

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 39 (2012)  
**Heft:** 3

## **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.](#)

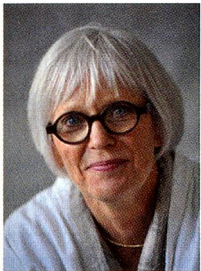
**Download PDF:** 02.02.2025

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

## Sovereignty and cooperation

**T**HE ISSUE OF HOW SWITZERLAND SHOULD IN FUTURE STRUCTURE ITS RELATIONS with other countries in general – tax agreements being one area of interest – and with the European Union in particular is currently causing controversy at home. During a visit to Brussels made by Swiss President Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter at the end of March, José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, told the Swiss in no uncertain terms that Switzerland was severely testing the EU's patience.

Barroso, who is very familiar with Switzerland and the Swiss having studied in Geneva, must have known that his words would not go down well with many Swiss politicians or in the media. This indeed turned out to be the case. The demand from Brussels for Switzerland to adopt new EU legislation automatically and to accept superordinate authorities for arbitration and supervision in the event of disputes if it wishes to participate in the EU single market in future has met with huge opposition in Switzerland. This situation is extremely unpleasant for the Swiss government. It is concerned not so much about the EU's demands as about the unavoidable debate about participation and integration in the EU. This will prove highly challenging for the Federal Council on the domestic front. The Swiss People's Party (SVP) has been painting a gloomy picture for some time, suggesting that Switzerland will perish within the foreseeable future if it loses its complete independence and sovereignty.



However, fallacies are being proliferated and facts overlooked in this debate. Switzerland cannot decide its destiny independently, not in the world and certainly not in Europe. Our sovereignty has long been restricted as there are countless agreements – air traffic, Schengen/Dublin and public procurement, to name but a few – where EU law is already adopted. These have given rise to very few problems and it would be no different if Switzerland adopted

applicable European Union law in the EU single market. If Switzerland refuses to accept this, tremendous damage could be done to the economy. Switzerland and our relations with other states would certainly benefit from a little less of the special case charade and a little more sovereign willingness to cooperate – sovereign here in the sense of wise and well considered.

The focal topic in this issue has something to do with our unique position in Europe and much to do with our prosperity. It concerns spatial planning, urban sprawl, mobility, conservation and the protection of our cultural heritage. It is also about the issue of whether Switzerland will soon have a single agglomeration stretching from Geneva to Romanshorn and whether something of the original Swiss idyll can be preserved through new ideas.

Finally, dear readers, I would once again like to encourage you to sign the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad's petition on e-voting, the right to participate in elections and referenda electronically. E-voting is extremely important for the Swiss abroad as it makes their participation in Switzerland's political decision-making much easier. The petition can be signed at [www.petition.aso.ch](http://www.petition.aso.ch). The signatures will be presented to the Federal Council at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in August.

BARBARA ENGEL

5

Mailbag

5

Books: Pedro Lenz and his goalie

7

Images: The chaos of the "messies" – a film about obsessive collectors

8

Switzerland, a vast building site – is the countryside set to disappear?

12

The Rigi – a mountain with an illustrious past and an uncertain future

14

The Swiss abroad and their voting behaviour

16

The new foreign policy – an analysis

### Regional news

17

Jean-Jacques Rousseau – celebrating a philosopher

20

Sapperlot – hearing, seeing and understanding Swiss dialect

22

Mountaineering – people have been conquering the summits for centuries

25

OSA news

27

Notes from Parliament

30

Little gems

31

Echo

Cover photo: Mountaineers on the Eiger's Mittellegi Ridge. Photo: Thomas Ulrich / Keystone

Schweizerische Nationalbibliothek NO  
Bibliothèque nationale suisse BN  
Biblioteca nazionale svizzera LN  
Biblioteca nazionale svizra BM

**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 Lenzen (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](mailto: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](http://www.revue.ch) Copy deadline for this edition: 02.04.12