

Dialogue

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Revised Nationality Law

What a disappointment!

The new issue of the "Swiss Review" was eagerly anticipated by me, as it would give information on the revised Nationality Law. What a disappointment. For foreign spouses indeed! What about the children of Swiss mothers who were left in the cold because they were born a fraction too early?

My younger daughter, born in 1953, was eligible, but not the older one (with one son), born in 1951. In this way, a family has been split apart, with future implications of different inheritance-tax laws, etc. regarding my family property in Switzerland.

The pettiness of this law is a matter of great distress to us all, and I should like to hear from others in the same position.

A. Kabat-Meyer, London

In 1985 Swiss legislation was changed to allow nationality to be transmitted automatically to all children born of Swiss mothers, and at this time a decision

had to be made about the extent to which children born of a Swiss mother and a non-Swiss father before the entry into force of the new legislation should be allowed to benefit from it. The majority of European countries which have recently revised their nationality laws in the same sense met this situation by allowing children below the age of majority to acquire the nationality of the mother. The Swiss government originally intended to follow this precedent, but after considerable debate parliament decided to go well beyond the intention of the government and to allow all children born of Swiss mothers on or after January 1, 1953, to acquire Swiss nationality automatically, i.e. all those up to the age of 32. January 1, 1953, was chosen because this was the date on which Swiss women marrying non-Swiss men were originally permitted to keep their nationality.

**Federal Office of Police
Nationality Division**

For scholarships, canton of origin

Our son would like to study at the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. He is 17 and studying for the

French D-maturity (maths and natural sciences). He has double nationality, Swiss and French.

We would like to know whether and in what conditions he could apply for a scholarship. The Swiss embassy in Paris has given us your address.

M.B. (France)

The canton of origin is responsible for providing scholarships for recognised educational and training schemes. An application for a scholarship can be made only when the young Swiss Abroad has registered at a school or university or has started vocational training. In each case the amount of the cantonal scholarship depends on the income and capital of the parents. Forms can be obtained either from AJAS or from the cantonal scholarship agency. AJAS, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Bern 16, will be glad to provide you with further information.

This new "Dialogue" section belongs to you our readers. In every second issue we shall be publishing letters and answering some of the many questions we are asked. The editors will select letters for publication and may abridge them. The shorter the letter, the more likely it is to be published.

Some like it – some don't

It is unfortunately true that people tend to complain rather than praise, and good things are often taken for granted. With this rather depressing habit in mind, I would like to thank you and all your team for the new design of the Swiss Review. I am delighted with it. In the last 17 years the main political issues have always seemed to me to have been treated rather too cursorily, but this time I was very pleased indeed with the improved content and the political subjects chosen. I read everything with great interest.

■ **Suzanne Stummvoll, Traiskirchen,
Austria**

I am sorry to break down the door of your editorial salon – which is certainly very respectable. But I think the 300,000 or so readers of the Swiss Review expected something more after being told at the beginning of the year about the innovations coming up. Let me be a bit more precise: "up-to-date design" surely refers more to form than to content. And I would like to say that there must be dozens of layout experts in Switzerland who could have done something better and more contemporary than this. Some of them are at present unemployed even... The layout of the new Swiss Review is hanging around somewhere back in the 1970s. And when I received it on June 30, the whole content of your May number seemed hopelessly "passé".

■ **Peter Achermann, Lagos, Portugal**

Thanks for the SSA

I'm one of those "Swiss Abroad" who did the Recruit School in summer '91. Now nearly one year later, I send you this postcard to thank you for one small detail. I only received two packets during RS, and both were from your organisation.

■ **I. Soler** ■



Choosing a profession – a difficult decision. (Archive Collection)