

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1972)
Heft: 1646

Artikel: Land use planning in Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687841>

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: 14.01.2026

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

abroad (3450 million francs) and Services (2310 million francs—these include licensing rights, the expenditure of international organisations, banking commissions etc).

Switzerland is in seventh position for tourism, whose income amounts to 700 francs per inhabitant. Despite these satisfactory figures, general trends have reflected the slow-down in the world economy.

Sulzer landmark

On 11th August, Sulzer Brothers of Winterthur had been producing diesel motors for exactly 75 years. Sulzer Brothers, who were close friends of Rudolf Diesel, constructed their first experimental diesel engine in 1897. It had 20 horsepowers. Today, Sulzer controls through its licenses a third of world production of marine diesel

motors. Its most powerful models have 105cm-bore cylinders developing 4000 each, so that the largest engines develop 50,000 horsepowers. Sulzers of Winterthur have built over 3000 engines during these 75 years.

Swiss banks take a stake in a European Business

The Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland have taken a share and a seat on the Board of the Belgium firm Euro-clear, a kind of securities clearing house holding shares dealt in throughout Europe, the USA and Japan on behalf of clients. The system saves about two-thirds of the cost incurred by the physical transfer of securities from buyer to customer. This firm was hitherto controlled by the American bank Morgan Guaranty Trust.

commissioned by the "Bundesrat" to develop guiding principles ("Leitbilder") as a basis for political decisions, has presented its findings to the Federal Delegation for Land Use Planning (Delegation des Bundesrates für Raumplanung), consisting of Federal Councillors Furgler, Tschudi and Brugger.

The crux of the matter is the delicate balance the legislation has to strike between compulsory federal planning and zoning and guarantee of the property rights of the individual, with the Cantons, implementing the federal rules, somewhere in the middle. According to the proposed legislation, the Confederation will have the right to expropriate land with compensation and to channel possible excess profits into a land use planning fund.

In order to facilitate the task of the Cantons, the Federal Council has appointed a *Delegate for Land Use Planning*, who works directly under the head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, Federal Councillor Furgler. The Delegate is Professor Martin Rotach, former Director of ORL.

The foremost project of the Delegate will be to assist the Cantons in the provisional selection of the protected areas and to enforce the federal decisions where needed. The Delegate will co-ordinate federal and cantonal planning as well as co-operating with other countries. The Delegate's drive is three-pronged: establish the foundations, execute and co-ordinate decisions and provide information and training.

The Advisory Committee, presided by National Councillor Kurt Kim, a kind of "political bodyguard for the Delegate," acts as liaison between the Confederation and the Cantons. The Committee has the delicate task to create an atmosphere of trust and to guarantee the unity of doctrine in land use planning.

(Bulletin of Swiss Embassy in Washington.)

LAND USE PLANNING IN SWITZERLAND - THE MAKING OF A NEW LAW

The man-land ratio of Switzerland is small. The land area is 41,400 km², which means less than 7,000 m² per head of the population, compared to the corresponding figure for the U.S.: 45,000 m², or for Europe, 11,000 m². And the available land area is even smaller, considering that one quarter is forest, one quarter glacier, rock and lake.

In an article for the U.S. publication "State Government", Dr. J. von Ah, Deputy Director for the Development of Agricultural Research at the Swiss Department of Agriculture, has set forth the basic problems in land-use planning.

"With increasing population and growing prosperity, the demand on space which cannot be increased—land, water and air—rises over-proportionately. Today, about 2-3% of the land area of Switzerland is occupied by houses, factories, ways of communication and so forth. The demand for surface per inhabitant may average about 180 m²; this is equal to about 1,100 km² for a population of 6¼ million. In the U.S. the demand for surface per inhabitant attains already 700 to 800 m². Assuming that the development in Switzerland will go in the same direction, more than 5,000 km² would be required for settling purposes by the year 2000." The growing demand for land is largely due to scattered settlement and a mushrooming private traffic. By rational town and country planning and an appropriate trans-

portation system, the land requirement per capita could possibly be limited to 230-280 m² within one generation."

In the November 1970 (page 20) and July 1971 (page 18) issues of the Bulletin, the constitutional basis for the land-use planning Law of September 1969, articles 22ter and 22quater of the Federal Constitution and subsequent developments were discussed.

Article 22ter guarantees property rights and full compensation in case of expropriation. Article 22quater is limited to basic principles and defines the duty of the Confederation as follows: "... auf dem Wege der Gesetzgebung Grundsätze für die Raumplanung aufzustellen sowie die praktischen Massnahmen in diesem Bereich zu fördern und zu koordinieren". In June, the Federal Council presented in a Message to the Parliament the draft of the Federal Law, which would provide the necessary enforcement power. The plans will be drawn up by the Cantons and will serve as guidelines to settlement, infrastructure, communications, etc. The deadline is seven years hence. And since that is too long, the Federal Council has taken steps to preserve the status quo in an urgent decision ("dringlicher Bundesbeschluss", 17.3.72). The decision sets aside protected areas on a provisional basis which will have to be outlined by the Cantons by February 1973 at the latest.

In April of this year, the "Institut für Orts-, Regional- und Landesplanung" (ORL), which had been

SWISS SPECIALITIES

SAUSAGES

CHEESE

CHOCOLATES

HERO CONSERVES

BISCUITS

ROCO CONSERVES

go to

BARTHOLDI'S

Charlotte Street, London W14

Telephone: MUS (636) 3762/3

ALSO FIRSTCLASS MEAT