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Swiss Abroad Congress

The 83rd Swiss Abroad Congress will be held in Interlaken from 1st September to 4th September 2005 in conjunction with the "Trachten- und Alphirtenfest", celebrating its' 200th anniversary.

This years' Congress theme is "Tourism in a global context". Is Switzerland still playing in the Champions League? With 20bil. CHF, Tourism is the third largest export earner, providing some 240,000 jobs.

Ex Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi will address the plenary meeting. Finance Minister Hans-Rudolf Merz will round-up the days' business.

Saturday and Sunday, Congress participants will be able to take part in the folkloristic festivities. The "Trachten und Alphirtenfest Unspunnen" is held every twelve years. For the Sunday, some 70,000 people are expected to attend. Congress participants will have reserved seats available.

(If you are interested in attending, please contact Heinz or Marianne Drummond for registration forms).

Military Service for Young Swiss Abroad

New regulations regarding military service for Swiss Abroad (including dual citizens) came into force on 1 January 2005. There are NO fundamental changes, just a few innovations.

The medical and fitness test will be held in Switzerland. There is no need for active army service except in cases of lack of personnel. This is not to be taken as a systematic NO to military service.

For volunteers, it's no longer necessary to be in complete "command" of one of the four languages, some knowledge is now acceptable.

Volunteers will be accepted up to age 25. Travel costs will be met by the Federal Government.

contributed by
Heinz Leuenberger.

News from Switzerland

92,000 Swiss Abroad vote in Switzerland

More and more Swiss are living abroad, and more and more Swiss Abroad are voting in Swiss Federal elections.

92,048 took part in the voting on 26 September 2004. This is 4.3% up from the February 2004 voting.

Motorways safer than Highways

Swiss motorways are one of the safest in Europe.

According to statistics from the Touring Club of Switzerland (TSC) it shows that highways have a higher risk of accidents. Of the 239 highways analyzed six have a high risk grade.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

Francis Bacon.

*Good luck always.
May the doors you
knock on open to
you - and reveal the
unexpected and the
wonderful*

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