

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 45 (2018)
Heft: 3

Vorwort: Let sleeping dogs continue to lie
Autor: Lehtinen, Marko

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>

Let sleeping dogs continue to lie

5 Mailbag

6 Focus

Kosovo celebrates its 10th Independence Day – Switzerland joins in the festivities

10 Politics

Focus on the media – results of the referendums held on 4 March

13 Society

Rental bikes are taking over Swiss cities

Local radio stations receive a boost from digital technology

17 Literature series

Adolf Muschg's wanderlust took him to Japan

News from around the world

18 Culture

A Grammy for Switzerland – a profile of the violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja

20 Sport

Vladimir Petkovic, Switzerland's head coach, looks ahead to the World Cup

22 OSA news

26 news.admin.ch

28 Images

30 Books/Sounds

32 This and that/News in brief



There has been some bad news for the Swiss Abroad. When Tim Guldumann stepped down from the National Council in March, the Swiss Abroad lost their most powerful voice in Parliament. The SP politician was the first Swiss Abroad ever to be elected to the National Council, but he is now standing down after just two and a half years in the middle of the legislative term. The main reason? It has been too difficult to “live in one place and conduct politics in another”. Living in Berlin and being a politician in Berne clearly did not work out.

Guldumann's departure adds fuel to the fire in an emotionally charged debate. Should a Swiss Abroad even be allowed to enter political life in Switzerland? How can somebody living in Berlin have a feel for what is best for Switzerland? And those who would like to take things a step further in this debate may make their voices heard after Guldumann's decision to step down. Should the Swiss Abroad even have the right to vote in Switzerland? Should someone who has spent decades living in Tasmania or Taiwan be able to influence life in their far-away homeland? Especially as they don't generally even have to live with the consequences?

Such arguments are understandable, whether you support them or not. On the other hand, shouldn't Swiss citizens be allowed to vote on Swiss issues regardless of where they live? They too have fundamental rights, including the right to vote. Many of them are only living abroad temporarily. They are working and living in the Swiss community abroad before returning to Switzerland. In that case, they definitely have to live with the outcome of referenda and elections. Some ballots also concern the Swiss Abroad directly.

It is a contentious issue. Fortunately, the debate has been very restrained thus far following Guldumann's premature departure. Instead of questioning the rights of the Swiss Abroad, most Swiss people have acknowledged the departure of the SP National Councillor with regret or at least with a shrug of the shoulders. Let's hope this remains the case and that sleeping dogs continue to lie.

I too would like to take the opportunity to say goodbye to you in this issue of “Swiss Review”. After an intensive period as editor-in-chief of this magazine, I am returning to my native Basel to embark on a new challenge in my career. Thank you all for your faith in me!

MARKO LEHTINEN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cover photo:

The violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja. Photo: Julia Wesely