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Embassy of Switzerland
PO Box 25004
22, Panama Street
Wellington 6146

85th Congress for the Swiss Abroad

The 85th Congress for the Swiss Abroad will be held from 17 - 19 August 2007 in Geneva.

Numbers are required by 30 April 2007.

Should you require further information, please contact either the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington on 04 4721593 or Marianne Drummond on 06 7628757, or alternatively look up e-mail address: congress@aso.ch.

Little Bit:

Friendship -A Gender Study

Friendship among Women:

A woman didn't come home one night. The next day she told her husband that she had slept over at a girlfriend's house. The man called his wife's ten best friends. Not one of them knew anything about it.

Friendship among Men:

A man didn't come home one night. The next day he told his wife that he had slept over at a mate's house. The woman called her husband's ten best friends. Eight of them confirmed that he had slept over, and two of them claimed that he was still there!!!

News from our Delegate to Swiss Abroad

The Fifth Switzerland is Growing

The latest statistics reveal that last year the number of Swiss Abroad has again increased by about 10,000. The total now stands at 645,010. There has also been a corresponding increase of registered voters to 111,249. The ever increasing numbers will have a positive effect on the upcoming parliamentary elections in autumn (northern hemisphere) as well as on the outcome of referenda. This year the "electronic highway" will take its first step. Wherever possible the Secretariat's newsletter will be sent out by E-mail, speeding up communication and reducing costs.

Election Manifesto

Last year the Swiss Abroad Organisation (SAO) passed a paper based on five principals: politics - mobility - education - Switzerland's international presence - and effective contact with compatriots abroad through the various organisations.

Goals

The most important goals are: to have the Swiss Abroad's needs and aspirations taken into account in the run-up to the elections - a voting participation at least equal to that of the indigenous Swiss - the election / re-election of candidates sympathetic to our needs - ensure that politicians act sensibly - and that the general public is effectively informed of the "Fifth Switzerland's" position.

Availability of Information

The "Swiss Revue" will continue to be an important avenue of information. During the year all the parties and candidates will be highlighted. The following internet sites will be of particular interest: www.aso.ch / www.revue.ch. A new optimal medium is an election forum launched by "Swiss Info" presenting parties and candidates as well as enabling online debates.

So go to it, and make full use of your franchise!!

Heinz Leuenberger

* Reminder...

Telephone numbers in Switzerland are changing

From 1 April 2007 the area code 044 replaces 01

For calls to the Zurich region (Switzerland) the area code +41 1 will not be valid after 1 April 2007. It must be replaced by +41 44.

Example of a call to the Zurich region from abroad: +41 44 765 43 21 instead of +41 1 765 43 21.

Example of a call within Switzerland: 044 765 43 21 instead of 01 765 43 21.

The remaining seven digits of the number following +41 44, telephone numbers with the area code +41 43 and all other telephone numbers in Switzerland remain unchanged.

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