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Welcome message from the Ambassador

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

It is my pleasure to address you in this second edition of our new Newsletter, the first issue of which was published last December. We have received a lot of positive feedbacks for the first edition, and this has motivated us to continue with this communication project with the public.



Before we all move to our summer break, I want to thank my team for the great work and briefly recall the main activities of our embassy over the past six months.

For myself, after two years in Kuwait, it is exciting to reflect on what has been achieved since my arrival in the country and particularly in this first part of 2024. First of all, I would like to recall the visit of the then President of Switzerland, Mr. Alain Berset. He came to Kuwait to honour the late Amir, H.H. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah and to present the official condolences of our country. It was indeed a special moment, for Kuwait, and for our bilateral relations.

Economic relations are certainly a priority for my team and myself, as demonstrated by the success of the Swiss Kuwaiti Business Platform and its activities, for example in tune with the local culture (Diwaniya) during Ramadan.

Kuwait and Switzerland also share a long tradition in promoting humanitarian values. And this is reflected for instance by our cooperation within the Global Alliance for the Missing Persons based in Geneva.

Another important field of activity this year is the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, for which we also cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Kuwait Red Crescent, and other local actors.

For the second half of the year 2024, we also plan some public activities on the topic of water management, which is very important for the environment.

Until then, I wish you all a wonderful summer holiday! My team and myself are very happy to interact with all of you and we look forward to seeing you soon again to boost the relations between our countries.

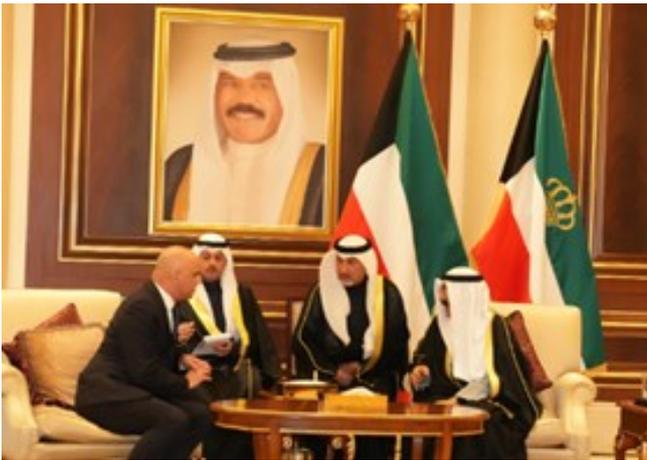
Yours sincerely,

Tiziano Balmelli
Ambassador of Switzerland to the State of Kuwait

THE EMBASSY IN ACTION

The President of Switzerland visited Kuwait

The then President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Alain Berset, travelled to Kuwait on the 18.12 to present Switzerland's official condolences on the passing of H.H. the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf. He was hence meeting with the new Amir, H.H. Sheikh Mishal. As well as expressing his condolences, the importance of Kuwait's traditional role in promoting peace and dialogue was mentioned, a tradition that the country shares with Switzerland. The President and the Emir also underlined the very close relationship between many Kuwaitis and Switzerland, which is considered a 'second home' (for several decades, as Kuwaitis were the first in the Gulf region to 'discover' our country, starting in the 1930s-1940s).



Supporting the Global Alliance for the Missing

Supporting the Global Alliance for the Missing: In cooperation with the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the



local Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), a working lunch was organized at the Swiss Residence to promote the Global Alliance for the Missing, launched in 2021 in Geneva. The GAM aims to raise awareness of the issue of missing persons and separated families, especially in connection with armed conflicts.

Commemorating the Geneva Conventions

In cooperation with the ICRC Regional Delegation, the Swiss Ambassador hosted a working lunch at the



Swiss Residence 15.05 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The occasion brought together representatives of the local MFA, the local Red Crescent, the UN, like-minded States and other national bodies committed to international humanitarian law. The Embassy and the ICRC Regional Delegation then organized a second event in the Swiss Residence on the 10.06, with local representatives and diplomats from all five continents, to commemorate the 75 years of the Geneva Conventions and reflect on today's challenges. We had a passionate conversation with the wonderful audience and the brilliant Head of the Regional Delegation of the ICRC, Mr. Mamadou Sow. The participants underlined that we all belong to one Human Family, and the fundamental principles of humanity are shared in all religions and cultures.

A selection of other Embassy's activities

Over the past six months, our Embassy has hosted a large number of activities reinforcing the already strong bonds between the two countries, enhancing

economic opportunities for Swiss companies, promoting Swiss 'green solutions', tourism and culture.

Swiss businesses embrace local tradition



In honor of Kuwait's Ramadan diwaniya tradition, the Swiss Kuwait Business Platform, together with the Embassy, organized an economic diwaniya in



the Swiss Residence (21.03). The successful event brought together more than hundred participants, mainly representatives of the local private sector with business ties to Switzerland, but also executives from the Kuwaiti sovereign fund.



Ladies' diplomatic evening

On 23.05, at the initiative of the Ambassador's spouse, Ms. Iveta Balmelli, the Swiss Residence hosted a networking event exclusively for women (ambassadors, ambassadors' wives, representatives of local society). The opportunity to meet and network in a convivial setting was particularly appreciated by more than fifty participants who joined us that evening.



Highlighting Swiss higher education

As part of its efforts to promote higher education and research in Switzerland, the Embassy took part for the first time in Q8EDUEX, the largest exhibition dedicated to higher education. Around 1'000 people attended the two-day event



(14-15/02). The main points of attraction: the quality of the education and the 'applied' aspect of the scientific branches, the value for money, the beauty of the landscape, and the security/stability of the country.

Swiss Alpine Cinema Mini-Series

The Ambassador organized two convivial evenings in his residence for the 'Swiss Alpine Cinema Mini-Series'. This series, dedicated to promoting the image of Switzerland and Swiss culture, consisted of two films: 'Heidi' and 'Schellen-Ursli'. Both films were well received by the participants, who included members of the Swiss community, Kuwaiti friends and representatives of the diplomatic community.



Promoting Francophonie

As part of our cooperation with French-speaking countries and entities in Kuwait, the Ambassador held a Francophone Diwaniya at his Residence. Diwanias are a local form of gathering to discuss various topics, accompanied by coffee and dates. Around 100 people attended, including members of the Al Sabah ruling family. The success of the event was also noted and publicized by the national TV channel and covered by various newspapers. The Swiss Embassy also took part in *the Mois de la Francophonie* by organizing a film screening at the Swiss Residence. The film 'Je m'appelle Eugen' (My name is Eugen) was shown to a large audience on 07.03, both from the diplomatic community and local civil society.



Local Business community

A first networking event was organized in January at the Swiss Residence as part of our traditional cooperation with the German Business Council in Kuwait GBCK (which also brings together Swiss and Austrian companies). It focused on the potential of AI and robots in various sectors, including healthcare, construction and business operations. The numerous participants were able to interact with two robots during the evening.



In March, the Residence hosted a second event, with the GBCK and the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC), a fully owned subsidiary of Kuwait Investment Authority. We learned about the numerous initiatives of the NTEC to advance technological innovations in Kuwait, to better serve the needs of people, companies and public institutions in various sectors.



The Swiss Kuwaiti Business Platform SKBP and the GBCK are complementing each other, both committed to jointly boost friendship and trade exchanges between Kuwait and Switzerland.

Football evening at the Residence

There was a festive atmosphere on the 23.06 at the Swiss Residence for the Euro2024 football match Switzerland vs. Germany. We were welcoming the German Ambassador and numerous other friends (Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland). The event was also covered by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida, which qualified the 1-1 final result as “very diplomatic”. Another impressive performance (2-0) against Italy (the title holder!) on the 29.06 qualified the Swiss team for the Quarter-Final to be played on the 06.07.



EMBASSY NEWS

The Embassy in the local news: a selection

1. Visit of the Swiss President: [Alanba](#), [Kuwait News Agency](#), [Kuwait News](#), [Official Video](#).
2. Interview with the Ambassador: [Alanba](#)
3. Francophone Diwaniya: [Times of Kuwait](#)
4. Economic Diwaniya: [video KTV2](#), [Times of Kuwait](#)
5. TV: “10 Minutes of Diplomacy” with the Swiss Ambassador: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
6. 75 years Geneva Convention at the Residence, with ICRC

Changes in Embassy staff

It is with a pinch of heart that the Embassy said good-bye to its Deputy Head of Mission, **Mr. Alexandre Guyot**, who has left into retirement. His successor will join us in the coming months. However, we are thrilled to welcome in the embassy our new Diplomatic and Trade local officer, **Mr. Hussain Afili**. Hussain is a Kuwaiti, who studied in France and has public governance and corporate work experience.

CONSULAR

Regional Consular Centre (RCC) in Doha

The RCC within the Embassy of Switzerland in Doha/Qatar handles all consular services (legalisations, passports etc.) also for the Swiss citizens based in Kuwait. Contact information below.

SwissInTouch, Switzerland in your pocket

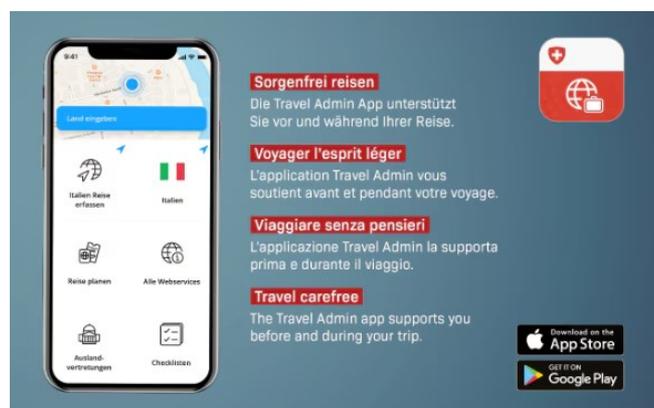
This web application enables the Swiss abroad to receive and find important information from their official representation, the various federal offices and other institutional partners in a single, state-of-the-art platform. The application complements existing communication platforms, such as the consular services, the FDFA's virtual counter and Travel Admin, the companion for Swiss travelers. No registration is required. However, you will need to create an account to access certain additional functions.



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Travel safely with the Travel Admin App

The Travel Admin app provides ideal support in preparing a trip. The app also offers useful information and services for people travelling, not only in case of a crisis. But if the crisis does occur, the app can become a particularly valuable tool: the app has proven its worth, for example, in the context of the coronavirus crisis in organising the return journey of blocked Swiss travelers. More information [here](#).



Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has represented the overall interest of Swiss nationals abroad in Switzerland since 1916, and is recognised by the authorities as the mouthpiece of the 'Fifth

Switzerland'. The OSA provides online information and personal advice to Swiss nationals living abroad and publishes the 'Swiss Review' magazine. The OSA also provides holiday programmes and educational/training courses for young Swiss nationals.



CONTACT

Embassy

Embassy of Switzerland in Kuwait,
Qortuba, Block 2, Street 1,
Villa 122
Kuwait
+965 25 34 91 72 | [email](#) | [website](#)

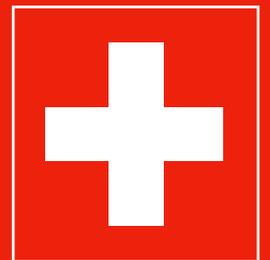
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Consular Affairs

Embassy of Switzerland in Doha,
Zone 66, Wadi al-Humra Street 807
Villa 60, Doha
Qatar
+974 4020 3402 | [visa email](#) | [general](#)



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