

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 80 (2014)
Heft: [1]

Rubrik: ASO news

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: 05.04.2026

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

ASO news

Legislation for the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizergesetz)

Over the past few months, I have been approached several times and asked if I could give a brief rundown of the proposed new Federal Council Law for the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizergesetz) which has been talked and written about over the past few years.

The following is a summary of the proposed legislation for the Swiss Abroad, currently under review by the Swiss Parliament.

According to the Swiss Constitution, the Swiss authorities are obliged to formulate a set of rules applying to Swiss Persons and Institutions Abroad.

In the main, the proposed legislation encompasses the following matters:

- ◇ Distribution of information to the Swiss Abroad
- ◇ Communication between the Swiss Abroad
- ◇ Political Rights and Duties of the Swiss Abroad
- ◇ Social Assistance which can be obtained by the Swiss Abroad
- ◇ Moreover, a set of laws regarding the Swiss Schools Abroad will form part of this new legislation, as well as Consular Protection and Consular Services Abroad.

More specifically, the following is noteworthy:

1. Information and Networking: The Federal Government informs the Swiss Abroad on their rights and duties either in electronic or printed form. The Federal Government fosters close relationships between the Swiss Abroad, between Switzerland, and its institutions and the Swiss Organisations Abroad.
2. Registration of the Swiss Abroad: Swiss Citizens who have no registered domicile in Switzerland can register abroad in their Consular area. Registration is a condition for exercising their Rights and Duties by the Swiss Abroad, even to receive certain services by the Swiss Representation abroad. Minors can be registered, but once they reach 18 years, they are obliged to confirm their registration within 30 days, otherwise they risk being eliminated from the register. Any change in personal status has to be communicated to the Swiss Representation abroad.
3. Political Rights: These are the same as for the Swiss living in Switzerland unless excluded from the legislation. All Swiss Abroad, having reached 18 years, can participate in Swiss Federal Elections and vote on Referenda. In order to participate in Federal votes and Elections, Swiss Abroad can register in the

Canton / Local Council of their latest domicile in Switzerland or in their "place of origin". The Cantons keep a register of those Swiss Abroad who are registered to vote, as Federal Elections or Referenda are organized by the Cantons.

4. Social Assistance: The Federal Government and its Representatives abroad can assist the Swiss Abroad where possible. However, Swiss Abroad are advised that they first have to seek assistance from their local diplomatic agencies and/or help themselves. Swiss Representatives Abroad however, will evaluate any request for assistance based on merit. If assistance is granted, it may be under the condition that it is repaid once the personal situation has been alleviated.
5. The Federal Authorities will also endeavor to have a department at Federal level, coordinating and being the contact point for all matters regarding the Swiss Abroad, a so-called "guichet unique".

General comment: This particular new legislation doesn't encompass other areas of interest such as issuance of passports or old age insurance. These are matters which are dealt with by other legislation.

By Peter Ehrler, Elected Council Member of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand.

FRIBESCO
quality european tools and products

Looking for superb quality european tools and products? We import and sell tools and products for roofers, builders and many more...
check it out on www.fribesco.co.nz

Waitui visitor accommodation
COTTAGE

www.waituicottage.co.nz +64 4 526 3551

Trix & Heinz Jäggi
23 Crest Rd, Akatarawa RD 2, Upper Hutt, NZ