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1998 Swiss Abroad statistics

A further increase of 2%

The number of Swiss citizens registered at Swiss embassies and consulates rose to 562,813 at the end of June 1998. This amounts to an increase of 10,520, or 1.9% as against the end of June 1997 (552,293).

Of registered Swiss Abroad 391,056 are dual nationals (69.5%). 333,726 (or 59.3%) of our compatriots abroad live in the states of the European Union. 67,293 (previous year 65,123) persons (without the Principality of Liechtenstein) have registered at Swiss diplomatic posts for the exercise of their right to vote. This amounts to 15.8% of the 426,927 registered persons with a potential right to vote.

(66,744) followed closely by the USA (66,176), then Italy (39,418), Canada (34,228), followed by Great Britain (24,208), then Australia (18,439), Spain (17,834), Argentine (14,474), Brazil (12,358) and Austria (11,905). At the other end of the range, we find Turkmenistan, Sao Tome and Principe, the Marshall Islands and Nauru, where at the moment not a single Swiss citizen is resident.

On all continents

346,356 registered Swiss citizens live in Europe, 151,967 in North and South America, 23,908 in Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific, 23,296 in Asia and 17,286 in Africa.

By far the biggest Swiss community is to be found in France, amounting to 145,984 registered persons. Then comes Germany

Unregistered

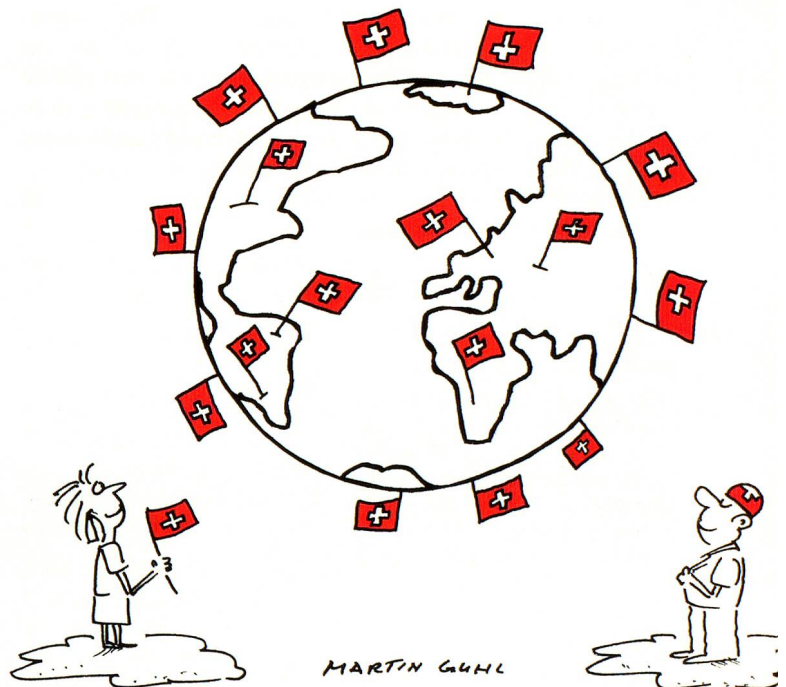
The Swiss Abroad statistics are collected by the Service for the Swiss Abroad at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It is concerned only with Swiss citizens registered at Swiss diplomatic posts abroad (consulates and embassies). Figures for the grey area of unregistered Swiss Abroad are not known. In addition, numerous des-

cendants of Swiss emigrants no longer possess Swiss nationality, but often feel linked with the country of their forefathers and often also foster close relationships. Thus on the occasion of the 1990 national census, over one million US citizens described themselves as of Swiss descent.

home are exactly 50/50. This means that the Fifth Switzerland is overwhelmingly female.

Summary

The so-called Fifth Switzerland is global and many-sided. Measured against the size of our country, it is of



1999 AHV/IV – pension adjustment

According to the normal two year cycle, on January 1st 1999 the benefits of the AHV and IV will be adjusted to wage and price developments in Switzerland. The adjustment will amount to about one per cent. The minimum full pension will be SFr. 1005, the maximum full pension SFr. 2010 a month. Partial pensions will be adjusted accordingly.

The annual increase in costs will amount to about 316 million francs. According to the law, the AHV/IV pensions follow the so-called mixed index, half of which takes account of the consumer price index and half the wage index. In 1997 prices rose by 0.4% and wages by 0.5%. For 1998 an inflation rate of 0.4% and a rise in wages of 0.6% are expected. The last time – on January 1st 1997 – AHV/IV pensions rose by about 2.6%.

NYF

Young and female

Of the 562,813 Swiss citizens abroad, 62% are aged between 18 and 65, 23% are younger than 18, and 15% are older than 65. Among Swiss at home, the proportion of those under 18 is lower by 3%, with that of those over 65 higher by 2%. This means that the Fifth Switzerland is comparatively youthful. But there are also consular districts with a high proportion of pensioners.

Of the number of registered adults, just 40% are men and 60% women. The equivalent proportions at

substantial weight. Few countries have so high a proportion of their nationals living abroad. One out of every eleven holders of a Swiss passport lives outside the country.

This means that the Fifth Switzerland forms the fourth biggest canton after Zurich, Berne and Vaud, and comes just before Aargau. More Swiss live in France alone than live in ten of our cantons and half cantons. And the voting potential of the Fifth Switzerland is higher than that of nine cantons.

NYF



Initiatives in brief

Struggling against traffic jams

A supra-party committee made up mainly of figures from the transport industry, the Freedom Party of Switzerland, the Lega dei Ticinesi and representatives of the centre-right parties has launched a basket of four initiatives with the title: "Struggling against traffic jams".

The first initiative is aimed at gradually extending the A1 motorway between Zurich and Berne to six lanes, with the section between the Härkingen and Wiggertal junctions to be given priority.

The second popular initiative requires the building of a second tunnel at the Gotthard.

The third initiative is in favour of improved links on the A1 between Geneva and Lausanne with an extension to six lanes.

The fourth initiative proposes doing away with the right of appeal at the federal level which associations have relating to area planning, nature and protection of the landscape and environment. The signatories' aim is to prevent important public and private investment projects from being delayed and made more costly.

NYF

Current popular initiatives

The following popular initiatives are still open for signature:

For greater traffic safety inside built-up areas thanks to a maximum speed of 30 km/h, with some exceptions (Roads for all)

(until March 16, 1999)
Automobile Club of Switzerland (ACS), P.O. Box, CH-3000 Berne 2

Work distribution

(until March 16, 1999)
Patricia Staub
P.O. Box 7236, CH-8023 Zurich

Health at a price within reach (health initiative)

(until June 9, 1999)
Swiss Socialist Party (SPS), P.O. Box, CH-3001 Berne

Exemplary hospital wards

(until June 9, 1999)
Kunigunde Grätzer-Karner, P.O. Box 144, CH-8042 Zurich

Six lanes for the A 1 between Zurich and Berne

(until July 13, 1999)
National Councillor Michael E. Dreher, Ränkestrasse 2, CH-8700 Küsnacht

Six lanes for the A 1 between Genève and Lausanne

(until July 13, 1999)
National Councillor Michael E. Dreher, Ränkestrasse 2, CH-8700 Küsnacht

A second motorway tunnel for the Gotthard

(until July 13, 1999)
National Councillor Michael E. Dreher, Ränkestrasse 2, CH-8700 Küsnacht

For the suppression of the right of appeal of associations at federal level

(until July 13, 1999)
National Councillor Michael E. Dreher, Ränkestrasse 2, CH-8700 Küsnacht

For a credible security policy and a Switzerland without an Army

(until September 17th, 1999)
Group for a Switzerland without an army, Nico Lutz, P.O. Box 6348, CH-3001 Berne

Solidarity creates security: for an optional civil service for peace (SPC)

(until September 17th 1999)
Group for a Switzerland without an army, Nico Lutz, P.O. Box 6348, CH-3001 Berne

Moratorium Plus – to prolong the moratorium against the construction of nuclear power stations and limitation of the nuclear risk (Moratorium Plus)

(until October 1st 1999)
Association "Strom ohne Atom", Leo Scherer, P.O. Box 2322, CH-8031 Zurich

WORTH READING

"1798–1998: Two Centuries of Switzerland's Diplomatic Posts Abroad"

This brochure (available in G, F, I and E) introduces the reader to the history of Swiss representation abroad. It includes an annex containing an overview of all Swiss diplomatic missions since 1798.

It can be ordered from: EDMZ, CH-3000 Berne, Fax: + 41 31 992 00 23.

Swiss National Science Foundation

Grants for advanced researchers

In 1999 a competition for grants in this category is to be held once again (see Swiss Revue 4/98). Application forms and further information are available from the Fachstelle für Stipendien des Schweizerischen Nationalfonds (Fellowships Office of the Swiss National Science Foundation), P.O.Box 8232, CH-3001 Berne, Tel: +41 31 308 22 22, Fax:

+ 41 41 301 30 09. Deadline: February 1st 1999.

This applies to all disciplines with the exception of clinical medicine. For this applications should be addressed to the Schweiz. Stiftung für medizinisch-biologische Stipendien (Swiss Foundation for Medical and Biological Grants), c/o F. Hoffman-La Roche AG, Building 52, Room 311, CH-4070 Basle, Fax: + 41 61 688 94 89.

Away from nuclear power – for a turning point in the energy field and for the progressive dismantlement of nuclear power stations (Away from nuclear power)

(until October 1st 1999)
Association "Strom ohne Atom", Leo Scherer, P.O. Box 2322, CH-8031 Zurich

For a sufficient range of vocational training (apprenticeships' initiative)

(until October 28, 1999)
Sarah Müller, Postgasse 21, CH-3001 Berne

For shorter working hours

(until November 11, 1999)
Swiss Trades Union Congress, Monbijoustr. 61, CH-3007 Berne

For a capital gains tax

(until November 11, 1999)
Swiss Trades Union Congress, Monbijoustr. 61, CH-3007 Berne

For freedom of expression and simultaneous lifting of the prohibition on race discrimination

(until November 12, 1999)
Kunigunde Grätzer-Karner, P.O. Box 114, CH-8042 Zurich

The individual sovereignty of citizens (installation, as a supreme judicial body, of a Technical Commission of the Senate of a Swiss Academy

for Technology, Vital Questions and Science)

(until November 12, 1999)
Kunigunde Grätzer-Karner, P.O. Box 114, CH-8042 Zurich

For mother and child – for the protection of the unborn child and aid for his mother in distress

(until December 2, 1999)
Dominik Müggler, P.O. Box, CH-4011 Basle

For a secure income in the event of illness (daily allowance initiative)

(until December 16, 1999)
Swiss Trades Union Congress, P.O. Box 64, CH-3000 Berne 23

Equal rights for handicapped persons

(until February 4, 2000)
Konrad Stoker, ASKIO, Effingerstrasse 55, 3008 Berne

For Switzerland's adhesion to the United Nations (UN)

(until March 3, 2000)
Association for Switzerland's Adhesion to the United Nations (UN), Postfach 734, CH-4003, Basle

For the safe and wholesome provision of medication (Medication Initiative)

(until March 15, 2000)
Swiss Apothecaries Association, Max Brentano, Stationstr. 12, P.O. Box 193, CH-3097 Bern-Liebefeld