

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 45 (2018)  
**Heft:** 1

**Vorwort:** The OSA is opposed to "No Billag"  
**Autor:** Gysin, Remo

### **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:** 01.04.2025

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

- 5 Mailbag
- 6 Focus  
Swiss media industry in turmoil
- 11 Politics  
Alain Berset, Swiss President for 2018  
Referendum on 4 March on the new financial regime
- 12 Economy  
Swiss airlines – a tale of success and failure
- 14 Society  
A visit to the sledge-maker
- 16 Culture  
First Gurlitt exhibition  
  
News from around the world
- 17 Literature series  
Felix Moeschlin – a native of Basel in Sweden
- 18 Culture  
New hip-hop from the suburbs
- 20 Sport  
Martina Hingis hangs up her racket  
Bernhard Russi designs the Olympic piste
- 23 OSA news
- 26 news.admin.ch
- 28 Images
- 30 Books / Sounds
- 31 Top pick / News

## The OSA is opposed to “No Billag”



Diversity of opinion and media, exchange between the various linguistic regions, an understanding of our different cultures, and news from and about Switzerland – these are values which we are proud of and which are part of the mandate of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SBC). Should that all come to an end?

As much as 75 percent of the SBC’s funding comes from licence fees, but the “No Billag” initiative, which will be put to the vote on 4 March, aims to do away with them. It is not seeking to reduce the fees but instead wants to completely abolish them at constitutional level, stipulating that: “Federal government will not operate its own radio and television stations in times of peace.” That would mean over and out for the broadcasters SRF, RTS, RSI and RTR. It would bring an end to the SBC’s radio and television programmes in four national languages and the close partnership between swissinfo and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. It would also mean job losses for around 6,000 SBC staff and 900 redundancies at 34 local radio and TV stations which also currently receive a share of the licence fees.

If the annual radio and television fees of 365 francs are abolished, it would rapidly result in the closure of the SBC. This would be a huge loss to society and the media scene in Switzerland. Pay TV is no alternative and would cost us more than the licence fee after tuning in just a few times.

The details can be discussed and there is room for improvement. However, overall the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation provides an excellent national and local public service and, at a time of digital fragmentation, it is a guarantor of high-quality information, communication and entertainment. The OSA Executive Board therefore recommends the rejection of the “No Billag” initiative.

REMO GYSIN, PRESIDENT OF THE OSA

Cover photo: Martina Hingis, Switzerland’s most famous female tennis player. Photo by Getty Images