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## OSA Report

### Swiss Foreign Affairs Committee to Visit New Zealand

A Delegation of six Members of the Swiss Foreign Affairs Committee (Aussenpolitische Kommission APK) of the Swiss Council of States (Ständerat) will be visiting New Zealand sometime in April. The Delegation is headed by this year's president Filippo Lombardi (CVP/TI). The Agenda will hopefully include Section 70 and the unfair deduction of the Swiss Pension.

This visit has come about because of our vigorous, unrelenting protest over the past few years. Last August at a private function I also had the opportunity to talk to Filippo Lombardi and encouraged him, then vice president of the Commission, to visit New Zealand with a delegation when President in 2018. At that time no one knew, and could have foreseen how heavy and fierce the discussions in both Swiss parliamentary Chambers (NR and SR) in September and December 2017 would turn out to be concerning New Zealand and Section 70.

As this is an official Governmental Delegation, the Embassy headed by our Ambassador Dr David Vogelsanger will be leading the Delegation here in New Zealand. I am convinced that without the Ambassador's continuous persistent pushing at the diplomatic level this visit would not have evolved at such short notice. The last visit by members of the Foreign Affairs Committee was about 24 years ago.

With the new New Zealand Government in place (growing by the day as we now know!!!), I hope that the doors on New Zealand's side will be open for constructive negotiations.

Peter Ehrler

*Elected Member of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand*

### ...want to tell your AHV/NZS story?

Looking for persons affected by this unjust system

I am looking for Swiss living in New Zealand who are affected by Section 70 and by this unjust system. Also people whose partner's pension is also reduced/deducted because they simply married the wrong person.

Over the last four years I have made many interesting connections in conjunction with the Section 70 issue. One of the most active and in my opinion the most competent person when it comes to Section 70 is Sissi Stein-Abel. She is German born and a European accredited journalist. She came to NZ in 2004 and lives in Lyttelton. She writes for dozens of European newspapers including the St.Galler Tagblatt and Luzerner Zeitung amongst others.

Her biography can be found under: <http://www.sissistein.com>

Sissi also has an elaborate and detailed webpage, in my opinion the best and most detailed concerning Section 70 and the unjust pension system in NZ. Very interesting to go through it. However it will take you more than a week. It not only covers the Germans but also the Swiss and other nationalities affected.

Her webpage can be found under: [www.nzpensionprotest.com](http://www.nzpensionprotest.com)

Sissi is interested in placing a few articles in Swiss Newspapers concerning this issue to assist us in our campaign to make politicians and people aware of this sensitive and unjust problem. She has approached me to help her out.

The Swiss Society of New Zealand invites all members and friends to attend the

### 2018 Annual General Meeting

To be held on Sunday 3rd June at 2pm at the Taranaki Swiss Clubhouse, Kaponga

#### Agenda

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Scrutineers
4. Minutes of the previous AGM, held on Sunday 4th June 2017 in Hamilton
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Obituaries
7. President's Report and matters arising
8. Editor's Report and matters arising
9. Treasurer's Report and matters arising
10. Riflemaster's Report and matters arising
11. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and matters arising
12. Setting of Subscriptions 2019/20
13. Election of Officers
14. Club Reports
15. Review of constitution (see changes on Swiss Society website)
16. General Business
17. Date and Venue for Society AGM 2019
18. Meeting Closure

refer to pages 6-7 for AGM 2017 minutes

#### Correction Life story Joe Kennel, published in the February Helvetia:

1) Joe was not the first born, he was the first born when they moved to Immensee.

2) It was not 1300 acres of land but 120-130 acres.

As editor of Helvetia I unreservedly apologise to the readers and family of J Kennel for 2 mistakes that were made during the publication of Joe Kennel's story. My apologies for any stress this may have caused the family and you the readers.

#### Dear Readers... do you have one of these?

We have had some problems with last issue: the stitching and placement of articles was a bit topsy turvy in some issues. If your's was one of these please let us know. We do have some reprints that are correct if you wish to have a replacement one let us know.

Heidi Wehrle ( Editor )

She is looking for people who are willing to tell their story and have nothing against having their photo taken. She is top serious and very trustworthy.

If you are interested, please get in contact with Sissi, or you can contact me if you wish more details before committing yourself.

Her Email is: [sissi@sissistein.com](mailto:sissi@sissistein.com)

Many thanks

Peter Ehrler (Peter.Ehler@swissonline.ch)

*Elected Member of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand*