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50 years Soliswiss: Swiss security without borders

Soliswiss – The solidarity fund cooperative for Swiss citizens living abroad – is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Visions for the future are more important than looking back at the past: Soliswiss is a unique service provider with high core skills in the areas of asset formation, insurance and protection against political risk. We talked to Soliswiss Director, Dr Felix Bossert.



Mr Bossert, at 50 a person is both dynamic and mature. Where does Soliswiss stand today?

We are feting our 50th anniversary with pride and pleasure and are grateful for all that has been achieved since 1958. Tradition means keeping the fire alive and not praying to the ashes! That wise saying by the Austrian composer Gustav Mahler is a very apt description of our situation today. At the outset, the emphasis was on material solidarity, but today our values are changing to solidarity based on ideas. Swiss citizens abroad are a model of globalisation, plural values and individuality. Our services enable our customers to create conceptual spaces around their personal dreams.

What benefits do you offer your customers?

The benefit varies from person to person: in functional terms, we provide safeguards against personal risks in other countries. On the economic side, we safeguard assets for people whose life is mobile. People who enjoy protection can feel at ease as citizens of the world, keep focused on the essentials in their lives, set about their life adventure in a more relaxed state of mind and feel free to enjoy unfamiliar things abroad.

What products do you offer?

As an independent discussion partner, Soliswiss can do a great deal to find and implement a reasonable security concept. This is made up of international healthcare insurance, life and pension insurance, asset management and protection against political risk. All this from a single source.

Who needs Soliswiss most?

Protection is a fundamental need. A person who is secure can act more boldly. A wide range of people in every situation and phase of life are turning to Soliswiss today: professionals, pensioners – an increasingly numerous group – educators, young globetrotters and travelling romantics.

Which professional categories are your main customers?

Soliswiss does not work in categories. However, there are main groups: managers deployed abroad, public servants and staff of non-governmental organisations; sportspersons, cultural workers abroad and increasingly often pensioners who have moved to another country. They all wish to enjoy the advantages of other countries, but with Swiss security. Their dreams merit protection!

How would you summarise the services of Soliswiss in a single sentence?

Swiss citizens abroad take bold ventures in their lives. Soliswiss helps them all over the world.

What makes your offering attractive?

Our customers are looking for experts who are familiar with the needs of Swiss citizens abroad and have been for a long time. It is important to have an overview. Customers want service, they want their needs to be handled helpfully and dependably. That perfection demands a compact organization, an open-minded attitude, accessibility and responsibility when giving advice.

What do you mean by political risk?

Even if the world has become a village because a whole network of international airlines has shortened distances or because international treaties have brought states closer together, daily experience unfortunately shows that the number of conflict zones has not diminished. The demand for security therefore remains great. Soliswiss provides that protection. The range of hazards faced by our customers include risks such as kidnapping, threats, blackmail for ransom money, unrest, attacks and bombings, national and international terrorism, acts of war, civil war, expropriation and nationalisation. Assets are threatened and life itself at risk. For the individual these may seem to be rare events but when an individual, a family or a business is affected it is a huge blow of fate. Such a fate cannot be avoided but its consequences can be alleviated. An (insurance) community can achieve that aim more readily than close acquaintances and relatives.

What is the right time to join Soliswiss?

It is never too early and never too late to become a Soliswiss member and customer. Why not try us! We offer all interested parties in-depth advice and tailored services which reflect their present situation in life precisely and afford them the finest protection. We help you to make your adventure abroad a real success. To that end, we are your personal risk manager!

A detailed version of this interview with CEO Felix can be found in a PDF newsletter at www.soliswiss.ch in five languages. Win attractive prizes in the jubilee competition on the last page of this issue!