

SWISS WITH US

NEWS & VIEWS

From the Embassy of Switzerland in the U.S.



March 2023

From the Ambassador's desk

Dear readers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our newsletter *Swiss with US – News & Views from the Embassy of Switzerland in the United States*. In this newsletter, we seek to inform you about different aspects of Swiss excellence, engagement, and impact in the United States: from our diplomatic achievements to our presence in science and academia; from the success of Swiss businesses and entrepreneurs in the United States to the cultural influence of our artists and athletes.

2023 has been off to a fantastic and busy start at the Embassy and we want to provide you with an update on some of what has happened in recent months. The year started with a celebration in New York when, for the first time ever, Switzerland began its term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. You can read more about this important position and our goals for our tenure below.

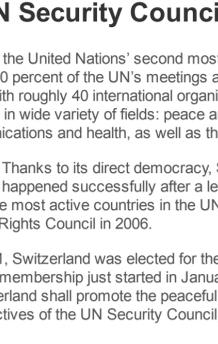
While our colleagues here and in New York are working hard on Security Council matters, Switzerland continues to shine in many fields. Below, we invite you to learn more about the latest numbers on the Swiss economic impact in the United States, new trade policies of mutual benefit to us and our host country, and the adventurous return of two invaluable historical artefacts to Switzerland. We also want to tell you about our recent presence at CES and we have recommendations for four brand new Swiss movies for your enjoyment.

You will see that Switzerland has already left its mark in the United States in 2023—and we are just getting started! Please know that while this Embassy is working hard to address diplomatic and geopolitical topics with the U.S. government, state and local officials, and members of the international community, we are also here for you. If we can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out and my team will get back to you.

Now sit back, come "Swiss with US", and enjoy our newsletter.

Sincerely,

Jacques Pitteloud



Jacques Pitteloud is the Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States of America.

Switzerland joins the UN Security Council

The Swiss city of Geneva has been home to the United Nations' second most important headquarters ever since the organization was founded in 1945. By now, 60 percent of the UN's meetings are hosted in Geneva, a city that has become one of the world's leading multilateral hubs with roughly 40 international organizations, 750 NGOs, and 180 states present. These actors are working on global solutions in wide variety of fields: peace and disarmament, humanitarian law and action, trade and labor, science, telecommunications and health, as well as the environment and sustainable development.

Switzerland itself joined the UN only in 2002. Thanks to its direct democracy, Switzerland is the only country to have joined the UN as the result of a popular vote, which happened successfully after a lengthy internal political process. To make up for lost time, Switzerland has been among the most active countries in the UN since then. It was notably a strong proponent for the creation of the UN Human Rights Council in 2006.

After having submitted its candidature in 2011, Switzerland was elected for the first time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2022. The Swiss membership just started in January and will last until the end of 2024. The Swiss Federal Constitution states that Switzerland shall promote the peaceful coexistence of peoples and help to build a just international order. This mirrors the objectives of the UN Security Council, which has the mission of maintaining international peace and security.

Switzerland has a long tradition as a neutral and independent state with a strong commitment to international law. It has had no colonial possessions and has never aligned itself militarily. Openness and dialogue form the backbone of Swiss foreign policy. On the Security Council, Switzerland aims to collaborate with all and to serve the interests of the wider membership. Switzerland's four thematic priorities for its work on the Council are to build sustainable peace, to protect civilians in armed conflict, to address the impacts of climate change on security, and to improve the Security Council's effectiveness.

SWITZERLAND ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

2023 and 2024

PRIORITIES



Building sustainable peace



Protecting civilians



Addressing climate security



Enhancing effectiveness



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[Learn more about the Swiss priorities for the UN Security Council](#)

Swiss Economic Impact in the United States

Every other year, the Embassy of Switzerland publishes a brochure on the economic impact of Switzerland in the United States, with a breakdown by each U.S. state. As the latest numbers show:

Switzerland is one of the highest foreign direct investors in the United States as well as its third-highest foreign investor in research and development (R&D). Swiss affiliates support nearly half a million U.S. jobs and are responsible for the 3rd highest overall income tax revenue paid by foreign affiliates. On top of that, Swiss companies pay good salaries: among the United States' 7 highest foreign investors, we rank 1st in average salary at just under \$110,000 a year.

Switzerland is also a significant U.S. trading partner, with bilateral trade among the two countries totaling in the tens of billions of dollars yearly. Swiss pharmaceutical and industrial goods, as well as financial services, top the list. In 2021, the United States even surpassed Germany as Switzerland's most important export market worldwide. Between 2001 and 2021, exports to the U.S. grew by an average of 6.3% a year. This is three times more than equivalent German and Italian export growth, which was 2.1% and 2%, respectively. That year, goods exports from Switzerland to the United States reached a new peak at \$63 billion, and services exports amounted to \$29 billion.

The U.S. exports more products and services to Switzerland than to Scandinavia, the Baltic States, and Austria combined, making Switzerland the United States' 16th largest trading partner. Furthermore, U.S. services exports amount to \$46 billion, making Switzerland the 7th most important export market for services, ahead of Mexico and Germany. The bilateral trade volume in goods and services between Switzerland and the United States reached a total of \$134.4 billion.

These close ties have been beneficial to both countries and allow Switzerland to contribute substantially to the welfare of the world's leading economy. To highlight these contributions, the Embassy has also launched a website that summarizes some of the main elements of our economic relationship and focuses on Switzerland's economic impact in the individual U.S. states.

[Visit our interactive site for details on Swiss economic impact in all U.S. states](#)

Q&A: New Agreement for Pharmaceuticals



Signature ceremony of the Agreement with Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jamie White, FDA Deputy Commissioner Andi Fristedt, State Secretary Helene Budliger Arleda and Dr. Jörg Schläpfer

On January 12, Switzerland signed an Agreement on Good Manufacturing Practices for pharmaceuticals with the United States. Trade attaché Kuno Zurkinden assisted in the negotiations for this agreement. In this Q&A, he sheds light on the importance of this rather technical topic and how it impacts the daily life of people and companies in both countries.

What is a "Good Manufacturing Practices" (GMP) Agreement?

The production of pharmaceuticals must follow internationally agreed-upon guidelines and rules, the "Good Manufacturing Practices" (GMP). National authorities visit production sites to ensure compliance with these rules. These inspections are a prerequisite for the approval of medicines in many countries—including Switzerland and the United States. Without a GMP agreement, production sites are inspected not only in the country of production, but also in the importing country. This agreement now has the effect that the respective inspections are mutually recognized for the approval of medicinal products.

What does that actually mean for companies and patients?

If a company wants to register a drug in Switzerland and the USA, only one inspection is necessary, instead of two. This is no trivial matter. These inspections can easily cost more than a million U.S. dollars because production has to be shut down for several days during the inspection period. In 2021, 35 of these inspections took place. The GMP agreement will also speed up the approval process, which will have a positive impact on patients' access to medicine.

What are the next steps to implement the GMP Agreement?

Currently the Swiss and U.S. authorities are assessing whether the domestic requirements of each country are being met by the other country's authority. Once this process is completed the agreement will come into effect. The completion of this assessment is expected in mid-2023.

The Repatriation of Incunables



Solothurn, December 17, 2022: Mr. Simon Kürzener, Head of the Legal Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, is handing over the incunabulum "De Memoria augenda" to Prof. Jean-Robert Gisler of the Cantonal and University Library of Fribourg.

New York. After World War, a historic and invaluable medieval book vanished from Switzerland, D.C., the priceless artifact returned this year to its original home in Fribourg, Switzerland. A few weeks later yet another historic book that emerged in the United States after decades of disappearance was returned to Switzerland. The Embassy of Switzerland in the United States was able to connect the relevant representatives of both countries and help with both repatriation processes.

The two works in question (*Das Narrenschiff* and *De Memoria augenda*) represent important artefacts of Switzerland's cultural heritage and help preserve the history of Swiss humanism. The homecoming of these two silent witnesses to Fribourg, Switzerland, signifies a happy ending to an adventurous journey through several countries over six decades. The two books are an important part of the historical and cultural identity of both Fribourg and Switzerland.

[Read more about the repatriation of the incunables on our blog](#)

Swisstech at CES



Every January, hundreds of thousands of industry leaders and policymakers flock to the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. It is the home of the growing industries of tomorrow, including quantum computing and e-mobility.

Switzerland made its mark at this year's CES. The country was honored as one of the most innovative nations in the world during the CES Opening Ceremony and was recognized as a leading hub of innovation and technological progress. Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud accepted the award on behalf of the Swiss government. At the Swisstech pavilion, 25 Swiss startups showcased their innovative work with a focus on augmented reality and Metaverse applications.

Along with Ambassador Pitteloud, a delegation from the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C., traveled to Las Vegas to support the start-ups at the Swisstech Pavilion and connect with representatives in the electronics industry. At CES, the future of technology is on display. It is the home of the growing industries of tomorrow, including quantum computing and e-mobility.

[Learn more about Swiss innovation in tech](#)

Solothurn Film Festival

Each year, the Solothurn Film Festival presents the best of Swiss cinema. For eight days at the end of January, the picturesque town of Solothurn is transformed into a film lover's haven as hundreds of Swiss productions are screened for audiences of industry professionals and casual film-goers alike, and this year the Embassy had a representative on the ground. Below are four films from the 2023 Solothurn Film Festival (its 58th iteration!) we look forward to seeing here in the U.S.

Interested in watching more Swiss films? Check out our [Swiss Culture from Home](#) newsletter and [social media channels](#) for announcements about our monthly Swiss Film Club! Who knows... you may have the chance to see some of the movies from this list!



Becoming Giulia

Documentary, Laura Kaehr

This documentary takes audiences behind the scenes at the Zurich Opera Ballet, as principal dancer Giulia Tonelli returns from maternity leave and tries to balance her new family life with the demanding career she loves.



The Giacomettis (I Giacometti)

Documentary, Susanna Fazun

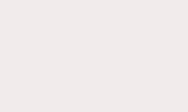
Though Alberto Giacometti may be the most famous member of his artistically talented family, this documentary tells the story of the tight-knit clan and their connection to the beautiful Bregaglia Valley in southern Switzerland.



Stuntwomen (Cascadeuses)

Documentary, Elena Avdija

As told through the stories of three stuntwomen at various stages of their careers, this film celebrates the contributions of women in a male-dominated field, while also questioning the distribution of violence in film and television.



The Line (La Ligne)

Fiction, Ursula Meier

Following a violent encounter between a mother and daughter, this French-language film explores both the strength and complexity of relationships within families.

Consular information



New passport and identity card

In October 2022, a brand new Swiss passport was introduced. This has now been followed by a newly designed Swiss Identity Card, which will be available starting March 3, 2023.

The new Swiss passport series incorporates the latest security features of identity documents and includes unique design elements inspired by the Swiss landscape.

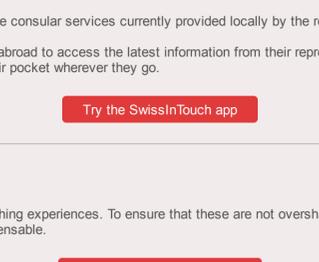
The Swiss passport continues to sport the familiar red cover. Together with the 26 cantons, the "fifth Switzerland", which represents the approximately 788,000 Swiss citizens abroad, will now also be represented on one of the visa pages.

As before, the biometric data is stored on a microchip located in the cover of the passport. The data on the chip can only be read with a device that ensures encrypted transmission. The fingerprints are specially protected. Switzerland only grants access to the fingerprints to countries that have an equivalent level of data protection.

For the new identity card, some of the security features are built into the materials, others are created during the manufacturing process and some during the personalization of the card.

The updated identity documents now appear in a uniform design. All previously issued passports and identity cards will retain their validity until the registered expiration date.

[More information about the new passports and identity cards](#)



SwissInTouch

Following the success of the [Travel Admin app](#) for Swiss travelers, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has launched a new app, this time designed to strengthen communications between Swiss living abroad and the Swiss public authorities.

Citizens living abroad are in frequent contact with the Swiss authorities. To stay in touch, the embassies and consulates use written communications, newsletters, social networks, and events organized throughout the year. The new app simplifies and systematizes communication.

However the app will not replace any of the consular services currently provided locally by the representations or on the FDFA's online desk.

The SwissInTouch app enables all Swiss abroad to access the latest information from their representation when and where they need it – this way they can keep Switzerland in their pocket wherever they go.

[Try the SwissInTouch app](#)

Traveling responsibly

Traveling abroad brings with it many enriching experiences. To ensure that these are not overshadowed by unpleasant surprises, a certain degree of personal responsibility is indispensable.

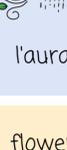
[Tips and tricks for traveling](#)

P.S. from Switzerland



Romansh Crash Course

One of Switzerland's four national languages



weather

l'aura

flower

la flur

town

la citad

moon

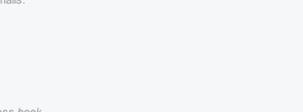
la glina

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