



# SWISS WITH US



NEWS & VIEWS

*From the Embassy of Switzerland in the U.S.*

August 2023

## From the Ambassador's desk

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

Happy Swiss National Day! While we celebrate with our Swiss and American friends in the summer heat, let us take a moment to reflect on the strength of the partnership between our two countries. This 1st of August, we reflect on the foundation of Switzerland as a country, our growth and achievements over the years, and our indelible impacts around the world.

With this in mind, I am delighted to announce the launch of our [SWISS IMPACT website](#). There, you will find an overview of Switzerland's activities throughout the United States. Read on to learn more about the features of SWISS IMPACT and its priority areas.

Switzerland is at the forefront of the international fight for a peaceful cyberspace with an open, reliable internet. In June, we met with U.S. government officials for the Swiss-U.S. Cyber and Digital Dialogue. Our common goals in cybersecurity and digital human rights are outlined below.

With our world-class universities and research programs, SWISS IMPACT is particularly visible in science. We were honored to welcome one of America's most prominent advocates for science education to the Embassy in June: Bill Nye the Science Guy. Later in this newsletter, you can read all about our engaging conversation on science diplomacy and space exploration. You will also learn more about our interest not only in space, but also in aerospace: Switzerland is a leading driver behind Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) and I was thrilled to hear from experts in the field who shared their optimism on the potential of SAFs.

Swiss National Day is a good reminder of not only the privileges, but also the duties, that come with Swiss citizenship. In May, we were joined by over 70 young Swiss citizens living in the U.S. who had just turned 18 for an overview of their responsibilities and opportunities in education, civic life, and military service. Below, we provide useful links to those who are interested in finding information on the Swiss Armed Forces.

Switzerland is committed to the fight for human rights across the world, including in the U.S. Our participation in this year's Pride Month celebration, recognizing the local LGBTQ+ community, underscored our dedication to inclusion and equality. Find out more about our support for this important cause below.

Lastly, travel season is upon us—I personally cannot wait for my own upcoming trip to Switzerland—and hopefully your summer travels include a visit to Switzerland as well! Some Swiss citizens may need to renew their Swiss passports and, if you are not a Swiss citizen and are planning on visiting us for a while, you may need a visa. We end this edition of *Swiss with US* with a reminder of the services our consular section provides in Washington, D.C.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing summertime. Whether you are staying in the U.S. or visiting Switzerland, I'll bet you will see SWISS IMPACT all around.

Sincerely,



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

## **SWISS IMPACT: Highlighting Swiss achievements in the United States**



Switzerland is traditionally known for its chocolate and cheese; mountains and lakes; and the precision of its watches and trains. But Switzerland has a lot more to offer the world, and especially the United States. It is an important and reliable international partner in fields ranging from politics and economy to technology, innovation, and science. Furthermore, Switzerland's innovative spirit, its commitment to sustainability, and the democratic values it shares with the U.S. contribute to the strong bilateral relationship.

SWISS IMPACT highlights the breadth of Switzerland's presence in the U.S., particularly in the areas of: Innovation, Sustainability, Economic Relations, Responsible International Action, and Culture. As such, the Embassy has launched the brand new [SWISS IMPACT website](#), a great tool to learn about Switzerland's role in these fields and to explore programming across the United States. Featuring past and upcoming events, the website showcases how Switzerland's official representations, companies, research institutions, scientists, and more work together with local partners to further strengthen the excellent relationship between Switzerland and the U.S.

Explore the new [website](#) and register for one of our many public events. You can also sign up for various newsletters in the "Stay in Touch" section of the website to stay up to date on the activities of the Swiss representations across the U.S.

**For example, did you know that Switzerland...**

...has numerous world-class public research institutions that contribute to finding innovative solutions in various fields here in the U.S.? (**Innovation**)

...is the seventh largest foreign direct investor in the U.S.? (**Economic Relations**)

...and the U.S. face some of the same issues related to climate change and work together to tackle these challenges? (**Sustainability**)

...currently holds a seat as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council that it uses to promote Swiss humanitarian values? (**Humanitarian Affairs**)

...has four national languages, each of which is has its own dedicated celebration each year? (**Culture**)



*SWISS IMPACT: Highlighting Switzerland's Positive Impact in the U.S.*

## **Diplomacy: 2023 Swiss-U.S. Cyber and Digital Dialogue**

On June 7, representatives of the governments of Switzerland and the United States met in Washington, D.C., for the [2023 Swiss-U.S. Cyber and Digital Dialogue](#), the goal of which was to exchange views and to enhance bilateral cooperation on key issues within this emerging field of diplomacy.

Both Switzerland and the U.S. are dedicated to promoting a peaceful, secure, and stable cyberspace with an internet that is free, open, and reliable. During the dialogue, officials addressed a wide range of topics, covering the key priorities identified in [the Swiss Digital Foreign Policy Strategy 2021–24](#).

Besides cybersecurity, cyber defense, digital human rights, multilateral cooperation, data protection and digital infrastructure, two particularly important topics were addressed: combatting ransomware attacks and Switzerland's ongoing efforts as a host state for international organizations working on digital issues.

Ransomware attacks occur when hackers lock a victim's computer files and demand payment in exchange for restoring access to the data. Switzerland is part of the [Counter Ransomware Initiative](#) launched by the U.S.

Government to jointly fight back against those criminal acts.

In “International Geneva”, Switzerland hosts one of the world's leading hubs for [digital governance](#). From e-commerce to intellectual property, human rights, international humanitarian law, and standardization, Geneva is home to many of the international organizations that ensure technology works for humanity. In fact, more than 50% of discussions and decisions on digital governance issues already take place in Geneva, thus Switzerland aims to further strengthen its digital diplomacy ecosystem.



*U.S. and Swiss officials took part in the 2023 Swiss-U.S. Cyber and Digital Dialogue, including staff from the Embassy of Switzerland.*

## **An Evening with Bill Nye the Science Guy**





*Bill Nye, Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud, and the Science and Technology Office of the Embassy of Switzerland in the U.S.*

On June 29, the Embassy of Switzerland hosted an exciting event in collaboration with the [Planetary Society](#) entitled: "The Stars and Beyond - An Evening with Bill Nye and Swiss Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud."

Bill Nye, better known as "Bill Nye the Science Guy," is an American science advocate, educator, and television presenter. With his enthusiasm and signature bow tie, Nye is a prominent figure in popularizing science in the USA. Through his immensely popular television show, "Bill Nye the Science Guy," which aired from 1993 to 1998, Nye captivated viewers with his engaging and accessible explanations of complex scientific concepts.

The fireside chat centered around the great significance of science diplomacy and space exploration in today's world. Attendees included representatives of over 20 embassies in Washington, DC, science counselors and ambassadors, private companies, academia, and notable U.S. federal entities, including the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

The gathering provided an opportunity for experts and stakeholders from various fields to come together and explore the essential role of science diplomacy in advancing international cooperation and tackling global challenges. The discussion delved into the vast potential of space exploration and the transformative impact it can have on various scientific disciplines, technological advancements, and its benefits for society.

## **Switzerland's commitment to sustainability & innovation through Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**

On June 9, the Embassy of Switzerland hosted a breakfast panel on the topic of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Made from renewable or low-carbon sources, SAFs are set to play a crucial role in decarbonizing aviation.

The panel featured two experts from either side of the Atlantic: Dr. Anthony Patt, Professor of Climate Policy at ETH Zurich, and Kevin Welsh, Executive Director of the Office of Environment and Energy at the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. They discussed the current state and future prospects of SAF with moderator Kathleen Koch, a former

CNN journalist. Finding solutions to scale up SAFs and to harmonize standards across jurisdictions are key to their development and future implementation.

As of today, SAFs are still more expensive than traditional fuels. Yet there is a real sense of optimism for the future. Technological advancements, supported by regulatory measures, are expected to drive costs down and create a healthy market for SAFs. And Switzerland, the home of Synhelion, a company that specializes in the production of synthetic fuels, is at the forefront of this exciting new development.

The event served as a platform for experts from government and private industry, media representatives, and aviation enthusiasts. This gathering not only highlighted Switzerland's dedication to sustainability and innovation, but also underscored its unwavering commitment to advancing these principles in the field of aviation and beyond.



*Attendees from the Swiss Breakfast at the Ambassador's residence listening to Dr. Anthony Patt, Kevin Welsh and Kathleen Koch discuss Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).*

## **The *Jungb rgerfeier* at the Embassy of Switzerland: presenting opportunities to young Swiss citizens in the U.S.**



*Military staff from the Office of the Defense Attach  present the different opportunities at play for the young Swiss citizens residing in the U.S.*

On May 13, the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C., hosted the *Jungb rgerfeier*, a special event for over 70 young Swiss citizens residing in the United States who had recently turned 18, making them officially adults in Switzerland. The purpose of the event was to familiarize these young citizens with their rights and responsibilities as Swiss nationals. Presentations from various Embassy departments covered administrative issues, education, Swiss culture, and military service.

During the event, the Office of the Defense Attach  to the USA took the opportunity to present the missions of the Swiss Armed Forces and highlighted the numerous benefits that military service could offer to young citizens. Unlike their counterparts in Switzerland, Swiss men living in the U.S. do not have to complete their compulsory military service in the Swiss Armed Forces. However, young women and men may choose to do so voluntarily. Under the theme "Your Chance," military staff working at the Embassy explained how engaging with the Swiss military provided an opportunity for personal growth, including the development of leadership skills, the formation of lasting friendships, the opportunity to learn new languages, and access to professional opportunities.

Following the informative presentations, guests gathered at the Residence of the Swiss Ambassador for a lunch where staff from the Embassy and the Office of the Defense Attach  had the chance to interact directly with the attendees and address any specific inquiries related to military service and its associated opportunities. The following [link](#) contains useful information regarding the Swiss Armed Forces.

## **Celebrating Pride Month in D.C.**



This past June, the Embassy joined the celebration of Pride, which recognizes the LGBTQ+ community. Festivities are held throughout the United States, highlighting equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Here in Washington, D.C., we kicked off the celebration by participating in the 48th annual Capital Pride Parade, organized by the Capital Pride Alliance, attracting over 650,000 spectators. The Embassy of Switzerland, alongside other embassies in Washington, D.C., joined with a delegation of almost 60 people and walked through the streets of the city with chocolates and Swiss flags to give out to the enthusiastic cheering crowd.

Our Pride programming continued with the June edition of the Embassy's Swiss Film Club, featuring the documentary, *La Mia Danza*. The film explores the director's passion for dance and questions gender identities and the labeling of activities as being "for boys" or "for girls". A live virtual discussion was held with the film's director, Filippo Demarchi, and can be viewed [here](#).

To wrap up Pride month, we joined with colleagues at Embassies around DC to spread the "love" via a [Twitter thread](#), showing the word in the national languages of the various representations. With four national languages, Switzerland's post was particularly full of love.

Pride offers a great opportunity for the Embassy to promote Switzerland's fundamental values of inclusion, equality, and respect for human rights, not just during the month of June, but year-round.

## Making an appointment at the chancery of the Embassy of Switzerland

The Chancery of the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C., offers various [consular services](#). Certain services, such as registration or de-registration with this Embassy, registration of changes in civil status, and issuance of certificates and attestations, an in-person appointment is not necessary.

For other consular services, however, like ordering new Swiss identity documents, legalization of a private signature, and applying for a Schengen visa, it is necessary to come in person. It is important to note that walks-in are not accepted.

### Here is how to proceed to make an appointment:

1) To have your signature legalized on documents to be used in Switzerland, please ask for an appointment by [email](#).

2) To order a Swiss passport and/or a Swiss Identity card: please fill in an application [online](#) . Once the application has been verified, a link to set up an appointment at the Embassy will be sent.

3) To apply for a Schengen visa, the very first step is to fill out an application online. More information on how to proceed can be found [here](#). A link to schedule an appointment will then be sent. It is recommended to apply for a visa well in advance, especially during the summer months. In fact, you can apply for a Schengen visa **as early as 6 months prior to the date of the planned departure**. If your finger prints were successfully recorded for a Schengen visa in the last 59 months, an in-person appearance may not be necessary and you could submit your complete Schengen visa application by mail (FedEx, UPS or USPS). In this case, please provide a copy of your visa sticker in addition to all other required documentation. However, should the previously recorded fingerprints prove to be of insufficient quality, you will be asked to appear in person.

## P.S. from Switzerland



Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, sends a message to the Swiss population abroad to mark Swiss National Day 2023.



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