opportunity to see the sights, to discover lakes, mountains, rivers and incredible scenery, to go on short hikes and perhaps even visit some cities. Some days are also spent at the camp, where we organise games, sporting activities and various workshops.

You will also have the chance to learn lots of useful things about Switzerland. For example, we look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

The interaction between participants beyond all linguistic, cultural and national boundaries provides an opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable experience and to make lots of new friends.

Language at camp

The people who take advantage of our offers come from all over the world and therefore speak different languages, such as German, French, English, Spanish and Italian. The leaders run the programmes in German, French and English. So, the language at each camp does not depend on the language spoken at the camp location.

Prices

The prices of the offers are set out in the list below. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad wishes to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to spend a holiday in Switzerland at least once if possible. We therefore offer the possibility of reduced camp rates. The relevant application form can be requested with the registration form.

Travel/meeting point

The meeting point is around lunchtime at Zurich airport.

Travel to and from Zurich airport is organised and paid for by parents.

Leaders

Experienced, multilingual teams of leaders ensure that the two-week holiday camps are well-organised and offer a wide variety of activities.

Registration

The exact details of the individual holiday camps and the registration form can be found as of now at www.sjas.ch. We are also happy to post you our information brochure on request. The deadline for registration is 15 March 2014.

Summer camps 2014

- Sat. 28.6. – Fri. 11.7.14: Valbella (Grisons) for 36 children aged 8–12, price: CHF 900
- Sat. 28.6. – Fri. 11.7.14: Wyssachen (Berne) for 40 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900
- Wed. 2.7. – Fri. 11.7.14: Swiss trip for 24 children aged 12–16, price: CHF 950
- Sat. 12.7. – Fri. 25.7.14: Rigi Klösterli (Schwyz) for 36 children aged 8–12, price: CHF 900
- Sat. 12.7. – Fri. 25.7.14: Vignogn (Grisons) for 42 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900
- Sat. 26.7. – Fri. 8.8.14: Seelisberg (Uri) sport camp for 48 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 950
- Sat. 26.7. – Fri. 8.8.14: Balmberg (Sollothurn) for 30 children aged 8–12, price: CHF 900
- Sat. 9.8. – Fri. 22.8.14: Wildhaus (St Gallen) for 36 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900
- Sat. 9.8. – Fri. 22.8.14: Engelberg (Obwalden) for 42 children aged 8–14, price: CHF 900

Please contact the office in Berne for further information:

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