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Financial statement of Swiss Society

Abroad, consolidating the interests of the growing Swiss diaspora. In September 2014, the Swiss parliament voted in favour of this new legislation. As a result of worldwide changes in the banking industry, many Swiss Abroad today are faced with Swiss banks cancelling their accounts. Not being able to maintain a banking relationship within Switzerland causes huge problems for many, notably property owners and pension recipients. The OSA strongly believes that this is unfair and discriminatory. To find a solution to this problem is the most important challenge the OSA is facing at present.

Promoting political participation

Over 155,000 Swiss nationals living abroad are registered on the electoral roll, an increase of over 4% compared to 2013. This represents over a quarter of all Swiss Abroad eligible to vote (570,588), or 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. For its part, the OSA actively promotes the political rights of Swiss people living abroad and encourages them to enrol on the electoral register. The OSA is also active in the promotion of «e-voting» – a highly important instrument for Swiss citizens scattered around all four corners of the world. Trials of e-voting and even e-election in some cantons have been very successful. Encouraged by this, the OSA launched a petition calling for the introduction, as quickly as possible, of e-voting and e-election in all cantons for all Swiss including Swiss Abroad. The government had pledged to introduce e-voting for the entire expatriate community by the time parliamentary elections are due in 2015. The OSA regrets very much that this target has now been downgraded, due to e-security issues. The revised expectation is that only half the cantons will be ready to offer e-voting to registered Swiss Abroad by 2015. In 2004 the OSA formed the

Parliamentary Group «Swiss Abroad» specifically to deal with political issues concerning the Fifth Switzerland. The Group is made up of 111 members of both houses of parliament – National Council and Council of States – and from many political parties. The group meets twice a year to deal with a wide spectrum of issues.

4. ADVISING

Providing free advice to Swiss living abroad as well as to Swiss citizens

Swiss Society of New Zealand Incorporated

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2015

Income	31-Mar-15
Subscriptions	14,580
Advertising	2,249
Interest/donations	132
Competitions subscriptions - Medals	3,004
	19,965
 Expenditure	
Helvetia - Printing	6,771
Packing/Postage	4,382
Publishing	2,160
Stationery/Administration	1,022
Competitions - Medals	3,302
Website costs	902
Bad debts	200
	18,739
 Net profit for the year	 1,226

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2015

Current Assets	
Cash at bank	3,523
Savings accounts and term deposits	65,619
Accounts receivable	1,113
Total current assets	70,255
 Current liabilities	
Subscriptions in advance	-
 Net Assets	 70,255
 Represented by:	
Members funds	
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	69,029
Add profit for the year	1,226
Accumulated funds at end of year	70,255

Auckland May 2015
Carmen Fitzi-Gordon - Treasurer

wishing to emigrate or return to Switzerland.

With its administration team of around 20 staff, the OSA Secretariat in Bern is a modern service centre with a wide variety of specialised services available to all Swiss expatriates: Information, details and advice on legal questions, social security and health insurance, military service, study grants and training matters as well as holiday camps, sports activities and numerous other offers for young Swiss Abroad. The «Legal Department» has been set-up to advise Swiss citizens living abroad

on general legal questions concerning Swiss law. It deals in particular with social security insurance matters and informs those considering emigrating or returning to Switzerland on their rights and obligations.

«We are here to support you and represent your interests as a Swiss citizen living abroad. We encourage you to participate and share with us your issues and concerns»

Peter Ehrler

Elected Council Member of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand.