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Swiss Embassy/News

Swiss National Library seeks more Helvetia Back-Issues (continued)

You may remember that in the last Helvetia I asked if you, Dear Helvetia Reader, had any of the missing old issues needed to complete the dispatch of Helvetias between 1991 – 2012 to the Swiss National Library.

Since then, the list has shrunk considerably, which is totally thanks to Mr Lou Butler in Taranaki, who found about 30 of the missing Helvetias and kindly let us have them.

The missing issues are as at 12 October 2012:

1991	1992	1995
January 1991	January 1992	August 1995
March 1991	April 1992	
June 1991	May 1992	
October 1991	June 1992	

If you find any of the missing issues listed above, it would be greatly appreciated if you would be kind enough to send them to the Embassy (PO Box 25004 Wellington 6146). The Embassy will then forward the Helvetias to the Swiss National Library in Bern. Should you want to keep the original of the Helvetias, the Library would accept photocopies as well and the Embassy could photocopy the issue(s) for you.

Thank you very much.

Marion Weichelt
Ambassador

New Swiss Energy Strategy

According to the new Swiss Energy Strategy 2050, which has been put out for consultation until the end of January, energy consumption is to be reduced by more than a third by 2035 and nearly half by 2050.

The energy-saving measures will have the most effect on fossil fuels (petroleum, gas and coal), which now cover 70% of the total energy needs. Their contribution is to dip below 50% by 2050, while the remaining need is to be met almost exclusively by renewable energy sources.

Consumption of electricity is supposed to diminish gradually. Giving up atomic energy (40% of today's electricity) is to be made up almost entirely by new renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.).

To limit opposition to the building of new power plants, exploitation of renewable energy is being declared "in the national interest", with higher priority than nature and the landscape.

The government expects the new renewable energy plants to cost SFr30 billion. The price of energy should increase 20 -30% by 2050.

Planning the end of nuclear power

In the wake of the Fukushima disaster, the Swiss government, backed by a centre-left majority in parliament, decided to give up building nuclear power plants.

A decision on closing dates for the five current stations has not been made yet. Initially these plants were expected to have a life-cycle of at most 40 years. The government is now going for 50 years, in which case the last station would shut down by 2034.

Extracted from www.swissinfo.ch

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