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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CHANGES TO THE METHOD OF DELIVERY FOR "SWISS REVIEW"

"Swiss Review" online – we are modernising our service

Various articles in "Swiss Review" have made our readers aware of the new, modern online version of this publication. This helps improve information for Swiss people abroad by making the service more modern and attractive, and offering the following benefits:

- Quicker and, in many countries, more reliable delivery. Recipients receive "Swiss Review" as soon as it has been published, keeping them more up-to-date.
- In line with the general increasing shift in reading habits towards the Internet. This appeals to the younger generation in particular.
- In keeping with the demand for the introduction of e-voting for Swiss citizens abroad.
- Helps meet the required expansion of online services.
- Access to all regional editions.
- Free choice of available languages: readers can select the language they desire, which is useful, for example, in families where more than one language is spoken.
- Option of forwarding articles electronically.
- Eco-friendly/supports sustainability.

"Swiss Review" online – cost reductions in the interests of readers

Online delivery of "Swiss Review" also enables savings to be made on printing and distribution costs. Cost reductions achieved through electronic delivery should enable the number of issues, which had to be reduced to four following budget cuts in 2008, to be increased to six a year again in the medium term, which is in the interests of our readers. As explained below, the prevention of multiple deliveries should also help to achieve this goal.

Therefore, online delivery is to become standard from 2010 ...

To ensure both cost reductions and service improvements through modernisation, delivery of the *online* version of "Swiss Review" will become *standard from 2010*. All entitled persons, whose e-mail addresses have been registered, will receive the publication electronically, *except for those who have informed us by this time that they wish to receive the printed version*. So far, 15,000 Swiss abroad have already responded to our appeal to register for the electronic version of "Swiss Review" at www.swissabroad.ch. We would like to thank them and hope that they and others who plan to join our electronic readership enjoy reading the online version.

... while we stand by our principles ...

However, we still stand by the principle that all entitled Swiss citizens abroad have the right to delivery of "Swiss Review". Readers who do not have an e-mail address will continue to receive it by post. In fact, we are showing even greater respect for this principle, as readers now have the option of choosing between the printed and electronic versions of "Swiss Review". Swiss citizens abroad who have an e-mail address but *wish to receive the printed version* should register at www.swissabroad.ch or contact their embassy or consulate (if they have not already done so).

... and offer a preliminary trial read

We would initially like to offer all Swiss citizens abroad entitled to receive "Swiss Review" the opportunity of a *trial read* of the electronic version of the October edition of "Swiss Review". This means that even those who have already registered for the printed version, but have an e-mail address, will receive this one-off trial copy. If you enjoy it, you can then register for the online version at www.swissabroad.ch. Otherwise, you will continue to receive the printed version.

To meet the right of Swiss citizens abroad to information and to ensure that there are no gaps in delivery we require your correct current address. We therefore kindly ask you to inform us of any changes to your postal or e-mail address by following the instructions below.

Avoiding multiple deliveries – one printed copy per household

Lots of households receive several copies of the printed version of "Swiss Review". This entails significant additional costs. As a result, *from 2010* all households which previously received several copies of the printed version, without expressly registering for them, will only be sent one printed copy in order to achieve the above-mentioned goal of reducing costs. *However, anyone entitled can order their own printed version by informing us at www.swissabroad.ch or by informing their Swiss representation.*

Summary

Delivery of the *electronic version* of "Swiss Review" will become *standard from 2010*. This move aims to provide readers with an improved, more modern service with the objective of returning to a higher number of editions by reducing printing and distribution costs.

All entitled Swiss citizens abroad, whose e-mail address we have, will therefore receive the online version of "Swiss Review". Those who do not have an e-mail address will continue to be sent the printed version. This also applies to those who have already registered for this version. Anyone who would like to receive the *printed version*, but has not yet registered, can also *request it* by registering at www.swissabroad.ch or by informing their Swiss representation. It will also be possible to change the desired method of delivery at any time in the same way. We kindly ask you to use the same approach to report any changes to your postal or e-mail address to ensure that there are no gaps in delivery and that your right to information is met.

In the first month, there may be overlaps with the processing of addresses. It is therefore possible that you may receive a different method of delivery for "Swiss Review" to the one for which you have registered. We kindly ask for your understanding.

To ensure smooth delivery in future, please inform your representation immediately of any changes to your postal or e-mail address. You can also register your e-mail address directly at www.swissabroad.ch.

FDFA: new head of the SSA

Jean-François Lichtenstern has been appointed head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad (SSA) in Political Affairs Division VI (Swiss Abroad). This division comprises the Service for the Swiss

Abroad, the Consular Protection section and the agency that provides crisis management and information for travellers. The head of the division, ambassador Markus Börlin, previously also managed the Service for the Swiss Abroad.

Born in 1951, Jean-François Lichtenstern, from Romainmôtier-Envy (Vaud), joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1974. After training in Berne and Cologne/Bonn, he started his career as consular secretary in Toronto (1977), from where he was transferred to Santiago in Chile in 1981. In 1984, he was appointed to the commercial section of Switzerland's consulate general in New York, then, in 1987, to the Swiss representation in Lyon as vice-consul. After that, he took over the management of the chancelleries of our embassies in Brasilia (1990), and Athens (1993), as first secretary, before returning to Berne in 1997. He was then responsible for the promotion of exports at the Service for Financial and Economic Issues in Political Affairs Division V, as a diplomatic officer. In 2001, he went to Hong Kong as first assistant to the head of post. After being appointed consul general, he ran the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco from October 2005 to July 2009. Mr Lichtenstern took up his new position in



Berne at the beginning of August in order to immediately participate in the Congress of the Swiss Abroad, held in Lucerne from 7 to 9 August 2009. At this event, ambassador Markus Börlin introduced his new colleague, and head of service, to his future dialogue partners and various individuals and institutions, such as the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

Change of address and contact details

Please inform your local representation of any changes to your postal address, telephone numbers or e-mail address in good time – www.eda.admin.ch (Representations). You can also register your e-mail address directly at www.swissabroad.ch. Your assistance will save us making time-consuming inquiries, and is the only way to ensure that you automatically receive your voting documents (provided you are registered with a Swiss polling commune), and “Swiss Review” at your new address. Please do not send notice of changes to your address and contact details to the Service for the Swiss Abroad of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), or the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in Berne.

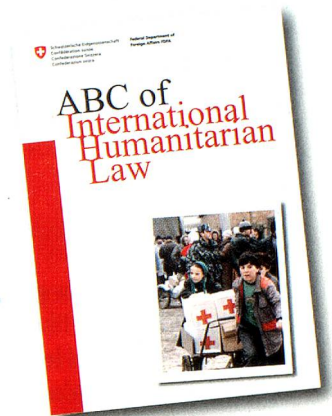
ABC of International Humanitarian Law

Every day we see newspaper articles on civil wars, refugees, torture, peace-keeping operations, war crimes and terrorism, etc.

International humanitarian rights govern warfare and protect the victims of armed conflicts. The brochure entitled “ABC of

International Humanitarian Law”, produced by the FDFA, provides a clear explanation of the most common terms and the significance of the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Convention.

The “ABC of International Humanitarian Law” can be downloaded in English, German, French or Italian from the FDFA's website www.eda.admin.ch (Documentation – Publications), or obtained from the following address: Information FDFA, Bundeshaus West, CH-3003 Berne



Registration of changes to civil status

Changes to civil status concerning Swiss citizens abroad must be recorded in the family register of their place of origin in Switzerland.

A fully updated family register ensures that passports can be issued and matters of inheritance can be settled, etc. If the birth of a child is not registered before the age of 22, he/she loses the right to Swiss citizenship.

Please register any forthcoming marriage, divorce, birth of a child or death of a family member immediately with the representation where you are registered (embassy, consulate general). The representation will inform you of the documents required for entry in the family register. Addresses and additional information can be found on the websites of the representations (www.eda.admin.ch – Representations).

NEW POPULAR INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

At the time of going to press, no new popular initiatives had been launched since the last edition. At www.bk.admin.ch/aktuell/abstimmung you will find a list of pending referenda and popular initiatives, and the corresponding signature forms, if available. Please complete, sign and send the forms directly to the relevant committee.

Referendum on 29 November 2009

The Federal Council has decided to hold a referendum on the following three proposals on 29 November 2009:

- The federal decree to create special funding for tasks related to air traffic
- The popular initiative “For a ban on the export of war materials” and
- The popular initiative “Against the construction of minarets”.

The Federal Council's explanatory notes on these proposals can be found at www.bk.admin.ch from 20 September 2009.