

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 44 (2017)
Heft: 4

Vorwort: Accounts on the same terms
Autor: Lehtinen, Marko

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>

Accounts on the same terms

- 5 Mailbag
- 6 Focus
Swiss cartography
- 10 Politics
First step towards energy transition
The referenda on 24 September
BDP and GLP seeking a profile
- 14 Society
An in-depth look at the crime figures
Portrait of the winemaker
Marie-Thérèse Chappaz
- 18 Media
“La Quotidiana” faces closure
- 20 Culture
Three Swiss conductors abroad
- 22 Literature series
Corinna Bille on the Mediterranean
- 23 OSA news
- 26 news.admin.ch
- 28 Images
Swiss cuisine – past and present
- 30 Books
Tim Krohn’s new novel
- 30 Sounds
“Devil is Fine” by Zeal & Ardor
- 31 Top pick
- 31 Echo



It is an impossible situation and an incredibly frustrating issue for the diaspora – the Swiss Abroad today have to overcome ever more hurdles in order to open a bank account on reasonable terms in their former homeland. In some cases, they have to pay incredibly inflated charges, which are justified as being due to “regulatory measures”. For example, PostFinance, which is wholly owned by federal government,

recently almost doubled its account fees and also cancelled the credit cards of all Swiss Abroad. In other cases, Swiss Abroad approach banks which flatly deny them the opportunity to open an account.

The Swiss Abroad claim they are being discriminated against and feel as though they are being treated as second-class Swiss citizens. They do not intend to carry on putting up with this situation. In the spring, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) called upon Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard to stipulate in the Postal Services Ordinance that PostFinance cannot discriminate against the Swiss Abroad. In vain.

Further proposals have nevertheless since been put forward at parliamentary level. Roland Büchel, an SVP National Councillor and a member of the OSA Executive Board, submitted a motion calling for systemically important Swiss banks to allow all Swiss citizens to open a bank account, including those abroad. It was narrowly defeated but has been followed by two further proposals in the same vein. At the end of June, Filippo Lombardi, a CVP Council of States member and Vice-President of the OSA, presented a motion once again requesting that all Swiss citizens be allowed to hold an account with systemically important banks. An initiative by the Foreign Affairs Committee at the beginning of July again targeted discrimination against the Swiss Abroad at PostFinance.

Both motions are still pending but illustrate that wheels are in motion. Perhaps it is just a matter of time before the diaspora can finally once again use Swiss bank accounts on reasonable terms. MARKO LEHTINEN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF