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Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

As we near the end of the year, it is worth taking time to reflect on the past and reflect on the future. In 2017, Switzerland and Azerbaijan could not only celebrate the existence of 25 years of diplomatic relations but also commemorate on the close partnership both our countries share in the frame of the Swiss-led constituencies of the World Bank and IMF since its creation in 1992.

Throughout the year, the integrated Embassy has been again active in pushing forward Switzerland's technical assistance to Azerbaijan and in this edition you will be able to learn more about the development of some of our projects since summer. Cultivating diplomatic contacts and promoting activities in the areas of trade, education and culture have been other tasks to which the Embassy made its contribution. All in all, I am glad to state that 2017 was a fulfilling year for Azerbaijani-Swiss relations. With 2018 just around the corner, I am very optimistic about bringing even more substance to our partnership by increasing bilateral political and economic interactions.

I invite you, dear readers, to follow future Azerbaijani-Swiss developments and get involved with exciting events planned by our Embassy for next year. Let me also take the opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas season and a good start into the New Year. I look forward to seeing you in 2018!

Philipp Stalder

Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan

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## Politics

### Switzerland hosts talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in Geneva



Presidential meeting in Geneva

On 16 November, the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia met in Geneva to discuss the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In a joint statement, both parties and the three Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group stated that the meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere and that the two presidents agreed to take measures to intensify the negotiation process and to take additional steps to reduce tensions along the line of contact.

It is the third time that Swiss diplomacy has hosted in our country such direct talks between President Ilham Aliyev and his Armenian counterpart. The last meeting on Swiss soil took place on 19 December 2015 in Bern.

*Background information:* Thanks to its mediation and facilitation efforts, Swiss diplomacy has played an active part in resolving many international conflicts over the past. As a neutral country, Switzerland regularly put its good offices at the disposal of the international community if both parties in a conflict ask the Swiss government to do so, be it by offering a venue on its territory or by providing a more active involvement as a mediator to both sides. In previous years, Switzerland has been involved in as many as 15 conflict settlements. It successfully brokered the Nuba mountains ceasefire agreement in Sudan or facilitated discussions between rebel groups and the governments of Columbia and Sri Lanka to mention just a few examples. For years, Switzerland also provided the venue for talks on Iran's nuclear programme in Lausanne which ended with the signing of an agreement in 2015.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/aboutswitzerland/en/home/politik/die-schweiz-und-die-welt/die-guten-dienste-der-schweiz.html>

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### Passation de pouvoir entre Didier Burkhalter et Ignazio Cassis



New Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis, receives the keys from his predecessor, Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter

Le 1er novembre 2017, le Tessinois Ignazio Cassis, conseiller fédéral nouvellement élu, a été accueilli par les six autres membres du Conseil fédéral et a reçu les clés du Département fédéral des affaires étrangères de son prédécesseur Didier Burkhalter. Pour sa première visite, le chef du DFAE s'est rendu à Rome et a ainsi rompu avec la tradition qui veut qu'un nouveau conseiller fédéral se rende en Autriche pour son premier voyage à l'étranger. Le PLR tessinois a décidé de tirer un bilan de son activité de conseiller fédéral après 100 jours, durant lesquels il va étudier les nombreux dossiers qui doivent être traités, notamment sur le développement des relations bilatérales avec l'UE.

## Head of Swiss National Bank visited Baku



Swiss National Bank Chairman, Thomas Jordan with the Chairman of Central Bank of Azerbaijan, Elman Rustamov

From 13 to 14 July 2017, a high-ranking delegation of the Swiss National Bank (SNB), led by the Chairman of the Governing Board, Thomas Jordan, visited Baku on an official mission. The SNB delegation met with the Chairman of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan (CBA), Elman Rustamov, Finance Minister, Samir Sharifov, the Chairman of the Financial Market Supervision Authority, Rufat Aslanli and the President of the State Oil Fund (SOFAZ), Shahmar Movsumov. The meetings focused on recent economic developments in Switzerland and Azerbaijan as well as on bilateral and international cooperation. At the CBA, SNB Chairman Jordan also held a presentation on “The Swiss National Bank’s monetary policy in the current context”. In his presentation, he spoke about the

global economic conditions, the economic situation in Switzerland, as well as the recent evolution of Swiss monetary policy. In the discussion following his presentation, he shared his view on the analysis and implementation of monetary policy. On the occasion of this visit, Ambassador Philipp Stalder hosted a reception at the rooftop of his residence in Icheri Sheher. The reception provided an excellent opportunity for representatives from Swiss companies in Azerbaijan and from Azerbaijani business and financial circles to exchange views and cultivate the excellent bilateral relationships between Azerbaijan and Switzerland.

<https://report.az/maliyye/amb-sedri-isvecreli-hemkari-ile-gorusub/>

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## Swiss Ambassador in Sheki and Ismayilli regions



Ambassador Stalder at Folk Art Museum of Ismayilli

On 30-31 October 2017, Swiss Ambassador Philipp Stalder visited the northern regions of Azerbaijan – Sheki and Ismayilli. First, he met with the Executive Authority of Sheki and shared views with the First Deputy Head, Mr. Hasan Hasanov, about the economic potential of the region and potential cooperation areas. In Sheki with its 63,000 inhabitants located on the ancient Silk Route, the guest from Switzerland also visited the famous silk production plant and an orchard called ‘Green Factory’ (Yaşıl Müəssisə). The latter is a new project launched by an Azeri entrepreneur with educational background from Lugano in the southern part of Switzerland. Using modern technologies from abroad, “Green Factory” is engaged in the realization of an Agropark that includes fruit farming, food processing complexes as well as honey and wood production in Sheki region. In Ismayilli, Ambassador

Stalder received a warm welcome from the Head of Executive Authority, Mr. Mirdamed Sadigov, and discussed with him the current and future economic projects with potential foreign investments. The two days’ visit ended with the visit of the village of Ivanovka and a tour to several production facilities including a folk art shop, a carpet factory and the newly established bicycle factory the first of its kind in the South Caucasian region.

<http://ismayilli-ih.gov.az/news/1717.html>

<http://sheki-ih.gov.az/news/1365.html>



## Switzerland and the Bretton Woods institutions: 25 years of partnership



President of WB Jim Yong Kim and Swiss Federal Councillor Johan Schneider-Amman

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fruitful partnership between Switzerland and the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund). Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Amman and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim met for a conference on this occasion in Bern in August 2017. The anniversary conference discussed the Bank's successes and challenges for the past 25 years and explored future avenues to the World Bank's contribution towards contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and reducing poverty worldwide.

Mr Schneider-Amman, Swiss Governor at the World Bank, emphasized the institution's significant role when dealing with global challenges like climate change, financial

crises or natural disasters. He also stressed the importance of maintaining the World Bank's independence. President Kim appreciated the relationship based on partnership and the positive impact Switzerland has had as an important contributor and member of the World Bank Group.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were established by 43 countries in a town called Bretton Woods in the United States of America in 1944. Member countries are represented at both global institutions in so-called constituency or voting groups. Several countries unite, usually under one Executive Director, and get represented by him/her at the board of the World Bank or the IMF. After the former Soviet countries regained their independence in 1991, Switzerland offered to lead the two constituencies and to represent some of these countries. Our host country, the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as Turkmenistan has been a member of the two Swiss-led constituencies ever since.

In Azerbaijan, Switzerland and the World Bank Group are close partners and offer highest quality technical advice to several government agencies tasked to implement structural reforms, for instance, in the area of financial sector regulation, public finance management and financial infrastructure.

<https://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/secocoop/en/home/themes/multilateral-cooperation.html>

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## Swiss Embassy supports UNHCR Refugee Center's library



Amb. Stalder and UNHCR Representative Furio de Angelis

The Swiss Embassy supported the renovation of the UNHCR Refugee Women and Youth Centre's (RWYC) Library in Baku. The new library was inaugurated on 12 December in the presence of Ambassador Philipp Stalder, the UNHCR Representative Furio de Angelis, refugees as well as students from the British School in Baku.

Purpose of the renovation was to create an active library for reading and internet research to support education for refugees and asylum seekers. A new internet work station was installed, three e-readers were bought and the old book shelves were cleared. Approximately 400 refugee women and adolescents attend the activities of the RWYC every month and use the library for this purpose.

<http://www.unhcr.org/azerbaijan.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/unhcr.azerbaijan/>

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Embassy of Switzerland in Baku, <http://www.eda.admin.ch/baku>; [bku.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:bku.vertretung@eda.admin.ch)

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# Swiss Development Cooperation

## Cooperation strategy for the South Caucasus for 2017–2020



Earlier this year, Swiss authorities approved the Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the South Caucasus 2017–2020. It is the guiding strategic instrument for Switzerland's development cooperation in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia.

The strategy describes the activities of our two governmental funding agencies, SDC (Swiss Development Cooperation) and SECO (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs), in the region. It is based on the parameters set out in the Dispatch on

Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–2020 and has been developed in line with each respective national government's policies and their development priorities. It builds on Switzerland's long-standing experience in the region and encompasses the following two domains of intervention: a) *inclusive and sustainable economic development* and b) *effective democratic institutions, human safety and security*.

On the first domain, Switzerland will continue to promote broad-based economic development with a strong focus on improving agricultural value chains, supporting rural small and medium enterprises (SMEs), improving framework conditions and exploring opportunities to foster cross-border economic initiatives. In addition, Switzerland will support reforms to enable improvements in the business environment, facilitate access to finance and support rural economic development. Women's economic empowerment will also be a strong focus of these interventions. On effective democratic institutions, human safety and security, Switzerland will pursue efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government institutions, including strengthening both local governments and public finance management. To contribute to a safe and secure environment, engagement in integrated environmental risk management will continue, with a focus on sustainable development in rural and mountainous areas

In Azerbaijan, Switzerland's largest development projects are financed by SECO and often implemented by large International Financial Organizations like the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. They mostly focus on macro-economic support and private sector support. Selected regional projects by SDC are about to develop activities in Azerbaijan, with a focus on women's economic empowerment and natural disaster risk management.

The current strategy will support the three countries in achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) – Agenda 2030. The aim of these goals, which originate from the Millennium Development Goals (2015), is to reduce poverty, protect the planet and to ensure prosperity for everyone. Each SDG has targets that need to be met by 2030. Switzerland itself is one of the top five countries on the way to achieve the SDGs fastest. At the same time, through development cooperation, Switzerland wants to help other countries to achieve them. The results achieved as part of this strategy will be checked with reference to the targets of the SDGs.

<https://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/secocoop/en/home/laender/komplementaere-massnahmen/aserbajdschan.html>

## Electronic and Digital Financial Services Project launched in Baku

A new project on Electronic and Digital Financial Services (EDFS) was launched on 19 September 2017. Opening speeches were given by representatives from the World Bank Group, the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, the Financial Market Supervisory Authority as well as the Embassy of Switzerland, represented by Ms. Simone Haerberli, Deputy Head of Mission & Deputy Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus.



SCO-Deputy Regional Director Ms. Simone Haerberli delivering her speech

The event attended by representatives of the local financial sector and the media was dedicated to the EDFs project which is funded by SECO and implemented by International Financial Corporation (IFC) for the next four years.

The overarching goal of the project is to improve the financial inclusion of the population of Azerbaijan. According research by the World Bank, only 29% of adult population in the country has an account at a financial institution. People outside the financial system are referred to as “unbanked”, while people accessing only a limited range of financial services are considered “underbanked”.

Through introduction of new e-services, including mobile-money products, the project will ease access to financial services for the unbanked and underbanked population and small businesses in Azerbaijan. To give a concrete example of an expected project results to our readers: If a new financial product is introduced, for instance an e-wallet, which could be a financial application on a mobile phone, this requires new regulation and supervision to protect the users of such financial products. In order to integrate the different views and needs of financial market players, for example when drafting a new law or regulation, working groups on different topics have been established with representatives from government agencies, financial institutions, mobile network operators and payment processing centers.

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## Two-day training at women’s shelter in Baku



Participants of the training with their diplomas

The Embassy funded a two-day financial education training for women who found refuge at the “Clear World” women’s shelter in Baku.

Each woman in the shelter has her own stories full of sorrow, cruelty and violence. Some of them were threatened or attacked by their husbands and had to flee their houses, often taking their children with them to the shelter. However, the shelter can host them only for a certain period of time. Therefore, “Clear World” puts a lot of emphasis on building the women’s skills and capacities, so that they get more empowered and can continue their lives on their own. The shelter helps them finding employment and monitors them for several months after they left.

25 women joined the training, which provided them with basic financial knowledge and very practical skills how to manage a family budget. They acquired knowledge about cash flows, how to make savings, financial planning, as well as obtaining loans and how to manage them. The participants said that they found the training very useful and they believe the information they got will help in getting stronger and independent after they leave the shelter. Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Simone Haerberli, handed over the certificates to the women upon completion and many of the participants proudly received a certificate for the first time in their life.



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## Swiss Cooperation Office received Gold Partner Award by Azerbaijan Banker's Association



SCO-Deputy Regional Director Ms. Simone Haerberli receives the Gold Partner Award

On 21 December, the Swiss Cooperation Office, represented by Ms. Simone Haerberli, received the Gold Partner Award for 2017 by the Azerbaijan Banks Association (ABA). ABA thanked Switzerland for its intensive support to the development of the financial sector and financial infrastructure of Azerbaijan. This was a recognition of Switzerland's long-standing cooperation aiming at reforming financial systems, namely the establishment of a private credit bureau, the completion of the secured transaction reforms, and the introduction of innovative mobile financial services. The Swiss Government also finances the Financial Sector Modernization Project, which covers all crucial areas of financial markets regulation and supervision.

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## Economy, Trade & Tourism

### Swiss Business Lunch



Nuran Kerimov, Director of Board of Amcham

Auf Einladung von Botschafter Philipp Stalder fand auf dessen Residenz am 1. November eine weitere Ausgabe des ‚Swiss Business Lunch‘ statt. Vertreten waren die Führungskräfte der wichtigsten in Aserbaidschan tätigen Schweizer Unternehmen. Gastreferent dieser Initiative der Botschaft, die zwecks Förderung des Dialogs mit der Schweizer Wirtschaft in sporadischen Abständen (2017: insgesamt vier Mal) stattfindet, war der Vorstandsvorsitzende der Amerikanischen Handelskammer in Aserbaidschan (AmCham) und geschäftsführende Partner von Deloitte Azerbaijan, Nuran Kerimov.

Mit einem animierten Vortrag über zentrale Entwicklungen im Steuerbereich und die laufenden Wirtschaftsreformen sorgte Herr Kerimov dafür, dass die Veranstaltung bei den Teilnehmenden auf ein positives Echo stiess.

Trotz nicht immer einfacher Bedingungen in einem anspruchsvollen wirtschaftlichen Umfeld ist der Schweizer Privatsektor weiterhin bereit, einen Beitrag in Aserbaidschan in Form von Investitionen und Sicherung von Arbeitsplätzen zu leisten. Insgesamt beschäftigen Schweizer Firmen in Aserbaidschan mehrere Hundert Arbeitskräfte.

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### Trade figures between Switzerland and Azerbaijan

According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, Swiss companies so far have invested more than \$370 million in this country. Trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Switzerland stood at \$96.5 million in January–July 2017, or 11.3 percent less as compared to the same period in 2016, according to Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee. During the reporting period, export of Azerbaijani products to Switzerland stood at \$76.86 million, while the import of Swiss products to the country amounted to \$19.64 million. Figures for the entire year 2017 are not yet published.

## Swiss watches to be sold in Ganja city



New store of VMF at 'Ganja Mall'

In November 2017, President Ilham Aliyev has officially opened a new shopping mall in Ganja city, west-northern part of the country. 'Ganja Mall' is located in the heart of the city and its infrastructure is totally changed and modernized in a fashionable way. It was the first mall established in Ganja city.

VMF, a local company of Swiss watches, retailer and wholesaler, has launched a new store at 'Ganja Mall'. Locals and the guests of the city can find a great range of Swiss brands in enormous assortment in this store. From Swatch Group, many famous brands like Tissot or Rado are beautifully displayed and carry Swiss

watch tradition to different regions of Azerbaijan. In addition, also independent Swiss watch brands like Maurice Lacroix or Raymond Weil are standing proudly on window displays.

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## Culture & Education

### Swiss National Day Reception 2017



The team of the Embassy celebrating Swiss National Day

The traditional Swiss National Day Reception of the Embassy was held at the JW Marriott Absheron Hotel on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Ambassador Philipp Stalder and his team were proud to welcome around 500 guests to this event while bringing a lot of culinary and musical Swissness to the audience.



As a modest contribution to the existence of 25 years of friendly diplomatic relations between our two countries, the Swiss Embassy organized a musical performance on the 'Alphorn'. Talented young musician, Ms. Lisa Stoll, presented this ancient and very traditional Swiss musical instrument and many of our guests discovered with much interest its unique sound for the first time. The invitation card was designed by Ms. Nidda Naveed, a refugee girl of Pakistani origin who did a marvellous job merging Swissness into the Baku skylines. The success of the event marking Switzerland's friendship with Azerbaijan would not have been possible without our financial sponsors – ABB, Schindler and Nestlé. A warm thank you to them as well as all our guests and team members!

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/118399.html>

<http://newbakulife.com/index.php/ru/poslednie/1620-швейцария-и-азербайджан-установили-тесные-партнерские-отношения.html>



## “Henry Dunant – Red on the Cross”



Amb. Stalder and Ms. Elena Sessera at the presentation of movie at ADA

To commemorate Henry Dunant's outstanding initiative to save the life of wounded soldiers, the Embassy showed a movie about the life of this extraordinary Swiss personality in the framework of the *IMAGINE Euro Tolerance Festival*.

The presentation took place at the Landmark Hotel on 17 October. Due to numerous parallel events, the attendance was not so high and Ambassador Philipp Stalder and the Head of Delegation of ICRC, Ms. Elena Ajmone Sessera, decided to present the movie a second time at ADA University together with Vice-Rector Fariz Ismayilzade.

One month after the first screening, ADA's "Music Room" was filled until the last seat with an audience of some 70 students, representatives of different embassies and international organizations. Following the screening, the public engaged itself in an interesting discussion with Ms. Sessera about the work of ICRC and Henry Dunant's ideas which are still the guiding principles of the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

*Background:* It was the Swiss businessman Henry Dunant who laid the foundation for the establishment of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the First Geneva Convention. More than 150 years ago, his idea to help wounded soldiers on the battlefield turned into an international initiative and the adoption of the first Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in 1863. Today, 195 countries have ratified the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC with its more than 12,000 workers worldwide forms a central pillar of the effort of humanity to fight against humanitarian crisis. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies being in 189 countries with more than 13 million volunteers, is another pillar of the Movement.

<https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/europe-central-asia/azerbaijan>

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## Schweizer Graffiti-Künstler besprayt alte Ölfässer in Baku



Swiss sprayer Stefan Buser

Die Schweizer Botschaft in Baku hat im Dezember gemeinsam mit dem Arts Council Azerbaijan ein Kunstprojekt mit alten Ölfässern organisiert. Der Schweizer Graffiti-Sprayer Stefan Buser, alias *BustArt*, verzierte zusammen mit aserbaidjanischen Künstlern Ölfässer. Das Motto des Kunstprojekts, das im Art Tower in der Altstadt Baku stattfand, wo die Ausstellung übrigens noch bis zum 10. Januar 2018 zu besichtigen ist, hiess „*Die Schweiz und ihre Natur*“.

Als Teil des Projekts leitete *BustArt* am 9. und 10. Dezember einen Graffitikurs für lokale Studenten, Künstler und Kinder. Der Basler Künstler führte in die Techniken von Graffiti ein und übergab den Teilnehmern die Spraydosen, um sich daran selber auszuprobieren. An den beiden Nachmittagen konnten Schaulustige *BustArt* und den lokalen Künstlern bei der Arbeit zusehen. Am 12. Dezember wurden schliesslich die kunstvoll bemalten Ölfässer in Anwesenheit von Botschafter Philipp Stalder den rund 60 Gästen und zahlreichen Kulturschaffenden präsentiert. Zur Verköstigung wurden den anwesenden Künstlern und Publikum Glühwein und Weihnachtsplätzchen gereicht.

## Презентация бывшего посла Швейцарии в бакинских университетах



Dr. Amberg during the presentation at Baku Branch of Moscow State University

Бывший Посол Швейцарии в Греции и Грузии, ученый-славист Лоренцо Амберг, выступил с презентациями в университетах Азербайджана 29-30 ноября 2017 года. Г-ин Амберг выступил с докладом в Бакинском филиале Московского государственного университета имени М.В. Ломоносова, а также в Бакинском Государственном Университете. В обоих университетах слушатели (приблизительно 80 в каждом) с огромным интересом просмотрели презентацию на тему «Заочная встреча на вокзале: Ленини и Солженицын в Цюрихе» и «1917-ый год глазами швейцарских воспитателей». В своем докладе Лоренцо Амберг отметил, что Цюрих в свое время служил убежищем, как для Владимира Ленина в 1917-ом году, так и для Александра Солженицына в 1974-ом году. Амберг привел интересные факты и цитаты из жизни известных политических и

идеологических деятелей России, сопровождая их с иллюстрациями главных героев и историческими видами Цюриха. Несмотря на то, что в этом городе они проживали в разное время, Лоренцо Амбергу удалось проследить их точки соприкосновения. Доктор Амберг также рассказал о роли Швейцарии как места деятельности русских революционеров в начале XX века. Обе презентации прошли на русском языке. Для азербайджанских слушателей презентация была вдвойне интересной тем, что русская революция 1917-го года напрямую связана с историей Азербайджана и более того, долгие годы историография Азербайджана не имела доступ к альтернативным ресурсам по истории большевизма и коммунизма. Взгляд со стороны и новый подход на один из важнейших периодов истории России был встречен публикой с большим интересом. Идея проведения такого проекта была выдвинута и претворена в жизнь Посольством Швейцарии в Баку.

Лоренцо Амберг родился в 1953-ем году в Берне и изучал русскую филологию в Женевском университете. В 1975-76 годах стажировался на филологическом факультете в Ленинграде. С 1978-го по 1981-й год работал переводчиком в швейцарском посольстве в Москве. В 1991-ом году поступил на дипломатическую службу в МИД Швейцарии в Берне, где проработал в течении шести лет в области международного гуманитарного сотрудничества, и в представительстве ОБСЕ. В разные годы занимал посты советника посольства Швейцарии в Белграде, Нью-Дели и Москве, был Чрезвычайным и Полномочным послом Швейцарии в Грузии и Греции.



<http://indep.bsu.edu.az/en/article/42>

<http://msu.az/top/novosti/20171130105450766.html>

## Visit to Ganja and presentation at the State University

On 28 November 2017, Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Liliana Pescini, had the pleasure to give a course at the State University of Ganja about Switzerland and its direct democracy.

About 50 students of foreign languages and economics attended the class and learnt about the specificities of Switzerland's unique political system which exists in its actual form since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the establishment of Switzerland as a federale state in 1848. In her

presentation, Ms. Pescini also informed students about Swss universities and the Swiss Excellence Research Scholarships for 2019–2020 ([https://www.sbf.admin.ch/scholarships\\_eng](https://www.sbf.admin.ch/scholarships_eng)).



Presentation by the Deputy Head of Mission Liliana Pescini at Ganja State University



During her stay in Ganja, the Deputy Head of Mission also had a look at existing cultural facilities in Ganja and it is not excluded that the Swiss Embassy will come back to the city of Ganja with a cultural project in the near future.

Before the presentation Ms. Pescini met with the vice-rector of Ganja State University, member of parliament Parvin Karimzde. Mrs. Karimzade expressed readiness of the university to intensify contacts with the Swiss universities and even conduct joint researches in various fields.

<https://theworldnews.net/az-news/zamposla-shveitsarii-posetila-giandzha>  
<http://www.kepeztv.az/news/id/23531>

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## Swiss jazz band Mats-Up's at Baku Jazz Festival

For the first time ever, a Swiss jazz band participated on the initiative of the Embassy at the annual Baku Jazz Festival in October. After a warming welcome by Ambassador Philipp Stalder, the audience enjoyed a superbe performance given by Saxophonist Matthias Spillmann and his four band members at the Landmark Hotel. Mats-Up exists since 1999 and most of theirs songs played in Baku came from the latest album „The Nature of The Blues“. The music of the Swiss quintet is a fresh mixture of the Swiss traditional, Arabic and North African music. Their concert on 26 October was accepted with a great interest by the Azerbaijani jazz lovers and numerous representatives of the diplomatic community in Baku.



Mats-Up's concert in Baku

Matthias Spillmann said he felt very happy and honoured to play at the Baku Jazz Festival as a part of a high calibre international line-up:

*“I was impressed with the professionalism of the whole organisation and I think the internationally mixed public really appreciated our very particular way of playing Jazz. Since we had a very short stay, I hope on our next trip, we can see more of the beautiful country, have more exchange with Azeri people and also dig deeper inside Azeri culture.”*

The concert of Mats-Up in Baku was sponsored by the foundation *Pro Helvetia* which supports and disseminates Swiss arts and culture abroad.



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## Consular & Visa Affairs

### Viza haqqında emumi məlumatlar



2017-ci il dekabrın 1-dən etibarən digər Şengen ölkələri ilə konsultasiya öhdəliyi Azərbaycan və Türkmənistan vətəndaşları üçün viza işləmə müddətini artırır. Bu baxımdan sənədlərin tam qaydada planlaşdırılan səfərdən 15 gün əvvəl təqdim olunması vacibdir. Viza üçün ərizə Bazar ertəsidən Cümə axşamına qədər, saat 09.00-da 12.00-a qədər şəxsən təqdim olunmalıdır. Bundan əlavə viza ilə əlaqədar suallara telefon vasitəsi ilə yalnız Bazar ertəsidən Cümə axşamına qədər saat 14.00-dan 17.30-a qədər, Cümə günü isə saat 09.00-13.00 və 14.00-16.00 aralığında vermək olar. Şengen ərazisinə müntəzəm səyahət edənlər hər dəfə yeni barmaq verməyə məcbur deyillər.

Barmaq izləri bir dəfə VİS-də qeydiyyat alındısa onlar 5 il ərzində dələcək viza müraciətlərdə istifadə oluna bilər.

### Dublin Sığınacaq Proseduru

İsveçrə Dublin Assosiasiyası Razılaşmasını 12 dekabr 2008-ci ildən tətbiq edir. Avropa İttifaqının 28 üzvü və İslandiya, Norveç, Lixtenşteyn və İsveçrənin qismində asosiativ dövlətlər Dublin Ərazisini təşkil edir. Bu 32 dövlət spesifik sığınacaq müraciətini yoxlamaq üçün ölkəni müəyyən edən qanunları tətbiq edirlər.

Dublin Proseduru geniş mənada iki qaydaya əsaslanır. Biri Avropa Şurası, digəri isə Avropa Komissiyası. Orada məsuliyyət daşıyan Üzv Dövlətlər üçün kriteriyalar müəyyən olunur. Bu iki qayda 2008-ci il dekabrın 12-dən İsveçrə sığınacaq və xarici milli qanunun tərkib hissəsidir.

Dublin Proseduru bir sığınacaq müraciətini yalnız bir üzv dövlətin baxmasını nəzərdə tutur. Bu qayda sığınacaq proseduru üzv dövlətlər arasında uyğunlaşdırmır. Lakin yalnız hansı üzv dövlətin sığınacaq proseduru cavabdeh olması kriteriyasını müəyyən edir. Məsuliyyət təyin olunduqdan sonra müvafiq səlahiyyətli üzv dövlətin sığınacaq haqqında milli qanunlarına uyğun olaraq müraciətə baxılır.

Dublin Qaydaları hər sığınacaq müraciətinə bir üzv dövlətin baxmasını nəzərdə tutur. Bu, sığınacaq axtaranların bir neçə müraciət etməsinin qarşısını almaq və bir müraciətə görə bir dövlətin səlahiyyətli olmasını təmin etmək üçündür.

Dublin Qaydaları yalnız üçüncü ölkə vətəndaşlarına şamil oluna bilər. Dəqiq desək, üzv dövlətlərin vətəndaşı olmayan şəxslər. Üzv dövlətlərin vətəndaşları sığınacaq üçün müraciət edərsə bu zaman Dublin Qaydaları şamil olunmur və ikitərəfli razılaşmalar nəzərə alınır.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/azerbaijan/en/home/visa/entry-residency/visa.html>

## Varia

### Our teambuilding event



On a sunny day in October, the employees of the Swiss Embassy left their offices for an exciting teambuilding event. The first stop was at an archery hall in Baku where everybody had the opportunity to shoot arrows. The members of the Azerbaijani national team showed their talented skills and shot arrows from around 20 meters distance. Also some of our team members showed impressive skills in archery and Deputy Head of Mission, Simone Haerberli, and Academic Intern, Franziska Roth, deserve to be specially mentioned here.



In the afternoon, the staff made another new experience and played two Portal Games – “The Mummy” and “Fort Boyard”. The aim of these games was to solve logical problems and to do sportive activities in order to escape from the rooms within one hour. It is difficult to say whether team members were more scared of doing brain works or sport. But they definitely enjoyed this special day of team spirit.

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### Swiss Embassy supports Dog Shelter in Azerbaijan



Amb. Philipp Stalder and Ms. Franziska Roth together with Ms. Emilia Tagiyeva from BARS

In December, the Embassy visited the dog shelter of the NGO “Baku Animal Rescue Society” (BARS), which is located 24 km outside of Baku in Perekeshkul. The visit to BARS was realized following a small donation which the Embassy could provide in the form of much needed dog food and the financing of sterilization costs for some 20 dogs.

The NGO BARS was founded in 2012 and has been actively saving and helping stray dogs. Currently, 90 dogs live there in small kennels. The kennels as well as the fences and the water system need to be repaired. BARS also constantly struggles to find food for the dogs or to pay the salary of the two workers, who stay at the shelter 24 hours.

For more information: <https://de-de.facebook.com/Bakuanimalrescuesociety/>

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### Worlds steepest funicular in Switzerland



The world’s steepest funicular called the “Stoosbahn” opened in Switzerland and transports its passengers 1,300 meters above sea level to the mountain village Stoos. With a new record of 110% gradient, it replaced the previous world record for the steepest funicular train which was formerly held by the “Gelmerbahn” in Bern, also in Switzerland. The new train was inaugurated on 15 December after 14 years of planning and building by the Swiss President Doris Leuthard.

<https://stoos-muotatal.ch/eroeffnung-neue-standseilbahn/>



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## Swiss scientist wins Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2017



Jacques Dubochet, a Swiss professor of biophysics at the University of Lausanne, was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry by the Nobel Academy in Stockholm on 4 October 2017.

Professor Dubochet – together with Professor Joachim Frank from Columbia University and Briton Richard Henderson from Cambridge University – received the

prestigious prize "for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution".

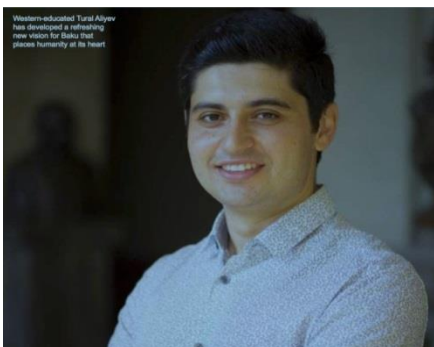
Cryo-electron microscopy allows researchers to *"freeze biomolecules mid-movement and visualize processes they have never previously seen, which is decisive for both the basic understanding of life's chemistry and for the development of pharmaceuticals. It also both simplifies and improves the imaging of biomolecules and moves biochemistry into a new era"* said the Nobel Prize organizers in a statement.

Interestingly, the 75-year-old Swiss Nobel Laureate Dubochet told public broadcaster RTS in an interview, that he was very bad at school and a teacher diagnosed him as dyslexic when he was about to fail in high school.

<https://www.ggba-switzerland.ch/en/lausanne-university-professor-wins-2017-nobel-prize-in-chemistry/>  
<https://www.thelocal.ch/20171006/i-was-very-bad-in-school-swiss-nobel-prize-in-chemistry-2017-winner>

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## Applying a new urban philosophy to Baku



Azerbaijani architect Tural Aliyev

The Azerbaijani architect Tural Aliyev, who is currently completing his Ph.D. at the University in Geneva, wants to apply the concept of urban retrofitting to his home city Baku. Urban retrofitting is the redesigning of existing buildings in a city to become more functional and sustainable. For his research, the young Azerbaijani scientist is working on a large-scale retrofitting and he is trying to connect the built environment of Baku and the natural environment. *"In the past, environmental and social questions had less priority. However, our approach, which focused on urban sustainability and retrofitting is the reverse of the Soviet ethos, where people were basically just cogs in an enormous economic machine."*

Mr. Aliyev argues that a more humane city is better for the economy and due to the fact that half of the world's population lives in cities, it is necessary to create good conditions for the citizens. *"Cities need to have the ability to restore, recover and promote sustainable development, including growth. They need to be more for people and promote social cohesion, what has decreased despite the fact that average disposable income has increased considerably."*

<http://www.visions.az/en/news/829/6c4e308b/>  
<http://nashagazeta.ch/news/les-gens-de-chez-nous/tural-aliev-gorod-eto-ne-tolko-neboskreby>



## Protecting the interests of the “Fifth Switzerland“



The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) represents and defends the interests of the members of the “Fifth Switzerland”. It was founded in 1916 in the middle of a world war under the aegis of the New Helvetic Society which was itself only established two years earlier. One of the main objectives was to forge close links between the Swiss Abroad and their homeland and to allow them to take part in national life to a greater extent. This initiative aimed at supporting the Swiss Abroad was initially based around New Helvetic Society groups set up abroad by the main Swiss communities internationally. However, shortly after the end of the war in 1919 a permanent OSA secretariat was opened in Geneva. It relocated to Fribourg in 1923. This

secretariat moved again in 1928, this time to the capital of Berne where it has been since May 1957 at Alpenstrasse 26. The OSA, a foundation governed by private law which is headquartered in Berne, works in close collaboration with the Area for the Swiss Abroad Foundation. [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

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## SwissCommunity vernetzt Schweizer weltweit

SwissCommunity ist eine Internet-Plattform für SchweizerInnen, um sich mit der Heimat und der Schweizer Diaspora in Kontakt zu setzen. Unter folgendem Link finden Sie mehr Informationen zu dem Netzwerk, Programmen und der Registrierung: <https://www.swisscommunity.org/de/homepage>

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## Media

### Information related to the Embassy:

Interview of Ambassador: <https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/business/2792245.html>

<http://www.msu.az/top/novosti/20170914114241722.html>

<http://aba.az/aba-nin-r%C9%99hb%C9%99riyi-seco-nun-makroiqtisadi-d%C9%99st%C9%99k-proqrami-uzr%C9%99-numay%C9%99nd%C9%99sini-q%C9%99bul-edib/>

<http://kaspiy.az/news.php?id=70651#.WgRBt4On3Jt>

[https://azertag.az/xeber/Azerbaycan\\_ve\\_Isvechre\\_elm\\_medeniyyet\\_mustevisinde-1108977](https://azertag.az/xeber/Azerbaycan_ve_Isvechre_elm_medeniyyet_mustevisinde-1108977)

<http://azedupress.com/?p=13622>

<http://vesti.az/news/348009>

<https://apa.az/medeniyyet-xeberleri/incesenet-haqqinda/isvecre-ve-onun-tebieti-movzusunda-h-e-art-resm-sergisinin-teqdimati-kecirilib-8555.html>

[https://apa.az/iqtisadiyyat-xeberleri/maliyye\\_xeberleri/sefir-azerbaycan-ve-isvecre-arasinda-ticaret-dovriyesinin-hecmi-azalib-5310.html](https://apa.az/iqtisadiyyat-xeberleri/maliyye_xeberleri/sefir-azerbaycan-ve-isvecre-arasinda-ticaret-dovriyesinin-hecmi-azalib-5310.html)

[https://apa.az/dagliq\\_qarabag/isvecre-sefiri-elaqelerimiz-geleceye-daha-optimist-baxmaga-imkan-verir-2418.html](https://apa.az/dagliq_qarabag/isvecre-sefiri-elaqelerimiz-geleceye-daha-optimist-baxmaga-imkan-verir-2418.html)

<https://www.azernews.az/culture/123238.html>

<http://menafn.com/1096174509/Switzerlands-nature-through-Azerbaijani-eyes>

[http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan\\_art/switzerland-and-its-nature-painting-exhibition-opens-in-baku.html](http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan_art/switzerland-and-its-nature-painting-exhibition-opens-in-baku.html)

[https://azertag.az/xeber/Gencede\\_Isvechre\\_istehsali\\_olan\\_Haydi\\_filmi\\_numayis\\_etdirilecek-1115988](https://azertag.az/xeber/Gencede_Isvechre_istehsali_olan_Haydi_filmi_numayis_etdirilecek-1115988)

### News related to Switzerland in Azerbaijani media:

[http://muallim.edu.az/content/?category=arxiv&issue=32-2017&content\\_id=10#.WaKzdrkico0.facebook](http://muallim.edu.az/content/?category=arxiv&issue=32-2017&content_id=10#.WaKzdrkico0.facebook)

<http://newbakulife.com/index.php/ru/poslednie/1665-приоритеты-швейцарии-на-72-сессии-генеральной-ассамблеи-оон.html>

[https://www.azernews.az/news.php?news\\_id=118730&cat=business](https://www.azernews.az/news.php?news_id=118730&cat=business)

<https://azertag.az/en/xeber/1097433>

## Facts & Figures

**OUR NATIONAL SPORTS**

**ROGER FEDERER**  
Roger Federer, the best-known Swiss sports personality worldwide is a world record holder as the winner of 17 grand-slam titles.

**7,000 KM**  
There are over 7,000 km of marked ski runs – about the distance from Bern to New Delhi.

**10,000**  
Football is Switzerland's most popular sport. 10,000 football games are held every weekend.

**GYMNASTICS FEDERATION**  
With 370,000 members the Swiss Gymnastics Federation has the highest number of members of any association in Switzerland.

**WALKING**  
Switzerland has a 62,000 km long network of walking and mountain footpaths.

2015 © FDFA, PRS / Sources (2014): Swissslympic, Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO), Swiss Football Association / For more visit houseofswitzerland.ch

Roger Federer is the most popular Swiss sportsman.

Football is the most popular sport in Switzerland. 10 000 games are held every weekend. The Swiss national team qualified to the World Cup 2018.

There are over 7 000 km of marked ski runs in Switzerland. It is the distance almost from Bern to New Delhi.

Walking is quite popular in Switzerland. There is 62 000 km network of walking and mountain footpaths.

## Agenda

- ❖ The Embassy of Switzerland is proud to present Silvan Zingg in Baku. Come & join us for two joyfull **Boogie-Woogie concerts** on **January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**, 2018 at the **Mugam Cultural Centre** (tickets for 10, 20 and 30 AZN under: [www.iticket.az](http://www.iticket.az)) and at the **Landmark** (only on invitation).

## Swiss links

ch.ch

Information about Swiss Administration: [www.ch.ch](http://www.ch.ch)



Discover Switzerland: [www.swissworld.org](http://www.swissworld.org)



Switzerland Tourism: [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com)



Auslandschweizer-Organisation  
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger  
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero  
Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad: [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

Please regularly check our webpage for news and events: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/baku>

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