

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 44 (2017)
Heft: 6

Vorwort: Climate change reaches Switzerland
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: 14.08.2025

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

Climate change reaches Switzerland

5 Mailbag

6 Focus

Climate change in the Alps
Swiss ski resorts without snow

10 Politics

AHV and food – results of the
referendums of 24 September
Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis
The vision of the Federal Roads Office
for 2040

15 Society

CBD, the legal form of cannabis
Creepy-crawlies on Swiss plates

17 Literature series

Regina Ullmann in Munich

18 Culture

No coherent strategy in Basel,
“the City of Museums”

20 Sport

Downhill world champion Beat Feuz

22 OSA news

26 news.admin.ch

28 Images

Traditional costume in Swiss art

30 Books

Andrea Fazioli's latest novel

30 Sounds

The soprano Rachel Harnisch

31 Echo

31 This and that



“Climate change is a reality, even if some people still refuse to believe it.” These were the words used by Swiss President Doris Leuthard when she addressed the media in Bondo in Grisons last August. Three million cubic metres of rock had just fallen from nearby Piz Cengalo. Huge piles of rubble had thundered down the valley, burying parts of the village. Eight hikers lost their lives but nobody in the village was

hurt thanks to its warning system. There was nevertheless large-scale destruction.

In the past, natural disasters happened in far-away places. Switzerland found out about such events via newspapers or television: devastation caused by hurricanes in the Caribbean or flooding after torrential rain in Asia. But Switzerland has been affected for some time now. Glaciers are breaking up or melting in the mountains, and huge rockfalls are occurring in the valleys. In the lowlands, villages are being flooded and crops destroyed by hailstones the size of tennis balls or frost in May.

Erratic weather patterns have also developed in Switzerland, which is something we have to get used to. The causes – which this issue's focus article convincingly describes – are well-documented: the temperatures in the mountains are rising and hot summers are becoming more frequent. This is impacting directly on the glaciers and the stability of the mountain slopes.

As it has not been conclusively proven that climate change is primarily due to human behaviour rather than the caprices of nature, many people still do not see the need to change their habits. But, as Federal Councillor Leuthard remarked, climate change is a reality that cannot be denied, not even in Switzerland ever since Bondo.

MARKO LEHTINEN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cover photo: Inside the new building of the Museum of Art in Basel. Photo: Keystone