

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 74 (2008)
Heft: [3]

Artikel: Keeping contact with the "Fifth Switzerland"
Autor: Leuenberger, Heinz
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943618>

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: 09.02.2026

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

Keeping contact with the “Fifth Switzerland”

Every tenth Swiss lives abroad, yet continues to feel connected in some way to his or her homeland. Over the last decade or so, with the advantages of the Internet, their profile has changed. They are now much better informed, economically more potent and enjoy better mobility. Over 111'000 now exercise their political rights. All this has transformed the “Fifth Switzerland” into an economic and political force to be taken seriously.

In order to maintain and improve the contact between the Swiss Abroad Organisation (SAO) and the “Fifth Switzerland” a new bulletin “INFO 5” is being launched. It will be published periodically in German, French and Italian and sent via Internet to politically interested parties and business representatives. Equally, the SAO will continue to stay in contact with the 750 Swiss Societies and Clubs worldwide and associated organisations such as “Presence Switzerland”, “Forum Helvetica” and swissinfo.

The Swiss Revue, published six times annually with a print of nearly 400'000 copies will continue to be posted free of charge to all Swiss registered with a Consulate or Embassy. To guarantee address security, the database is main-

tained by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Every year the OAS organizes a Swiss Abroad Congress. It is held in summer and always in a different city. This year's event will take place in Fribourg from 22 – 24 August. The principal subject will be a debate about the free movement of people. There will be workshops and exhibitions covering the theme “Switzerland without frontiers” as well as prominent keynote speakers. Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger (absolutely coincidental) will be guest of honour. Of great interest will also be the Parliamentary Group “Swiss Abroad”. About eighty members of Parliament from across the political spectrum will be lectured by the SAO about subjects of interest to the “Fifth Switzerland”. The Parliamentary Group is led by the President of the National Council, Therese Meyer (CVP/FR).

Federal Elections

Following last October's Federal Elections a number of complaints regarding late arrivals of election documents, incomplete documentation and wrong language have been received by the SAO. People who have experienced problems are asked to communicate them to the

SAO so the exact extent of the problem can be evaluated and addressed (Internet and postal addresses see Swiss Review).

The question why the Swiss Abroad can participate in the election of the National Council but in many cantons are excluded from the election of the Senate (Ständerat) has been asked once more. National Councillor Mario Fehr (ZH) has put a relevant motion to the Federal Government. In its reply the Council is now asking all cantons to make the necessary changes.

Swiss Schools Abroad

The 17 Swiss Schools around the globe can continue their excellent work. On the 18 December 07 the National Council granted the Swiss Schools a SFr 20 million annual subsidy. The Senate had done so earlier already. Both chambers have realized the importance of the schools. They are looked upon as highly important supporters of Switzerland's image abroad. With this all encompassing financial support they can now continue their good work.

Yours,
Heinz Leuenberger

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



Recommended airlines are clearly marked with a cross.

—
QUALITY, SWISS MADE.

Quality: we owe it to the symbol painted on our aircraft. The Swiss cross stands for high quality standards in all we do to live up to our commitment. SWISS received the 2007 Business Traveller Award distinction of Best Airline for European Service. Particularly noted as outstanding were the airline's cabin crew, cabin comfort, lounges and service on the ground. Contact your local bonded Travel Agent for further information on SWISS airfares. Visit SWISS.COM to find out all the other things we do to make each and every flight as comfortable as possible for our guests.

SWISS.COM