



Information for Swiss citizens living abroad

We are keenly interested in keeping Swiss citizens living abroad up to date on developments in Switzerland. For this reason, we wish to draw your attention to the following available information sources:

1. "Swiss Review"

The "Swiss Review" is a magazine for Swiss nationals living abroad. It is published jointly by the Secretariat of the Organization for the Swiss Abroad, and the Service for the Swiss Abroad of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The Swiss federal government provides a substantial subsidy for editing, printing and distributing the publication.

The aim of the "Swiss Review" is to keep Swiss expatriates abreast of the most important developments taking place in Switzerland. The magazine has columns devoted to a number of important areas of activity including politics, business, culture, social affairs and other areas of interest.

The "Swiss Review" appears in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish. In Italian it is known as "Gazzetta Svizzera" and appears 11 times a year in newspaper format. It contains the most important articles from "Swiss Review" together with special feature articles of its own.

Since 1 July 1992, when the Swiss Abroad were given the right to vote on federal matters by correspondence, the "Swiss Review" has been providing much more information about referenda and elections.

Currently, the "Swiss Review" appears six times a year. Each issue contains a section of two to three pages entitled "**Notes from Parliament**", which is prepared by the FDFA's Service for the Swiss Abroad. This section may be described as the **official gazette of the Swiss Abroad**, and contains explanations of those laws, rights and duties which are of direct interest and concern to Swiss nationals living abroad. In addition, it frequently publishes important official deadlines.

Swiss nationals living abroad can no longer claim ignorance of an enactment or a deadline which concerns them once it has been published in "Swiss Review".

We strongly recommend you read "Swiss Review" regularly and carefully.

The "Swiss Review" is sent **free of charge** to every adult registered at a Swiss representation abroad (Embassy, Consulate general). **Multiple deliveries to the same household may be cancelled upon written notification to the responsible Swiss representation. The relevant Swiss representation should also be notified of changes of address.**

The "Swiss Review" is also available online at www.revue.ch. Here you will find the latest issue of the magazine together with an archive of earlier issues. There is also a section entitled "Regional news", and the section called "Swiss kids" (www.revue.ch/swisskids_en/index.php) features contributions with special interest for young people with answers to their questions.

2. Swissinfo/Swiss Radio International (SRI)

Swissinfo/Swiss Radio International (SRI) is an integral part of the Swiss radio- and TV broadcasting corporation, SRG SSR idée suisse. Swissinfo/SRI has been mandated to keep Swiss citizens living abroad informed about events in Switzerland and to promote Switzerland's presence abroad. Since 1999, Swissinfo/SRI has been focusing on multimedia activities. The website www.swissinfo.org provides news and information about Switzerland in text, image, audio and video form in German, French, Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese.

www.swissinfo.org provides a wide range of news and information as well as a number of other services.

News and information

News and information is available online at www.swissinfo.org 24 hours a day. SRG SSR idée suisse also broadcasts many information programmes on radio and TV. The information is subsequently stored in the multimedia archive for future reference.

www.swissinfo.org focuses on news and information about Switzerland, in particular reports on political, business, cultural and scientific topics and events.

www.swissinfo.org features many of the information programmes broadcast by the radio channel, DRS, including news bulletins.

The information dossiers on upcoming referenda are of special interest for the Swiss Abroad. They contain results and analyses, and provide a discussion forum to enable Swiss nationals living abroad to voice their own views.

Services

In addition to journalistic work, Swissinfo/SRI offers a wide range of other services, including:

- Multiplattform: a swissinfo news platform which can be downloaded and accessed by mobile phone. The headlines service (RSS) automatically dates the headlines of swissinfo.org front pages on a computer desktop. The headlines can be directly called up on other internet sites with a news feed.
- Swisshelpdesk: an information service that answers questions on Switzerland by e-mail (www.swisshelpdesk.org).
- Swislinks: a comprehensive collection of links on Switzerland
- swissinfoGeo: an interactive guide through Switzerland
- Newsletter: swissinfo's most interesting articles are sent to subscribers every week

Referendum CDs

swissinfo/SRI produces a CD with information on people's initiatives or elections in the run-up to federal votes and elections. The CD can be obtained free of charge from swissinfo/SRI. This information is also available on swissinfo.org.

TV and radio programmes via satellite

SRG SSR broadcasts the TV channels SF1, SF2, SFi, TSR1, TSR2, TSI 1 and TSI 2 digitally via the satellite Hotbird 3 by Eutelsat and 7A. For copyright reasons SRG SSR TV channels are broadcast in coded format. Swiss households abroad can decode them by means of a Sat-Access card, which is available from SRG SSR.

In addition, SRG SSR also broadcasts via Hotbird 3 all 16 Swiss Radio channels in uncoded form (see also under Links).

3. Swiss newspapers and magazines

Please note the following newspapers which publish special international editions:

- "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" "NZZ International", the international edition, published Mondays to Fridays
- "Tages-Anzeiger" weekly edition

Many Swiss newspapers now publish online (www.swissinfo.org, www.mtj.ch)

4. More useful links

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html
Service for the Swiss Abroad	www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/dfa/orgcha/sectio/pad/pad6.html
Various publications (for instance "Advice for Swiss living abroad")	www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/doc/publi/pt_rali.html email: pa6-auslandch@eda.admin.ch
Travel advice	www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise
The Swiss representations abroad online	www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/ reps.html
Integration Office FDFA /FDEA	www.europa.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en
Federal Office for Migration (naturalisation, return, stays abroad, country information, etc.)	www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html www.swissemigration.ch/index.html?lang=en email: einbuengerung@bfm.admin.ch email: info@bfm.admin.ch
Federal Office for Social Security (AHV/IV)	www.bsv.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (health insurance)	www.bag.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en
Old age and survivors insurance scheme AHV/AVS	www.ahv.admin.ch
Information sheet 3.06 advance calculation of pensions	www.ahv.admin.ch/Home-D/allgemeines/MEMENTOS/3.06-D.pdf
People's initiatives at the signature stage	www.admin.ch/ch/d/pore/vi/vis_1_3_1_1.html
Information about e-voting	www.bk.admin.ch/themen/pore/evoting/index.html?lang=de
Organization for the Swiss Abroad	www.aso.ch/english/100e.htm
"Swiss Review"	www.revue.ch/en/content/?revChangeLang=en
Solidarity Fund for Swiss Nationals Abroad (Soliswiss)	www.soliswiss.ch/index.cfm?ID=BB9F4287-A37D-B667-523235367B78D944
swissinfo/SRI	www.swissinfo.org/eng/index.html
Presence Switzerland	www.presence.ch/e/100/100.php
swissworld.org – the official information platform of Switzerland	www.swissworld.org
Website for guiding you around the administrative offices of the federal government, the cantons and the communes	www.ch.ch/index.html?lang=en
Programms via satellite	www.srgssrideesuisse.ch/1.0.html?&changeLang=set&L=4