

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 42 (2015)  
**Heft:** 3

**Vorwort:** Forecasts in election year  
**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:** 02.02.2026

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

# Forecasts in election year

- 4 Mailbag
- 6 Images  
Samir and his Iraqi family
- 8 Focus  
Integration – an attempt at explanation
- 12 Column  
Georg Kohler on election campaign rhetoric
- 13 Politics  
The strong Swiss franc – a blessing or a curse?
- 16 Interview  
Ambassador Guldmann's political ambitions
- 17 Politics  
Immigration policy – the Federal Council's complex task
- 19 Business  
Camille Bloch's ambitious plans
- 22 Sport  
The derided female footballers
- 24 OSA news
- 27 Notes from Parliament
- 30 Little gems and echo



Switzerland's political analysts were engaged in intense activity on 12 April. The elections in the canton of Zurich caused a buzz of excitement from Romanshorn to Geneva. Everyone wanted to know whether the results in Zurich would provide some indication of the outcome of the parliamentary elections in October. So what did the experts say? Opinion was divided, but they all eloquently explained their standpoints. In actual fact, nobody knows. What is evident is that the Radical Free Democratic Party (FDP), once a party that formed and underpinned the state, has recovered after being in decline for almost 20 years. That is a pleasing development primarily because in the complex discussions currently taking place over Switzerland's relations with its neighbours in Europe, a strong conservative voice is needed, which, in contrast to the Swiss People's Party (SVP), does not regard the EU as an enemy but instead as a close neighbour and important trade partner with whose destiny Switzerland is closely entwined. Fostering the image of the EU as an enemy and nationalistic self-righteousness will certainly not bring any benefits for Switzerland.

From page 17 onwards, editor Jürg Müller reports on the current state of affairs concerning the implementation of the initiative on mass immigration and the extremely difficult situation facing the Federal Council. The upshot of his analysis, which is clearly a snapshot, is that the Federal Council is attempting to fit a square peg into a round hole.

The "focus" article in this issue tackles the topic of integration. Integration is obviously closely related to immigration and will therefore be a recurrent topic during election year. But what exactly does integration mean? How does someone integrate into a society? Or is it more a question of being integrated by a society? And is everyone expected to demonstrate commitment to integration to the same extent? Our editor Marc Lettau has been searching for answers. His article appears on page 8.

To return briefly to the elections in Zurich, only just over 30 % of the electorate turned out to vote on 12 April. This is disappointing because it means a minority decided. With regard to the national election, I wish to remind you that as Swiss citizens abroad you have to be registered on the electoral roll in order to take part in the election. A registration form can be found on page 25.

BARBARA ENGEL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Cover photo: The Swiss flag in front of the euro symbol at the European Central Bank (ECB). Taken in Frankfurt am Main  
Photo: © Keystone Martin Ruetschi