

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 78 (2012)  
**Heft:** [7]

**Rubrik:** Organisation of the Swiss abroad

### **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:** 17.04.2026

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

## Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

### Report on ASO conference in Lausanne 17-19<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (by Othmar Hebler)

330 people from 40 countries attended the congress, 70 of them elected representatives. 700,000 Swiss live outside Switzerland, that's nearly 10%. The ASO is pushing very hard to get e-voting implemented, hopefully by 2015, and is also trying to make the Swiss abroad the 27<sup>th</sup> canton of Switzerland.

Swiss banks are continuing with charging or even closing the bank accounts of Swiss abroad. ASO is working very hard to get some resolution on this for their members. The Aargauer Kantonbank, for example, is charging accounts with less than 150,000 Sfr. 40.00 per month. Now with lots of money flowing into Switzerland and interest rates historically low, you can get mortgages for a ten year term for 1.6%.

Bundesrat Didier Burkhalter (head of Swiss abroad) was talking about closing more Embassies around the world, as the internet makes it a lot faster to communicate anywhere in

### A bit of background information

ASO stands for Auslandsschweizer Organisation or Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA). According to its website, 135,000 Swiss nationals living abroad are registered on the electoral roll, allowing them to exercise their democratic right to vote. This is the equivalent of the electorate of a Canton such as Neuchâtel - a very sizeable electorate and one that continues to grow. It is therefore a vital task to protect the interests of these citizens abroad.

This is the role of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), the voice of the Fifth Switzerland and recognised as such by the Federal authorities. Even without this primary political body, the Fifth Switzerland would

the world. This means travellers have to take a lot more responsibility for their own travels and actions.

There were two guest speakers at the conference. One was Elmar Mock, the inventor of the Swatch, who talked about how Swatch turned around the misfortunes of the Swiss watch industry. The other speaker was the Nobel Price Winner of chemistry 2002, Mr. Kurt Wüthrich. He talked about the mutations of the Bird and Swine flu.

Lots of political parties attended in order to try and enrol new members.

After the conference, I visited with my parents the "Auslandschweizer Platz" in Brunnen on the edge of the "Vierwaldstättersee", a place well worth visiting if you're ever in Switzerland.

If you like any more information on the conference, visit [www.swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch).

still have a link with Parliament thanks to the inter-party parliamentary group "The Swiss Abroad", which has about 100 MPs and is sensitive to the cause of the Swiss living outside the country.

The Organisation of the Swiss abroad (OSA) actively promotes the political rights of Swiss people living abroad and encourages them to get onto the electoral register, so that they can participate in political debates and keep themselves informed about votes and elections. The OSA is also active in promoting electronic voting, a highly important democratic instrument for Swiss citizens distributed around the four corners of the world.

Source: [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

↳ Taste the Difference ↳

SWISS KONDITOREI BERN

Bakery & Pastry

Do you feel like eating real Swiss/German breads, tasty and healthy?

German Sourdough, Butterzopf, Walliser Bread, Kibbled Rye, Walnut Bread, Tasty White Bread, Basler Bread, or chose from a wide range of rolls, inclusive Laugenrolls.

In the sweet range we offer Blackforest Cake, Bienenstich, Chocolate Truffle Cake, Quark Cheesecake, Fruit Flans, Patisserie, seasonal specialities and much more.

We are using local and often organic ingredients.

Retail sale at our bakery

Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7am-2pm  
5/448 Rosebank Rd, Avondale, Auckland  
Tel: (09) 828-5860 Fax: (09) 828-5861  
[www.swisskonditoreibern.co.nz](http://www.swisskonditoreibern.co.nz)

Swiss Deli

TRADITIONAL FINE MEATS AND SMALL GOODS

AVAILABLE NOW!

New Zealand's finest  
Delicatessen Meats

Continental Frying/Boiling Sausages  
• Specialty Meats • Meat Loaves  
• Smoked Meats • Cold Cuts  
• Salamis • Dried Meats



Visit our factory shop:  
68-70 Greenmount Drive  
East Tamaki, Auckland

Hours: Monday to Thursday 8am-4pm  
Friday 8am-5pm • Saturday 8am-1pm

P 09 274 4455 F 09 274 1203 W [www.swissdeli.co.nz](http://www.swissdeli.co.nz)  
PO Box 51-520 Pakuranga Auckland 2140