

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 39 (2012)
Heft: 2

Inhaltsverzeichnis

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 28.04.2025

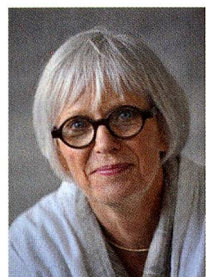
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss abroad

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR DIDIER BURKHALTER gave one of his first interviews since his move to the Department of Foreign Affairs at the start of the year to "Swiss Review". By doing so, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs gave a clear indication that the Swiss abroad, whose numbers are growing all the time, are important to him. Federal Councillor Burkhalter told us in the interview that he really loves discovering new countries and has a "good feel for differences". He says that he wants to gain a better understanding of the issues and problems facing his over 700,000 compatriots abroad. His position on the new law being called for with regard to the Swiss abroad is already clear. He supports it unreservedly and believes such a law would establish "the foundations for an integral policy on the Swiss abroad". This is extremely welcome news for Swiss people living outside Switzerland. The Swiss abroad will also have the opportunity to meet Federal Councillor Burkhalter in person at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lausanne in August.

The main article in this issue concerns FIFA, world football's governing body. FIFA is often very directly associated with Switzerland, partly because it is led by Sepp Blatter, who is Swiss, and partly because it has been based in Zurich for decades. This is detrimental to our nation in light of the conduct of many FIFA officials. The federation's financial affairs – it generates billions in revenues, provides hardly any services, pays

very little tax and is seen as a sanctuary for corruption – are increasingly coming in for criticism from Swiss politicians. An anti-corruption campaign launched by FIFA last November has failed to prove convincing.

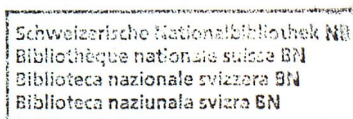


Barbara Engel

While this issue was going to print, a highly contentious debate was taking place in Switzerland over the procurement of new fighter jets for the armed forces. The complaint raised is that the Federal Council, in particular Ueli Maurer as head of the Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), overlooked negative evaluation reports when selecting the Swedish Gripen aircraft. The fighter jets were denounced as "cheap", their quality and capabilities doubted. The question as to whether the aircraft ordered in November are "optimal" for Switzerland, as the DDPS claims, or unfit for purpose, as critics argue, is bound to remain a topic of debate for some time yet. "Swiss Review" will take a more in-depth look at the subject of the Swiss armed forces in a later issue. However, we will not just examine one controversial decision but will instead consider the army and its objectives and challenges in the 21st century in broader terms.

I would finally like to urge you to sign our petition to the Federal Council for e-voting to be introduced as quickly as possible. Being able to vote via the Internet is extremely important for Swiss citizens abroad (details on page 16)

BARBARA ENGEL



5

Mailbag

5

Books: A close look at development aid

7

Images:

The 1950s – photographs and analyses

8

FIFA – headquartered in Zurich, rich and non-transparent

12

An interview with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs

14

How the Hildebrand affair unfolded

16

Closer to home with e-voting

Regional news

17

Referenda

18

Conflict of interests over the Swiss asylum system

19

The Swiss banks would manage comfortably without illicit earnings

20

50 years of press photography

22

A journey with a Hindu pilgrim in Nepal

25

OSA news

28

Notes from Parliament

30

Little gems

Cover page: FIFA President Sepp Blatter after his re-election last June at Zurich's Hallenstadion. Photo: Alessandro Della Bella / Keystone

IMPRINT: "Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 39th year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 395 000, including 135 000 electronic copies. Regional news appears four times a year. The ordering parties are fully responsible for the content of advertisements and promotional inserts. These contents do not necessarily represent the opinion of either the editorial office or the publisher.

■ EDITORS: Barbara Engel (BE), Editor-in-Chief; René Lenzin (RL); Alain Wey (AW); Marc Lettau (MUL); Manuel Gnos (MAG); Jean-François Lichtenstern (JFL), responsible for "Notes from Parliament", Service for the Swiss Abroad, FDFA, CH-3003 Berne Translation: CLS Communication AG ■ LAYOUT: Herzog Design, Zurich ■ POSTAL ADDRESS: Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Tel.: +41 31 356 61 10, Fax: +41 31 356 61 01, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. ■ E-MAIL: revue@aso.ch ■ PRINT: Swissprinters St. Gallen AG, CH-9001 St. Gallen. ■ CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to Berne. ■ All Swiss abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / abroad: CHF 50). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne. ■ INTERNET: www.revue.ch

Copy deadline for this edition: 13.02.12