**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:** - (1980)

**Heft:** 1770

### **Inhaltsverzeichnis**

## 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: 28.11.2025** 

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

# **QUARTERLY REVIEW**

## **Contents**

(AHV/IV or AVS/AI) and	
the Rates of Exchange	20
Association Joseph Bovet	23
Book Reviews 23, 24,	34
Official Communications:	
<ul> <li>Swiss National Bank</li> </ul>	25
<ul> <li>Sickness insurance for Swiss returning home</li> </ul>	26
<ul> <li>Agreement between Switzerland and Austria on collaboration in the consular field</li> </ul>	26
<ul><li>Swiss mother – foreign child?</li></ul>	27
<ul> <li>Federal Office for Industry, Crafts and Labour (BIGA)</li> </ul>	27
Drawing competition 28	-32
Solidarity Fund	33
Skiing Camp 1980/81	33
Switzerland's Medals at the recent Olympic Games in Moscow	34

# The Voluntary OAI/DI (AHV/IV or AVS/AI) for Swiss Abroad and the Rates of Exchange

The decisions taken in USA in August 1971 regarding the Dollar influenced the rate of exchange of many countries, and more especially the Dollar itself. The latter has continually weakened against the Swiss Franc. This was not without effect on the voluntary insurance for the Swiss abroad. For this reason, the regulations by the Federal Council regarding the old-age, voluntary survivors and disability insurance for Swiss abroad were adjusted for 1st January 1976. Fluctuations in the exchange rates have favourable or unfavourable consequences. And this can be to the advantage or the detriment of the insured. As opposed to disadvantages which have arisen to some contributors, the fluctuations in the exchange rates on the whole have been to the advantage of recipients of benefits. The pensions are calculated in Swiss Francs and are generally paid out at the same rate of exchange which applies to contributions. In some countries, pensions could thus be higher when converted into local cur-

Talking of exchange rates, one must also mention that a number of countries prohibit the transfer of money to Switzerland, and thus OAI contributions collected in these countries cannot be transferred to Switzerland, Under such circumstances, contributions may not be collected. The abovementioned regulations of the Federal Council cover such cases inasmuch as they grant a respite until the moment the prohibition of transfer is lifted. The regulations regarding prescriptive rights remain reserved, however. The interests of insured Swiss abroad are affected particularly in countries where such prohibition has been operated for some time and where there is not much chance of it being lifted in the near future. Insured Swiss who reside in countries with prohibition of transfer and wish to have information regarding the possibility of contributing, should apply to the local Swiss Embassy or Consulate.

## I. General regulations regarding exchange rates

For all Swiss citizens abroad who are insured on a voluntary basis, contributions are always calculated in Swiss Francs, without regard to the currency in which they get their income. The pensions and benefits, too, are worked out in Swiss Francs. This ruling facilitates the workings of the insurance scheme without prejudice to the insured.

The rate of exchange operating for the calculation of contributions based on income and assets is fixed by the Swiss Compensation Office (executive organ of the optional insurance scheme) in Geneva in cooperation with the Swiss National Bank. The rate of exchange on 1st January of the first year of the two-year period of contributing for which contributions are fixed and owed, determines the amount. Thus all insured persons are treated alike.

Basically, contributory payments are made at the same rate. This is a kind of «administrative» exchange rate which does not correspond to the rate of the day; this method is designed to prevent insecurity which might influence exchange rates in times of instability on the exchange market. Thus, for instance, contributions which were