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Votes and Elections

Federal votes

The Federal Council determines voting proposals at least four months before the voting date.

The Federal Council decided that there will be three federal proposals submitted to the people on 18 June 2023:

- Federal Decree of 16 December 2022 on the Special Taxation of Multinational Enterprises (Implementation of OECD/G20 Project on the Taxation of Multinational Enterprises) (BBI 2022 3216);
- Federal Act of 30 September 2022 on Climate Protection Goals, Innovation and Strengthening Energy Security (CIA) (BBI 2022 2403);
- Amendment of 16 December 2022 to the Federal Act of 25 September 2020 on the Statutory Principles for Federal Council Ordinances on Combating the COVID-19 Epidemic (COVID-19 Act) (AS 2022 817) – *At the time of going to press, it was not yet clear whether the issue would go to a referendum. Signatures were still in the process of being counted.*

Everything you need to know about voting proposals (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations by Parliament and the Federal Council etc.) is available at www.admin.ch/votes or via the Federal Chancellery's Voteline app.



Popular initiatives

The following federal popular initiatives have already been launched at the time of going to press (deadline for the collection of signatures in brackets):

- Federal Popular Initiative 'Every kilowatt hour of Swiss renewable energy counts!' (14.08.2024)
- Federal Popular Initiative 'Inquiry into the background to the COVID-19 pandemic (Inquiry Initiative)' (28.08.2024)

The list of pending popular initiatives is available in German, French and Italian at www.bk.admin.ch/Politische_Rechte/Volksinitiativen/Hangige_Volksinitiativen



Information

Notify your local Swiss representation of your email address and mobile phone number, or of changes to these. Register at the online desk of the FDFA via www.swissabroad.ch to select your preferred format for receiving "Swiss Review" and other publications. 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 either electronically by email or as a print edition to the homes of all Swiss Abroad. It is also available via the iOS/Android app "Swiss Review".

Switzerland in your pocket

SwissInTouch.ch
The app for the Swiss abroad



The FDFA and its partners – working together for you

The FDFA collaborates closely with a number of national partners outside the Swiss Federal Administration to provide support, information and high-quality services to the Swiss Abroad, the “Fifth Switzerland”. Its main partners introduce themselves.

The Swiss Confederation supports institutions that promote the links connecting the almost 800,000 Swiss Abroad to Switzerland in all manner of ways, by virtue of the mandate granted to it by the Federal Act on Swiss Persons and Institutions Abroad (SAA). Cooperation is required for this joint action, owing to the complexity of the growing needs and diversity of the Swiss diaspora. To this end, and in order to provide better support for expat compatriots, the Consular Directorate (CD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs may enter into service agreements with certain institutions. These institutions may also sign cooperation or collaboration agreements with each other. In addition, the CD works closely with other federal departments, cantonal bodies, foreign

authorities and other national and international partners.

The Consular Directorate, with its three divisions – Citizen Services, Consular Protection and Innovation and Partnerships – is a central contact point for efficient, customer-orientated consular services worldwide. It provides a wide range of consular services via its international network of consular offices, and this network is also in contact with the community of the Swiss Abroad and promotes mutual dialogue. It furthermore publishes important information on services like travel advice via conventional communication channels and the Travel Admin app. The FDFA Helpline has an advice and assistance service, which provides general information on stays abroad, emigration and re-

turning to Switzerland and for future retirees. The CD and its partners organise information sessions and themed webinars, and inform the Swiss community abroad through the “Swiss Review”, the “Gazzetta Svizzera” and the CD’s own application SwissInTouch, which was launched in late 2022.

Together, we are here for you, to protect your interests and provide high-quality services and information via modern multimedia channels to make sure that your needs are met.

Our main partners introduce themselves on the opposite page.

PAOLO BEZZOLA, CONSULAR DIRECTORATE, FDFA



Swiss living abroad – like Noël, Laurin and Flurina Frei in Ethiopia – can always rely on five key points of contact and sources of information: FDFA, OSA, swissinfo, educationsuisse and Soliswiss. Photo provided

Link to main FDFA page

with information on our consular services: revue.link/fdfa



Travel Admin

The travel app helps you to plan trips abroad and provides you with useful functions and information while you are travelling. revue.link/travel



Switzerland in your pocket: SwissInTouch

SwissInTouch, the app for the community of the Swiss Abroad. It promotes discussion and relations with Swiss official bodies and your Swiss representation abroad, is open to your needs and grants you direct and user-friendly access to important consular services and information. www.swissintouch.ch



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
www.eda.admin.ch

A strong voice for the “Fifth Switzerland” network

Some 800,000 Swiss nationals live and work abroad – and their numbers are growing. The “Fifth Switzerland” has many different concerns and needs. Swiss Abroad want to keep track of what is happening in Switzerland from a Swiss perspective. They look to engage and share insights with each other and have questions answered on the OASI state pension, e-voting, military service, and whether their qualifications will be recognised in Switzerland. They are interested in getting to know their home country (better) and playing a passive or active role in our country's unique democratic system. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) – also referred to as SwissCommunity – and its highest body, the Council of the Swiss Abroad, have been working on the behalf of the “Fifth Switzerland” since 1916 in collaboration with numerous partner organisations, including the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Our independently produced magazine “Swiss Review”, our free legal advice, the Congress of the Swiss Abroad, youth holiday camps for young Swiss Abroad, our collaboration with the Swiss Abroad parliamentary group – these are some of the ways in which we inform, support, represent and engage with the Swiss Abroad.



Website: www.swisscommunity.org
Address: Swisscommunity, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Switzerland

The online media outlet for the “Fifth Switzerland”

SWI swissinfo.ch is Switzerland's multilingual public-service online media outlet dedicated to the Swiss Abroad and to international audiences who are interested in Swiss affairs. We play an opinion-forming role for the Swiss Abroad, helping them to exercise their political rights in elections and popular votes as well as strengthening their attachment to Switzerland. Our platform summarises what is happening in your home country and everything you need to know about it. We have been collaborating with OSA for many years to reach our shared audience more effectively. Selected SWI swissinfo.ch content is now available via the OSA website. The SWIplus app and swissinfo.ch website provide in-depth information and analysis of Swiss politics, background stories for and about the “Fifth Switzerland”, Swiss news in brief, and daily briefings featuring input from other Swiss media outlets. Our new “Let's Talk” format gives Swiss Abroad and representatives of opposing camps the opportunity to debate specific issues that are being brought to the ballot box. We also report on the deliberations of the Council of the Swiss Abroad and the Congress of the Swiss Abroad with news and analysis.



Website: www.swissinfo.ch
is a branch of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG SSR)

educationsuisse umbrella organisation and advisory service

educationsuisse is the umbrella organisation of the 18 Swiss schools abroad that are recognised by the Swiss Confederation. educationsuisse advises and supports both young Swiss Abroad in addition to students from Swiss schools abroad, who wish to pursue their education or training in Switzerland. These topics have been at the heart of our association since 1942. Both functions are based on the Federal Act and Ordinance of Swiss Education Abroad.

Our office provides a wide range of services for the schools abroad, organises further training and supports the Swiss schools in recruiting Swiss teachers. Our advice on the topic of education in Switzerland is offered free of charge.

Networking in the Swiss education environment and public relations are important to us. We organise information events at the schools abroad and take part in events for the Swiss Abroad. We regularly publish articles on our topics in the magazine “Swiss Review” and in the “Gazzetta Svizzera”.

The synergies and the exchange of information with the partner organisations are extremely valuable.



Website: www.educationsuisse.ch
Address: educationsuisse, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Switzerland

Soliswiss – Your Switzerland abroad

Do I need to deregister from Switzerland before travelling around the world? Can I continue to pay into the OASI state pension scheme if I emigrate? Where can I open a bank account? We field questions like these every day. Since our foundation in 1958, we have been working to secure the livelihood of Swiss people abroad. Soliswiss is a cooperative with more than 4,000 members in over 130 countries. Membership is open all Swiss citizens abroad. Our primary focus is on providing individual advice on emigration, globetrotting, living and working abroad, and returning. We are committed to solidarity, and our advice for members is free of charge. In times of crisis, we can also provide members with quick, unbureaucratic support through our lump-sum compensation scheme and Auxiliary Relief Fund. Our website blog contains all sorts of useful information. You can also book a consultation easily online. We have a working agreement with the FDFA and are delighted to engage with any organisations assisting Swiss citizens abroad.



Website: www.soliswiss.ch
Address: Soliswiss, Effingerstrasse 45, Postfach, CH-3001 Berne, Switzerland