



Switzerland's chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2017

7th March 2017

1. Background, key dates, issues

Switzerland's chairmanship of IHRA

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental body whose purpose is to promote historical research and education about the Holocaust and to preserve the memory of victims through commemorations and memorials, especially in its 31 member countries. IHRA was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson

On 5 November 2015, the representatives of the 31 member countries of the IHRA accepted Switzerland's candidacy to chair the organization in 2017.

Switzerland will take over chairmanship of the IHRA in March 2017 with FDFA secretary general, Ambassador Benno Bättig, as chair for one year.

In her message on International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27.01.2017), Swiss President Doris Leuthard stressed that Switzerland wants to use its chairmanship of the IHRA to ensure that the crimes committed by the Nazi regime against the Jews, Roma, Sinti and other minorities are never forgotten. This should also help build a bridge between the past and the present.

More information on: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/news/dossiers/alle-dossiers/Schweizer-Vorsitz-Holocaust.html>

Handover ceremony

The ceremony to mark the handover of the Chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) from Romania to Switzerland will take place on Tuesday, 7 March 2017, at the Residence of the Swiss Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Speakers are Mihnea Constantinescu, Ambassador, IHRA Chair 2016 and Benno Bättig, Secretary General of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, IHRA Chair 2017.

To get content Live from this event, follow [@CHBotschaftDE](#), [@IHRA_News](#) and [@HofSwitzerland](#) on Twitter.

2. Key messages

- Switzerland has been an IHRA member since 2004
- Benno Bättig, secretary-general of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), will take on the position of IHRA Chair in 2017
- Switzerland will organize two IHRA plenary meetings, the first in Geneva (26-29 June) and the second in Bern (27-30 November).

- During its chairmanship Switzerland will focus on – education, youth and social media

3. Hashtags & handles

#IHRA2017

https://twitter.com/IHRA_news

<https://www.facebook.com/IHRAnews>

4. Useful content

Type of content	Details	Copyrights	Link	Status
	 CHAIRMANSHIP 2017	none	Official logo of Switzerland's chairmanship of IHRA http://i.imgur.com/mFI0FsK.jpg	available
Infographics	for Twitter	on image	EN: http://i.imgur.com/Om9y6ub.jpg DE: http://i.imgur.com/z6Bsumv.jpg FR: http://i.imgur.com/jwniVvJ.jpg	available
	for Facebook	on image	EN: http://i.imgur.com/XLbL6Py.jpg DE: http://i.imgur.com/P6VLjPm.jpg FR: http://i.imgur.com/oMmAzmq.jpg	available
Links	Official FDFA press release	none	To be published the 6 th of March on eda.admin.ch	Not yet available
	IHRA Handover Ceremony	none	https://holocaustremembrance.com/media-room/stories/ihra-handover-ceremony	available
	Switzerland on IHRA website	none	http://www.holocaustremembrance.com/node/264	available
	Report on FDFA's website	none	http://bit.ly/2IPihCp	available

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5. Contacts

PRS person of contact: Alexandre Edelmann: alexandre.edelmann@eda.admin.ch

PRS Digital team: Renée Băni renee.baeni@eda.admin.ch or Matthias Vauthier matthias.vauthier@eda.admin.ch