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Official Communications

The new 10-franc banknote

Format 137 mm x 66 mm



The 10-franc banknote with the portrait of Gottfried Keller, designed by Eidenbenz and put into circulation on 1st October 1956, will be the last of the old series to be replaced. The **new** note has as its subject Leonhard Euler, the famous mathematician, physicist and astronomer, who lived from 1707 to 1783.

Euler, a son of the pastor of St Jakob's, was born in Basle on 15th April 1707. Shortly afterwards his father was transferred to Riehen, near Basle, where Euler spent his early youth. At the age of 13 he entered Basle University where he studied, first, philosophy and subsequently, in accordance with his father's wishes, theology. As a result of his association with the Bernoulli family, however, he soon turned to mathematics. When barely 20 he joined his friend Daniel Bernoulli at the newly founded Academy of St Petersburg (now Leningrad). He was appointed Professor of Physics there in 1730 and three years later became Professor of Mathematics. In 1741, at the invitation of Frederick the Great, Euler moved to the Prussian Academy of Sciences in Berlin, where he stayed for 25 years before returning to St Petersburg in 1766 in response to a summons from Catherine II. He died there in 1783.

A man of exceptional intellect, Euler was the author of some 900 treatises on pure and applied mathematics, physics, technology and astronomy, more than half of which were written after 1766, when he went blind.

The main theme on the **front** of the note is Euler's portrait, brick red in gravure printing. On its left, also in gravure, one of his inventions is evoked by a representation, in section, of a cogwheel. The polychrome ground in offset is composed of diagrams with which Euler demonstrated problems of logic. The predominant colour on the front is a reddish brown.

The three motifs on the **reverse** of the 10-franc note remind us of Euler's contributions to hydrodynamics, optics and astronomy. One of these, printed in offset, was inspired by a hydraulic turbine designed by Euler. It consists of a fixed cylinder from which water flows down through curved pipes into a movable part, causing it to rotate, and then runs away through other curved pipes at the bottom. This invention did not become a technical possibility until long after Euler's death.

His important work in the field of optics is symbolized by a diagram in gravure showing rays of light passing through a series of lenses and taken from his treatise entitled «Research aimed at perfecting spectacles». A diagram of our solar system recalls Euler's contribution to astronomy. His lunar theory made it possible to produce better tables of the moon's movements – very useful in navigation. This motif, printed in offset, forms the centre of a network of polychrome wavy lines. The predominant colour on the back is an orange brown.

Format 137 mm x 66 mm

For the Swiss National Bank the issue of this last note brings to an end some ten years' work, from the planning and design to the printing, issue and exchange of the banknote series. On the whole, the new series appears to be successful from the point of view of format, design, security and the ease with which it can be distinguished from foreign banknotes. Most of the old notes, incidentally, have already been exchanged and withdrawn from circulation.

With regard to the **validity of the old banknotes**, Article 24 of the revised National Bank Act, which came into force on 1st August 1979, contains the following provisions:

«With the approval of the Federal Council, the National Bank can call in notes, types and series of notes.

«The public cash offices of the Confederation are obliged to accept in payment recalled notes, at their nominal value, for six months from the date on which the recall is first announced.

«The National Bank is obliged to exchange recalled notes at their nominal value for 20 years from the date on which the recall is first announced.

«The equivalent value of notes not presented for exchange before the expiry of this time-limit shall be paid into the Swiss Fund for Aid in Cases of Uninsurable Damage Caused by the Elements.»

If the old notes are recalled in 1980, for example, the National Bank will be obliged to exchange them during the following 20 years, that is to say, until the year 2000.



Official Communications

Leaflet on the voluntary OAI/DI scheme for Swiss citizens resident abroad

Generalities

1 Swiss citizens resident abroad have, under the conditions following below, an opportunity to join the voluntary old-age, survivors and disability insurance scheme. Swiss citizens who are leaving Switzerland and therefore cease to be insured under the compulsory insurance system can also join the voluntary insurance scheme. By this they can avoid that they themselves and possible surviving dependants receive, at the occurrence of the event insured against, pensions that are only calculated on the basis of the contribution periods completed in Switzerland and the contribution amounts paid there (partial pensions). **The non-payment of contributions, even for only one year, generally entails a reduction of the pension.** Furthermore, they continue to be protected under the disability insurance scheme, which will not be the case if they do not join the voluntary insurance scheme.

The calculation rules for contributions and benefits are fundamentally the same in the voluntary and the compulsory insurance scheme. Therefore, Swiss citizens resident abroad cannot fix themselves the contribution amounts to be paid.

Membership

2 Swiss citizens abroad who wish to join the voluntary insurance scheme should send their application **on a special form** (2 copies) to the Swiss representation abroad (Embassy, Consulate-General or Consulate) where they are registered. The admission form is delivered free of charge by the nearest Swiss representation. Membership is as a rule open to all Swiss, men and women, resident abroad; married women, however, may enter the voluntary insurance scheme independently only by way of exception (see e.g. Nos. 5, 6 and 8 below). As soon as a Swiss living abroad is voluntary insured, he is considered to be insured under both the old-age and survivors insurance scheme and the disability insurance scheme, as regards the pensions and benefits mentioned under Nos. 15-25.

3 The Swiss citizen resident abroad must fill in an application for voluntary insurance at the latest **within one year from the completion of his 50th year of age.**

He may however, insure voluntarily **even after that age-limit** provided a man is not over 64, or a woman not over 61) in the following cases:

4 - A person who has hitherto been compulsorily insured under the Swiss old-age, survivors and disability insurance scheme may insure voluntarily at the latest **one year after leaving compulsory insurance.**

5 - Swiss women resident abroad who were voluntarily or compulsorily insured immediately before their marriage may (provided their Swiss husband is not insured as yet) continue the insurance voluntarily, if they fill in application **within one year from their marriage.**

6 - The right to admission is, irrespective of the age, also granted to married women whose Swiss husband is not voluntarily insured, so far as they live separately from him for at least one year without interruption and inasmuch as a taking up of the marital community is in all probability not to be expected. Married women who have reached the age of 50 must fill in application within one year from the time when the separation lasted a whole year.

7 Widows and divorced women whose Swiss husband was not insured may insure voluntarily **within one year from the time when they became a widow or were divorced.**

8 - A person who has become a Swiss citizen by official decree under the federal act on the acquisition and loss of the Swiss citizenship may announce his intention of entering the voluntary insurance scheme **within one year from the formal decision about the Swiss citizenship.**

The right to join the voluntary old-age, survivors and disability insurance scheme expires when the above mentioned time-limits have elapsed!

Contributions

9 Insured persons in employment pay 8.8 percent of their aggregate income as contribution, as long as they cannot claim an old-age pension. If their income amounts to less than 26400 Swiss francs per annum, the rate is reduced according to a decreasing scale to a minimum of 4.7 percent.

in force on 1st January 1980

10 Non-employed persons pay an annual contribution ranging from 188 to 9400 Swiss francs according to their capital and pension-income. The same applies to insured non-employed wives whose husband is not insured: maintenance benefits remitted by the husband are added to the wife's pension-income. However, wives of insured husbands as well as widows are not required to pay any contributions as long as they are not gainfully employed.

Insured persons who are not permanently in full-time lucrative employment are considered as persons without employment if they have not paid from their gainful employment 188 or more Swiss francs per annum. The contributions vary according to the fortune and the pension-income. On demand the contributions from earned income may be added to those owed by the insured person as a non-employed person.

11 Contributions must be paid either in Swiss francs to the Swiss compensation office in Geneva or in foreign currency to the competent Swiss representation, if this representation can transfer them to Switzerland.

12 If contributions are not paid when due, this may result in **levying of interest on arrears.**

Withdrawal and exclusion

13 Insured persons may at any time **withdraw** from the voluntary insurance scheme. Withdrawal will, however, become effective only at the end of the current calendar year. Insured married men need their wife's written consent. The official withdrawal form is delivered by the Swiss compensation office or by the competent Swiss representation. Insured persons are considered to be **excluded** from the voluntary insurance

Federal Ballots

If you wish to participate in a federal election or other federal ballot *in Switzerland*, apply to your Swiss Embassy or Consulate, either in writing or in person. You need only apply once; your application will remain valid for as long as you do not take up residence in Switzerland.

It would be a good idea to apply today.

Federal Ballots in 1980

2nd March	28th September
8th June	30th November

Official Communications

scheme if they fail to pay the full annual contribution within three years from the end of the calendar year in which this contribution has become legally binding by a formal decision.

14 In case of withdrawal or exclusion, the Swiss citizen resident abroad can no longer claim disability benefits owing to contributions paid under the voluntary insurance scheme, but he remains on the other hand still entitled to an old-age and survivors pension according to these contributions.

Old-age and survivors pensions

15 Entitlement to a **single old-age pension** begins for women after the completion of their 62nd year of age and for men after the completion of their 65th year of age. Married men who have reached 65 years of age receive a **married couple's old-age pension**, provided their wife was born before December 1st 1918 (Transitional regulation for pensions beginning in the years 1979 and 1980), or if she has completed her 62nd year of age, or is at least 50 percent disabled. The married woman can claim half of the married couple's pension for herself. If the wife is younger and not disabled, her husband is entitled to a **supplementary pension for his wife**, provided she was born before December 1st 1933 (Transitional regulation for pensions beginning in the years 1979 until 1988 or has completed her 55th year of age. If the wife reaches the pensionable age before her husband, she is entitled to an individual pension only if she has personally paid contributions. Moreover, beneficiaries of an old-age pension may possibly be entitled to **pensions for their children** (generally up to their 18th year of age; for children staying in training at the latest up to their 25th year of age).

In all cases the right to a pension for children lapses in the event of their marriage.

16 The insured person's death entitles the widow and the orphans to **survivors pensions**. Childless widows aged less than 45 years or who, if older, have not been married for at least five years are paid a lump sum instead of a widow's pension.

17 The insured person is entitled to an old-age and survivors pension if he has paid contributions for at least one whole year. Pensions are calculated on the basis of the annual average of the aggregate income according to which the insured person has paid his contributions, and in virtue of the relation of his full contribution years to those of his age group.

18 **If contributions have been paid during the full period**, i.e. if the person

voluntarily insured has the same number of determining contribution years as the compulsorily insured persons of his age group in Switzerland, the ordinary single old-age pensions amount to at least 550 and at most 1100 Swiss francs per month, and the married couple's pensions to at least 825 and at most 1650 Swiss francs per month. The widow's pensions amount to 80 per cent, the children's and the orphans' pensions as a rule to 40 per cent, the supplementary pensions for married women to 30 per cent of the corresponding single old-age pension.

19 **If contributions have not been paid during the full period**, i.e. if the insured person has less determining contribution years than the persons of his age group, the pension is **reduced** proportionally.

20 Provided the contributions have been paid during the full period, the receipt of an ordinary old-age pension can, under certain circumstances and on application of the claimant, be deferred by at least one and at most five years. Thereby the pension is increased accordingly.

Benefits granted under the disability insurance scheme

21 All voluntarily insured persons are, in virtue of the law, also insured against the sequels of disability. The insurance comprises in particular the following benefits:

Rehabilitation measures

22 Rehabilitation measures are as a rule only granted in Switzerland. By way of exception, they are carried out abroad, if the personal circumstances of the insured person justify this practice, and if rehabilitation measures are very likely to result in gainful employment. Under certain circumstances appliances are granted irrespective of the capability of earning a living.

The children of Swiss citizens resident abroad are also entitled to such measures as long as they stay in Switzerland. In the event that at the occurrence of disability either the father or the mother is insured, rehabilitation measures are exceptionally also carried out abroad, if justified so by the personal circumstances and the prospect for success.

Disability pensions

23 An insured person who has paid contributions for at least one year is entitled to an **ordinary disability pension** if he is at least 50 per cent (in case of hardship at least one third) disabled. **The disabled wife of a voluntarily insured husband is therefore granted a pension only if she has ever personally paid contribu-**

tions for at least one whole year. If the degree of disability is at least two thirds, the full pension is granted, otherwise the half pension only.

24 These pensions are paid as **single disability pensions** (possibly together with a supplementary pension for the wife and children's pensions) or as **married couple's disability pensions** (possibly together with a double children's pensions). The calculation rules are fundamentally the same for the disability pensions and the old-age and survivors pensions.

Assistance benefits of the old-age, survivors and disability insurance scheme

25 If the event insured against (old age, death or disability) occurs before a Swiss citizen resident abroad, who insured in due time, could accomplish the basic condition of having paid contributions for at least one whole year in order to claim an ordinary old-age or disability pension, or if the insured person is helpless, **assistance benefits can be granted if need be**. Young disabled persons are entitled to such benefits only if they have entered the scheme at the latest on completion of their 21st year of age.

The organs mentioned under No. 27 below will inform, on application, in a more detailed way about the requirements towards the granting of benefits, especially also on the income-limits.

Relation to foreign social insurance schemes

26 Membership of the Swiss voluntary insurance scheme does not, usually, entail exemption from a compulsory foreign social insurance scheme. Information on claims for benefits granted by such an insurance agency is given by the competent foreign insurance authorities. If the insured event takes place after the person has returned to Switzerland, information is also given by the Swiss Compensation Office.

27 **Swiss Embassies, Consulates-General and Consulates as well as the Swiss Compensation Office, rue Rothschild 15, CH-1211 Geneva 14, will on request give further information and supply the necessary forms.**

Important: In all correspondence it is essential to mention the Code Number of the insured person indicated on the Insurance-Card.

28 This leaflet only gives a general survey. For any specific case only the legal regulations are applicable.