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The “Fifth Switzerland” makes clear political demands

The “Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland”, the Council of the Swiss Abroad, demands more leadership from the Federal Council on e-voting, and underlines the importance of the framework agreement for the 458,000 Swiss living in the EU.

There will be no e-voting option available to the “Fifth Switzerland” for the 2019 federal elections. The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) views this as a major setback. The CSA therefore demanded more leadership from the Federal Council in regard to e-voting at its meeting during the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Montreux.

In a resolution drafted in Montreux, the CSA specifically calls on the Federal Council to ensure that there is a trustworthy, financially viable system in place for e-voting. Moreover, this system must be available to all voters of the “Fifth Switzerland” by no later than the 2023 federal elections. While in Montreux, Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis promised only what had already been announced by the Federal Council in June: to re-frame the e-voting trial phase by the end of 2020.

The e-voting setback is also hindering the reforms of the CSA. It is highly unlikely that it will be able to implement its goal of introducing the direct election of its members without the electronic voting channel. The reform was thus postponed in Montreux. OSA President Remo Gysin had the following to say on the matter: “We’re delaying something that we’d like to have sorted.”

Framework agreement – a loaded term

The term e-voting is not the only one causing unease for the CSA. It is also nervous about Switzerland’s framework agreement with the European Union (EU). The CSA has assessed the development in the relationship between Switzerland and the EU as “worrying”. It is demanding that the Federal Council consider the concerns of the 458,000 Swiss living in the EU during further clarifications of the framework agreement. The CSA’s content-based position has not changed in this regard: it supports the free movement of persons, and wants it to be regulated.

Finally, the election manifesto approved by the CSA contains further political demands. Besides the core demand to make it easier



Political signals from Montreux: resolutions of the Council of the Swiss Abroad call on the Federal Council to act.

Photo: Adrian Moser

rather than more difficult for the “Fifth Switzerland” to exercise their political rights, it also refers once again to the discrimination shown by the Swiss banks against Swiss people abroad. Talking of the 2019 elections: Montreux was also the place where the political parties competed for the votes of the “Fifth Switzerland”. Their performance during the last legislative term was the subject of heated debate: according to an analysis by swissinfo, the concerns of the “Fifth Switzerland” were best supported by the SP and least supported by the SVP.

“What will tomorrow’s world hold?” – this was the topic of this year’s Congress of the Swiss Abroad. Remo Gysin introduced the numerous expert lectures on the topic with the following remark: “There are points of no return all over the world.” His conclusion: “We have a clear duty to act.”

(MUL)

CSA election manifesto: ogy.de/aso-wahlmanifest

Party ranking: ogy.de/swissinfo-ranking

Candidates of the “Fifth Switzerland”: www.revue.ch

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Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger
Fondazione per i giovani svizzeri all'estero
Fondazioni per giovani svizzeri a l'estero

Skiing and snowboarding into the new year

There are still some free spots available to children aged 8 to 14 on the FYSA New Year camp in Valbella in the Grisons mountains.

Date: Thursday, 26 December 2019

to Saturday, 4 January 2020

Number of participants: 42

Cost: CHF 900 (contribution to the camp)

Ski or snowboard hire: Approx. CHF 150

Registration deadline: 30 September 2019

Registration

The winter camp for children aged 8 to 14 in Valbella (canton of Grisons) is the only Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) 2019-20 winter season event for which you can still book places. For further details as well as the relevant registration form, visit www.sjas.ch/en. We are able to offer price reductions whenever these are justified. We are also happy to post you our information brochure on request.

Financial support for Swiss families living abroad

The FYSA wants to enable all Swiss children living abroad to visit and experience Switzerland for themselves at least once, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. To make this possible, the FYSA raises money

every year on behalf of such children. The FYSA urges families who lack the necessary financial means to register for the camp and fill in the "Application form for reduction of the camp fees" – so that their children can also spend some time in Switzerland. For further details on the opportunities and conditions for price reductions, please contact the FYSA administrative office directly.

Thank you

In the last twelve months, many readers have paid a voluntary subscription to help fund the print edition of "Swiss Review". We in the editorial team would like to thank you for this support, which has reinforced our intention to continue publishing on paper for the foreseeable future – to the standard to which you are accustomed. Specifically, your support has enabled us to lend the necessary amount of depth to complex themes – e.g. the debate surrounding e-voting, and background research ahead of this autumn's national elections. The funding makes us even more committed to producing a publication that provides an eminently readable and – in the case of the print edition – tangible, tactile connection to your home country.

MARC LETTAU, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The FYSA looks forward to welcoming children who are keen to get to know and experience their homeland up close. (LR)

For more information, please contact:

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Doing an apprenticeship or studying in Switzerland

Swiss Abroad can also benefit from the excellent and diverse range of educational opportunities available in Switzerland.

Apprenticeship

After compulsory schooling, young people in Switzerland can choose from over 250 apprenticeships or go on to further education at high school or specialised middle school. However, the route they take at this stage is not necessarily binding. Not only can you still do an apprenticeship after getting a high-school diploma, but it is also possible to study at a university of applied science on the back of vocational training and vocational baccalaureate.

How to choose the right vocational course? The official website www.berufsberatung.ch offers a wealth of information such as job descriptions. A specific counselling session can be provided for Swiss Abroad either face-to-face in Berne at the career guidance center (BIZ) or via Skype (register via [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch)).

Whether you want to be a winemaker or an engineer, the quality and professional relevance of vocational training in Switzerland are rated very highly.

Photo: Keystone



in a wide range of fields. Normally, the prerequisite for admission is an apprenticeship with vocational baccalaureate. However, it is also possible to gain entry on the strength of a high-school diploma plus a year's work experience in your future field of study.

The universities of teacher education provide teacher training at all school levels. The admission requirements vary depending on the course concerned.

All Swiss universities organise open days that usually take place in autumn or winter. Information on the entry requirements for students with a foreign qualification is available at www.swissuniversities.ch.

Information and contact details

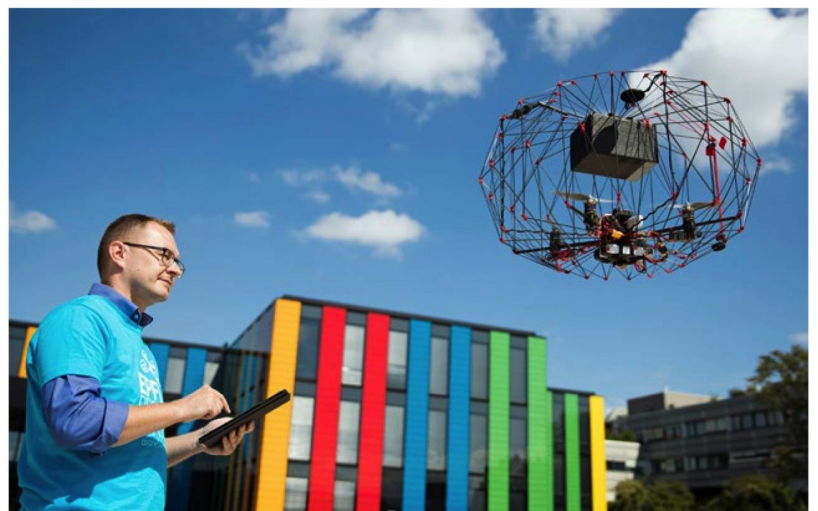
The team at [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch) speak English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. They can help you find the right answers to your questions and give support on specific enquiries. The www.educationsuisse.ch website provides an explanatory overview of the Swiss education system, clearly depicted in a diagram. For further information or queries: email info@educationsuisse.ch or phone +41 (0)31 356 61 04. (RG)

[educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Switzerland,
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Higher education at a university

The ten public universities offer courses in law, economics, mathematics, natural science, humanities, and social science. The Federal Institutes of Technology (ETHZ and EPFL) focus on engineering, mathematics, and natural science. You can obtain a bachelor degree after studying for a total of three years, while a subsequent master course will last a further one and a half to two years. To gain admission, students need to have obtained their Swiss high-school diploma or a foreign equivalent. Special entry requirements apply to medicine.

The Universities of applied sciences, which comprise around 60 schools and departments (including arts and music), offer practice-oriented bachelor and master degrees





Who or what is YPSA?

YPSA stands for Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad. It is not a parliament in the traditional sense, but rather a platform for young Swiss Abroad. YPSA President Roberto Landolina provides an insight into the aims and activities of the youth parliament in an article available at www.revue.ch. He also reveals the highlights of May's YPSA event in Italy. Landolina's account shows what young people can expect from such occasions: "It was great to see people working together and developing ideas, despite not knowing each other. We hope they made the most of this chance to learn and develop their team-working skills." (MUL)

Review at www.revue.ch

YPSA homepage www.ypsa.ch

Ready for camp life in the snow?

For two weeks, the young Swiss Abroad will have the chance to indulge in the joys of winter sports and make friends from around the world.

As well as skiing and snowboarding, young participants will be able to discover the Swiss mountains and take part in a range of activities in the cosy setting of the chalet and its surrounding area. An adventure packed with shared moments and discovery!

New Year Ski camp in Les Diablerets (VD) from 27.12.2019 to 4.1.2020

Participants can look forward to a range of activities at this camp in the heart of the Vaud Alps. As well as ski or snowboard lessons in small groups and a rich programme of accompanying events, there will also be time for meeting new friends. Camp members will be looked after by a team of trained and enthusiastic instructors. This programme is for teenagers aged 15–18. www.lesbosquets.ch and www.villars-diablerets.ch

Contact the Youth Service: Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne; tel. +41 31 356 61 00, email: youth@aso.ch

Winter sports camp in Anzère (VS) from 27.12.2019 to 4.1.2020

This winter, we are also offering a winter sports camp in the Pennine Alps for young adults aged 18 and over. The ski and snowboard camp will take place in Anzère. For a sneak peek at the ski resort, see: www.anzere.ch.

Registration

The registration form for the winter camps is now available online. For more detailed information on the camps and for registration forms, visit our websites: www.aso.ch and www.swisscommunity.org.

Youth Service survey

Last spring, the Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSE) launched a survey in order to better address the expectations of the Swiss Abroad. The results of this survey will be published on www.aso.ch. (MB)

Information

Notify your local Swiss representation of your email address(es) and mobile phone number(s), or of changes to these, and register at the online desk (on the FDFA website at www.eda.admin.ch or via www.swissabroad.ch) to select your preferred format for receiving "Swiss Review" and other publications. Please contact your Swiss representation if you have trouble signing in. Both the latest and previous issues of "Swiss Review" are available to read and/or print out at any time via www.revue.ch. "Swiss Review" (or "Gazzetta Svizzera" in Italy) is delivered free of charge electronically (by email) or as a print edition to the homes of all Swiss Abroad. It is also available via an iOS/Android app.