

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 19 (1992)  
**Heft:** 6

**Rubrik:** SSA news

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Council for the Swiss Abroad

# AJAS is thirty years old

The Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad (AJAS is the German acronym) was set up in 1962 to help young Swiss Abroad to take advantage of vocational training schemes in Switzerland. The foundations "Swiss Aid" and "Pro Juventute", together with the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, were the original sponsors.

The main functions of AJAS are to provide information and advice before and during the training period in Switzerland, and where possible to make arrangements for financial help. In the 1980s harmonisation of student grants at the national level led "Pro Juventute" to close its scholarship office, as also its link with AJAS.

In 1989 AJAS became part of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne. The very large number of applications dealt with today shows that AJAS has become a household word amongst Swiss Abroad. Huguette Déchanèz and Eveline Hartung are responsible for AJAS within the Secretariat, and in this thirtieth anniversary year of the Association they cannot complain of too little work.

RL

Additional information is available at:

AJAS  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Berne 16

## New elections to the Swiss Abroad lobby

The Council represents the interests of the Swiss Abroad at home. It expresses the needs and desires of the Fifth Switzerland. Elections are now due.

The Council meets twice a year in Switzerland to discuss current business. The voluntary pension scheme, Europe and political information of the Swiss Abroad are at present the most important subjects. The Council also sets up working groups to examine current problems in depth.

### Important link

The Council is recognised by the Swiss authorities as representing the Swiss Abroad. It has been described as "the Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland" and is the main link between Switzerland and its citizens abroad.

Until 1989 the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad

was part of the New Helvetic Society, but in that year it was set up as an independent foundation. At the same time the Council took the place of the Society's Commission for the Swiss Abroad as the new Organisation's executive.

### You too can be involved!

Swiss communities abroad are represented in the Organisation according to their numbers. All Swiss Abroad can take part in elections to the Council through recognised Swiss associations and other Swiss institutions.

The Council for the Swiss Abroad first met in 1989. Its members were elected for

### The insurance scheme stays

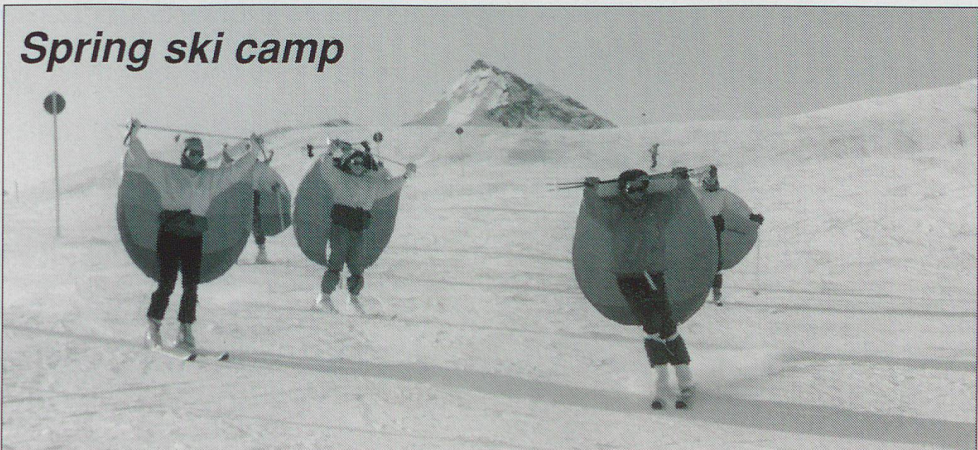
The voluntary pension and disability insurance scheme is one of the main achievements of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad. Had Switzerland entered the EEA, the Federal Council wanted the scheme to die a natural death. But your Organisation spoke very plainly to the ministers responsible and to parliamentarians and persuaded them to maintain the scheme with modifications.

Now, however, the EEA Treaty has been rejected, and the voluntary pension scheme remains exactly as it was before. (See also Official News).

four years, and their period of office runs out in June 1993. New elections will take place at the annual meetings of Swiss associations and umbrella organisations. Find out about your Organisation through the local association. You too can become involved!

RL

### Spring ski camp



Ten days of fun in the snow with young people from all over the world. The SSA is offering this and more at its ski camp at Grimontz in April 1993. Snowboarding, swimming, badminton, etc. will lend variety to the programme.

**Date/Place:** April 6-15, 1993 - Hotel Le Bouquetin, Grimontz, Canton Valais.

**Price:** About Sfr. 620.-, including ski hire and ski pass.

**Organiser:** Edith Locher, SSA Youth Monitor.

**Conditions:** Age 15-25. Mother or father must be a Swiss citizen.

**Registration:** Before February 20, 1993, with: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne.

**Caution:** The camp is restricted to the first 60 applicants!