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Result of the Plebiscite «Equal Rights for Men and Women» / Citizenship Campaign

On 14th June 1981, the Swiss people accepted a counter proposal by the Federal Council to the Initiative «Equal Rights for Men and Women». The 800 000 to 525 000 yes votes were a clear acceptance of the counter proposal which had been supported by all important political groups as well as by the initiators of the Popular Initiative. With this, the basic principle of equal rights for both sexes will be anchored in the Constitution. Although acceptance of this Constitutional Article will not result in any revolutionary changes, a further step has been taken towards acknowledging the changed position of women in society and state.

For us Swiss resident abroad, the

reform is of additional importance. We have repeatedly drawn attention to the citizenship campaign by which children born to Swiss women married to foreigners and living abroad should enjoy equal rights with such children born in Switzerland. Although basically the discrimination is not between the sexes, but between Swiss women living abroad and those at home, the result of the plebiscite should nevertheless have a positive effect, for the clear yes by the Swiss electorate to the proposal for «equal rights for men and women» seems to indicate a will to do away with the still existing discrimination of children born to Swiss women living abroad.



The Organisation of Swiss Residents Abroad and the draft of a new federal law on the acquisition of real estate by people resident abroad

The federal authorities have for some time now been considering a new law on the acquisition of real estate by people resident abroad. The present decree will expire at the end of 1982. The Organisation of Swiss Residents Abroad declared itself in favour of the draft during the consultative procedure. For reasons of constitutional law, the

term «**Auslandschweizer**» is not used in the draft. Since the text provides that persons who have the right to settle in Switzerland do not come under the new regulations, Swiss residents abroad are excluded **a priori**. The Organisation therefore sees no reason why it should oppose the draft.



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