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Dear fellow citizens and friends of Switzerland,

At this festive time of the year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for the upcoming New Year holidays and commence this Swiss News edition with a picture from the official visit of Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov to Berne where Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter and his guest signed two bilateral agreements in the area of visa facilitation and readmission.

Since our first Newsletter in June 2016, again a wide spectrum of activities and events have enriched our agenda. Bilateral relations were further strengthened not only by the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in October, but also by an official visit of Federal Councilor Ulrich Maurer to Baku mid of July. In his capacity as Swiss Finance Minister, Federal Councilor Maurer had the opportunity to meet his homologue, Minister Samir Sharifov, and was given the chance to exchange views with the President of the Republic and the Governor of the Central Bank, Elman Rustamov, on a number of topics of common interest for our two countries.

In this newsletter, you will find information from our Swiss Cooperation Office (SCO) regarding some of the projects as well as news from Swiss companies like ABB and some activities the Embassy and other actors from Switzerland have executed over the past six months. You will also read an article from Swiss citizen Roger Hermann who is the Director of the Regional Office of the World Customs Organization in Baku.

In the international arena, 2016 presented many challenges related to conflicts, threats and acts of terrorism and the ongoing refugee crisis. Switzerland, which prioritizes freedom and the values of humanity, has joined hands with other countries to tackle these pressing issues.

As we prepare to usher in 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank you and all our partners in Azerbaijan for your support and interest in our events, projects and programs throughout the year. I wish you a heartfelt Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Philipp Stalder

Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan

## Politics

### Switzerland, Azerbaijan sign readmission and visa facilitation agreements



On 10 October 2016, the Azerbaijani foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov visited Bern and met with his Swiss counterpart, Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter. The two ministers signed agreements on readmission and visa facilitation that will strengthen the cooperation between Switzerland and Azerbaijan. The agreements will enter into force beginning of next year (February 2017) following the ratification done by the Azerbaijani parliament on 16 December. The agreement on facilitating the issuing of visas will make it easier for Swiss and Azerbaijani citizens to

obtain short-stay visas. The sides also discussed various bilateral issues, particularly economic cooperation, regional and international issues, as well as the human rights situation. Mr. Burkhalter outlined the key elements of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the South Caucasus 2017–20 which defines the joint and coordinated engagement of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the FDFA's Directorate of Political Affairs. The ministers also shared their views on the conflicts in the South Caucasus, where Switzerland continues in its efforts to foster dialogue and reconciliation between the countries in the region.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/azerbaijan/en/home/news/news.html/content/eda/en/meta/news/2016/10/10/64071>

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### Visit of the Federal Councilor Ueli Maurer to Baku



The Swiss Delegation led by the Head of the Federal Department of Finance, Federal Councilor Ulrich Maurer, visited Baku on 14-16 July 2016. He met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Finance Samir Sharifov and the Head of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan Elman Rustamov. Bilateral economic and trade relations, cooperation within the Bretton Woods Institutions, investment opportunities, the current financial situation and perspectives of cooperation in various fields were the key topics of discussions.

Since 1992, Switzerland and Azerbaijan together with eight other European and Central Asian countries are in the same constituency group at the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank, IMF). Federal Councilor Maurer arrived to Baku following the annual meetings of the Constituency Group in Almaty on 11-13 July 2016 and a visit to Ashgabat. During the visit Ulrich Maurer also gave an interview to a local news agency. For the interview visit the following link:

<http://en.trend.az/business/economy/2560281.html>

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## Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities visits Baku



A delegation from the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG) led by its President, Mr. Herbert Winter, visited Azerbaijan following an official invitation issued by the government. The SIG delegation was prominently received by President Ilham Aliyev, Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Vice-Speaker of Parliament, Bahar Muradova, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The coexistence of various religious and ethnic groups, values of multiculturalism, as well as Swiss-Azerbaijani traditions of tolerance and peace were discussed.

The SIG delegation also paid a visit to the Swiss Embassy where they received a briefing about current developments in the country by the Ambassador and his team.

<http://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2656776.html>

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## Visit to the frontline regions

Ambassador Philipp Stalder paid a visit to Barda and Tartar regions of Azerbaijan on 4-5 October 2016. The socio-economic situation, as well as the possibilities for bilateral projects and the promotion of business and investment opportunities in the regions were discussed with the governors of Barda and Tartar. Barda, the largest district in the frontline region, is home to 152'000 persons including 34'000 internally displaced people (IDPs). Another 70'000 IDPs have come to the region unofficially to earn their daily living. Tartar district has suffered from the April clash between Armenian and Azerbaijani armed forces and faces challenges trying to develop its agricultural sector. Both governors invited the Swiss government, the Swiss Cooperation Office (SCO) and Swiss companies to invest in their districts and develop projects that would help local residents to improve their living standards.



The Swiss Ambassador Stalder took the opportunity to visit the regional office of the ICRC in Barda. The Head of the ICRC office in Azerbaijan Mrs. Elena Aymone Sessera, and her team informed the Embassy about the activities of the ICRC in the frontline zone. Moreover, the ICRC representatives shared their views about the psychological and socio-economic effects of the ongoing conflict on the residents of the frontline villages.

<http://anama.gov.az/news/ambassador-of-switzerland-to-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-visited-anama-regional-base/?p=1>

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## Visit to ANAMA regional center



On October 5, the Embassy visited ANAMA's Goygol Regional Training Center. ANAMA is Azerbaijan's National Agency for Mine Action established in 1998 and responsible for planning and coordination, management and monitoring of mine action related activities all over the country. It has headquarters in Baku, two regional offices in Horadiz, Fizuli and Goygol districts, and three operational centers in Terter, Agjabedi and Agstafa. As a result of ANAMA's operations and educational trainings the number of fatal accidents and injuries significantly decreased in the recent

years and the use of lands for agriculture purposes increased.

ANAMA representatives briefed the Ambassador about its activity, demining operations in the frontline areas and lands adjacent to the former Soviet military units, achievements and future plans. The agency also organized an exhibition of unexploded ammunition, missiles and other military equipment deactivated during operations. ANAMA emphasized the close cooperation and the support of Switzerland. Mr. Stalder expressed his high appreciation towards the courageous activities of ANAMA employees who jeopardize their lives to save the lives of civilians.

<http://anama.gov.az/news/ambassador-of-switzerland-to-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-visited-anama-regional-base/?p=1>

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## Economy, Trade & Tourism

### Swiss Business Lunch



On 7 October 2016, a Swiss Business Lunch (SBL) was held by the Embassy of Switzerland. SBL is a platform organized by the Embassy for the CEOs of Swiss companies in Azerbaijan to gather and to discuss the business environment in the country and other issues of interest. This time, the event traditionally held at the Swiss residence in the old city was attended by the representatives of Panalpina, Bühler, Sandoz, Holcim, SIKA, Liebherr, Procter & Gamble and Novartis. The guest speaker, Mr. Nadir Ramazanov, Economist of the

World Bank Office in Azerbaijan, held a presentation about the review of reform initiatives in the wake of major economic downturn". He briefed the participants about the ongoing economic challenges, the impact on the business environment, the situation in the banking sector as well as the government's reaction to the downward swing and its monetary policy. Following the presentation, Mr. Ramazanov answered questions from the audience about the reforms of government and other issues related to the investment and business climate.

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### Swiss citizen heads World Customs Regional Office in Baku



On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) of the World Customs (WCO) Europe Region in Baku celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On this occasion the newly built Container and Cargo Training Center (CCTC) was inaugurated. The celebration started with the opening remarks by Head of ROCB Europe Mr. Roger Hermann, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Aydin Aliyev, video message by Secretary General of WCO Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, followed by short speeches made by representative of the WCO Vice-Chair for Europe Region Mr. Peter Adamec, by Senior Policy Advisor of

Hungarian Customs Administration Mr. Gábor Tamás Hóka and by Advisor on Strategic Cooperation, UNDP Mr. Mazahir Afandiyev.

The CCTC will provide practical and theoretical training for frontline container and cargo control officers. It is the second such center worldwide after the one in Rotterdam. Built with the kind support of the Customs Authority of the Netherlands and the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the CCTC will provide additional benefit to the whole region. European Customs Administrations can send their officers to Baku for training and contribute to the Container Control Programme

Swiss citizen Roger Hermann is currently heading the ROCB. He was elected to this position one and a half years ago by the 52 Customs Directors General of the WCO Europe Region. Since taking office, Roger Hermann hosted and conducted several workshops, meetings and seminars.

ROCB Europe is the sixth and youngest ROCB and comprises the WCO's largest region with 52 member states. The ROCB aims to address on a regional level key development areas for Customs services. This enables the member governments to meet their policy objectives in respect to revenue mobilization, market access, trade facilitation, investment promotion, trade statistics gathering and protection of society from a range of social and national security concerns. ROCB Europe also contributes to the development of a Regional Strategy for Capacity Building in partnership with the WCO secretariat and the Vice-Chair for the Europe Region.

[www.rocb-europe.org](http://www.rocb-europe.org)  
[www.wcoomd.org](http://www.wcoomd.org)

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#### 4<sup>th</sup> Arena Polo World Cup held in Baku



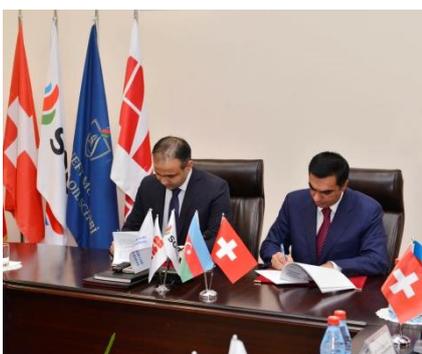
On 9-11 September, the Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan was held at the Baku Elite Horse and Polo Club. Four international teams from Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Spain and Argentina competed for the trophy. A group of polo fans from Switzerland including the Swiss Ambassador and other members of the Embassy watched the tournament with much interest and got rewarded with spectacular gameplay. The home team was defeated in the final game by Team 'Bogner' from Spain and reached the second place after having won the tournament in 2015. The game of Chovgan, a forerunner of modern polo, has been played in Azerbaijan for centuries and the local Karabakh horses are famous for their temperament and speed.

The glamorous event was organized by Reto Gaudenzi, Director of World Polo and originator of many Polo tournaments. Mr. Yves Gardiol, General Manager of the Badrutt's Palace Hotel in St. Moritz was another prominent guest at the tournament since this legendary Badrutt's five star hotel acted as the sponsor of the Swiss team. Badrutt's Palace also organized the luxurious "St. Moritz meets Baku Polo Party", which brought the spirit of the Swiss alps to Baku.

<http://www.worldpolo.com/>  
<http://www.badruttspalace.com>

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#### ABB and Baku Higher Oil School sign collaboration agreement



The Swiss pioneering technology leader ABB has signed a collaboration agreement with the Baku Higher Oil School. Ambassador Stalder attended the signing ceremony between Rector Elmar Gasimov and Rustam Gasimov, country manager of ABB, which took place at the BHOS on October 19<sup>th</sup>. He met with representatives and students of the university.

ABB will provide BHOS with a training center where students can gain practical experience working with state of the art control systems. The company headquartered in Zurich and being present in 100 countries with more than 130'000 employees will provide not only the equipment, but also instructions for trainings. Such trainings will be available for BHOS students as well as for students from other national universities and for

specialists from SOCAR. Through this initiative ABB wants to contribute to bridging the gap between academy and industry. Engineers trained at the new center will be able to enter the industry directly after graduation.

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## Swiss Development Cooperation

### SECO launches new project in Azerbaijan on Government Finance Statistics

Through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Switzerland maintains a special account at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for delivery of tailor-made technical assistance to its partner countries. If countries need support in highly technical areas which fall under the expertise of the IMF, respective technical assistance programs can be designed. One such area is government finance statistics. Good statistics require high level of training and availability of high quality data management systems. By delivering this technical assistance, IMF contributes to the fulfillments of its mandate, which is global economic and financial stability.



In November 2016 a new project for capacity building in the area of government finance statistics was launched in Baku. The project, which is fully financed by Switzerland, will run until 2019 and is open to government officials from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. During the opening workshop, the three delegations primarily worked on action plans for their countries in order to improve their government finance statistics. One of the main challenges for Azerbaijan, for example, is the coordination and exchange between the producers of data, such as Central Bank, Statistics Committee, Ministry of Finance, Debt management agency etc.

The opening workshop was attended by the Azerbaijani Vice-Minister of Finance, Emin Huseynov, IMF's head of Statistics Department, Rainer Köhler, and representatives of the SCO Baku and SECO Headquarters. In the coming months, the IMF experts will conduct specific trainings of government officials in each country. They will also undertake technical missions to the three countries in order to directly work with the relevant authorities and support them in the realization of their statistics action plan.

### Swiss government supports women's financial literacy in rural Azerbaijan



*„What we strongly lack in this country is financial literacy of women in rural areas. Unfortunately, this and some other reasons deprive women from starting up their businesses, despite the fact that Azerbaijani women have all potential to become good entrepreneurs,”* says Vusala Qarayeva, Director of Finance and Social Consulting (FSC), a spin-off company of the Azerbaijan Micro-Finance Association (AMFA).

“Building Capacity of Women Entrepreneurs through development of business planning skills” is a small action project supported by the Swiss government to provide financial literacy and business plan development for women entrepreneurs in rural areas. Given the traditions in rural Azerbaijan, the project believes that male members of families should also be involved in project activities so that they support women in their business endeavors in the future.

The project mainly provides two types of training: a) training on financial literacy and b) start and improve your business training. The training on financial literacy aims at improving the trainees' capacities on long-term financial planning and saving the subsequent training on “start and improve your business” will help women to acquire skills on developing business plans and starting their businesses. In total, the project will work in three different regions of the country and train 120 women and men.

## Art & Culture project: International Duet-Symposium of ceramics masters



The Swiss government currently funds a regional art and culture project, which also supports a number of projects in Azerbaijan. In total, 20 such projects have been or are currently supported in this country. All these initiatives aim at supporting artists with funding opportunities to allow them to realize their capacities.

The “International Duet-Symposium of ceramics masters” implemented by the Art Council was one of the small projects funded under this project. Its aim was to study the works of ceramic masters from different countries and to foster experience exchange. The duet-symposium is important for the demonstration of the ancient ceramic production traditions of Azerbaijan. As part of this particular initiative, the project brought together one artist from Azerbaijan (Mirteymur Mammadov) and one from Moldova (Valentin Rusu) to exhibit their works at the Ceramics Centre in Baku.

Swiss Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Mr. Philipp Stalder, together with other members of the embassy, visited the Ceramics Centre to see some of the works exhibited as part of the project.

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## New NPO at Swiss Cooperation Office



Zulfiyya Safarli (1975) obtained her first degree at the University of Foreign Languages in Baku. She received her second education of International Economic Relations at the Azerbaijan State Economic University. Her professional life of 20 years includes working with international NGOs such as Mercy Corps Int., CARE Int. and later with UNDP. She later joined the World Bank as a Financial management Consultant and the Asian Development Bank as a Project Officer.

After some years as a free-lance interpreter, she joined SCO as a National Program Officer in July 2016. Zulfiyya is proud to contribute to important interventions in supporting the reforms the country currently undergoes. The focus of her portfolio is on financial sector stabilization and financial infrastructure. Zulfiyya is a mother of two children.

## Culture, Education & Sports

### 725<sup>th</sup> Swiss National Day celebration in Baku



This year's official reception on the occasion of the 725th Swiss National Day took place in the newly opened location at the 22nd floor of the Landmark Hotel. The views of the city were breathtaking!

Around 400 people, including ambassadors of foreign countries, members of governmental authorities and the parliament, civil society representatives as well as the Swiss community, attended the ceremony. The guests particularly appreciated the buffet presenting Swiss culinary specialties and Swiss wines, while enjoying the beautiful pictures and movies of Switzerland Tourism.

In her welcome speech, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Swiss Embassy, Mrs. Liliana Pescini, spoke about the history of Switzerland being the oldest neutral country in the world and being not involved in any foreign war since the Treaty of Paris in 1815. She stressed how Switzerland always remained connected to the world mentioning as an example the opening of the new Gotthard Tunnel in June 2016, which - with a length of 57 km - is the longest tunnel in the world. Mrs. Pescini stressed the friendly ties existing between Switzerland and Azerbaijan and mentioned the positive and dynamic development of our bilateral relations.



The Ambassador for Special Tasks, Mr. Gunduz Jafarov, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs congratulated Switzerland on behalf of the Azerbaijani people and government. He also expressed his view that bilateral relations are developing positively and on a high level.

A special word of thanks goes to our sponsors who generously supported us for this event: ABB, Glencore, Schindler BME LLC, Swiss Medical Network

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### Festival of Swiss Films in Italian Language



On the occasion of the Week of Italian Language in the World the Embassy of Switzerland in Baku organized a Swiss Film festival on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Italian is one of the four official languages in Switzerland. It is spoken by more than 8% of the population. During the festival three Swiss films in the Italian language were screened. The first day was dedicated to Swiss-Italian director Silvio Soldini. The audience could enjoy his brand-new documentary about manual printing crafts and restoration of antique books called "Il fiume ha sempre ragione" followed by his famous romantic comedy "Pane e Tulipani" with an extraordinary Bruno Ganz in the role of Fernando, an awkward, but very lovable waiter. The audience especially enjoyed Soldini's delicate

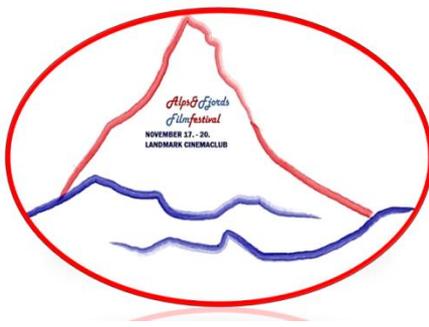
representation of human relations. On Sunday there was a screening of the youth drama “Tutti Giù”, featuring Swiss ski star, Lara Gut.

Invitations were sent to the Swiss and Italian community the diplomatic corps, cultural associations and universities in Baku. The festival was well attended with an audience of 60-70 people for each film. A reception with Swiss specialties like the famous cheese “Tête de Moine”, dry meat from Grison (“Bündnerfleisch”) and Swiss wines contributed to the good success of the film festival.

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## Alps & Fjords Film Festival

On 17-20 November, the Swiss Embassy together with the Royal Norwegian Embassy organized the „Alps & Fjords Film Festival“, during which three Swiss and three Norwegian films were shown. The title of the festival symbolizes the natural beauty of our two countries. On the Swiss side, the selection of movies concentrated on comedies: “**Sweet girls**”, “**Bouboule**” and “**Pane e Tulipani**”. Entertaining the audience while at the same time made viewers think about social issues the movies were well received and led to many hearty laughs in the cinema of Landmark



The festival had been advertised beforehand over different channels including Facebook and Internet and the screenings were attended by around 60-70 people each time. For several screenings, extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate all viewers. Besides the movies a disco night was organized on Saturday evening with our Norwegian colleague as hosting DJ. The public enjoyed all events with enthusiasm and the festival received also a resonance in the media since several journalists were in attending the opening and “Lider TV” channel broadcasted an interview with the Swiss and the Norwegian Ambassadors.

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## Switzerland in multiculturalism fair



On 14 December, students of the Azerbaijan Management and Tourism University organized a fair of “Multicultural Values and Tastes” showcasing traditional cuisine and arts from 26 different countries. Switzerland was one of the guest countries. As for the Swiss table, the students prepared with a lot of dedication several specialties like the popular Swiss potato dish “Roesti” or the sweet “Zuckerfladen” which is a traditional cake from the Vaud Region while the Embassy provided homemade carrot-cake (Aargauer Rueblitorte). All dishes were highly appreciated by the numerous



visitors.

The fair was prominently attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan. Several head of missions including the Swiss Ambassador and diplomats from the participating countries were also present at the first edition of the fair of “Multicultural Values and Tastes”.

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## HOMS Club Coffee Morning



The traditional coffee morning of the club of HOMS (Head of Mission Spouses) was held in the month of November at the Swiss residence. Participants from 22 Embassies accepted the invitation of Mrs. Susana Stalder-Schmid and enjoyed their discussions while deciding on up-coming charity projects of the club.

Special guest of this month's gathering was an Afghan woman with legal refugee status who lives with her family in one of the refugee centers in Baku. She presented some beautiful hand-made embroidery items which they produce to earn some income and also provided some delicious food to the club members. As always at these gathering, the mood among participants was excellent as one can easily see from the photograph.

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## Consular & Visa Affairs

### Online desk for Swiss nationals residing abroad

It is our pleasure to inform you that starting from last October, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) is providing Swiss nationals residing abroad with an online desk for consular services ("*Online-Schalter*" or "*Guichet en ligne*").

With the online desk you can enter your own data yourself at any time or place. You can view it at your convenience, order consular services and pay for them by credit card via ePayment.

The desk can be accessed on the FDFA website [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch) under 'Online desk' and on the websites of the Swiss representations.

Please register with the online desk as described here below (two possible methods), in order to ensure the protection of your personal data:

- a) Two-factor-authentication via SMS to a mobile telephone number or
- b) SuisseID (register with a digital identity card, see information under: [www.suisseid.ch](http://www.suisseid.ch) )

The online desk has a responsive web design and can be used with a PC and all mobile devices (laptops, tablets and smartphones).

Because of the data protection the registration of any change of address or data online will be possible only once your identification is ensured (an announcement by e-mail won't be possible anymore). The personal registration at the counter of a Swiss representation with an ID document will still be possible.

We hope that this innovation suits our Swiss nationals abroad and helps them to simplify the procedures.

## ASAN VISA – New electronic Visa Portal

Visa for Azerbaijan will be simplified for foreigners from 81 countries including Switzerland once the ASAN Visa Portal will be launched on January 10, 2017.

The introduction of a new system ASAN Visa will allow you to get a visa (limited to one single entry and for up to 30 days) directly online, in three easy steps.

- Apply with only a scanned biometric page of your passport
- Pay the fee online through the system
- Print the visa after the notification on the acceptance of the application (done within 3 working days)

Afterwards, the visa applicant can present the print out of the electronic visa together with the passport at the immigration checkpoint of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

ASAN visa system will run parallel to the current system of issuing e-visas through travel agencies or visa applied to Embassies or Consulates.

The ASAN Visa portal <https://evisa.gov.az/> is currently on test mode but will be fully operational on January 10, 2017.

This is indeed great news for all tourists and business people and will without any doubt facilitate your travel to beautiful Azerbaijan!

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## Varia

### Solar Impulse completes round-the-world-journey



In July 2016, the Swiss-build aircraft “Solar Impulse” completed the first round-the-world flight using only solar power and no fuel. The experimental airplane traversed 42’000 kilometres proving that clean technologies can accomplish incredible things. Solar Impulse started off from Abu Dhabi on 9 March 2015, after which it traversed Asia to Japan. From there it crossed the pacific to Hawaii, setting a new record for the world’s longest solar-powered flight both by time (117 hours, 52 minutes) and distance (7,212 km; 4,481 mi). From Hawaii, the journey continued to California and across the US to New York and then to

Spain and Egypt before it landed again in Abu Dhabi on 26 July 2016.

Solar Impulse was piloted by Swiss engineer and businessman André Borschberg and Swiss psychiatrist and aeronaut Bertrand Piccard. Piccard, who is the son of famed oceanographer Jacques Piccard, had previously completed a non-stop balloon flight around the globe. The project realized with the help of EPFL Technical University in Lausanne sponsored by a number of Swiss companies, including Omega SA, Solvay, Schindler, ABB and Peter Diamandis.

# Media

## Information related to the Embassy:

Visit of Ambassador Stalder to region: <http://terter-ih.gov.az/news/597.html>  
Swiss National Day Reception: [http://m.apa.az/az/xarici\\_siyaset/bakida-isvecrenin-milli-bayrami-qeyd-edilib-7514](http://m.apa.az/az/xarici_siyaset/bakida-isvecrenin-milli-bayrami-qeyd-edilib-7514)  
Ambassador's meeting in the Press Council: <http://kaspi.az/az/isvecrenin-azerbaycandaki-sefiri-metbuat-surasinda-olub/>  
Ambassador's meeting in the Press Council: <http://www.mia.az/w249327/.../>  
Swiss-Norwegian film festival: <http://www.trend.az/life/culture/2686707.html>  
Ambassador's meeting with EPF: <http://eurasiadiary.com/news/society/89633-swiss-ambassador-met-with-iepf-chairman>  
Interview of the spouse of Ambassador Mrs. Susana Stalder: <http://telegraf.com/news/119094>

## News related to Switzerland in Azerbaijani media:

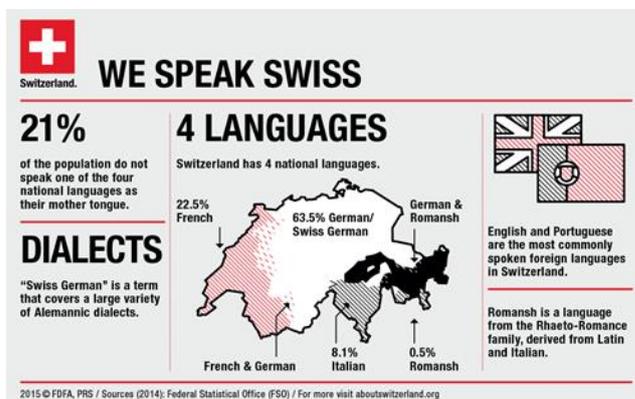
Jazz evening in Switzerland: <http://apa.az/medeniyyet-xeberleri/medeniyyet-siyaseti/isvecrede-azerbaycan-caz-axsami-kecirilib.html>  
Azerbaijan, Switzerland new deal: <http://www.azernews.az/nation/103528.html>  
Swiss students in youth center: <http://news.az/articles/society/81147>  
Swiss students in Baku: <http://ilhamcesmesi.info/sosial/1056-svechreli-qonaqlar-bakinin-memariq-abideleri-ile-tanish-olublar.html>  
ABB, Baku Oil School agreement: [http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Baku\\_Higher\\_Oil\\_School\\_ABB\\_sign\\_cooperation\\_agreement-1003071](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Baku_Higher_Oil_School_ABB_sign_cooperation_agreement-1003071)  
Azeri FM's visit to Bern: <http://minval.az/news/123628573>  
Azerbaijan to buy more trains from Switzerland: <http://www.trend.az/business/economy/2671995.html>  
Letter by Filippo Lombardi to Azeri president: <http://azertag.az/xeber/1003399>  
Swiss FC Ueli Maurer's visit to Baku:  
[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/President\\_Ilham\\_Aliyev\\_received\\_delegation\\_of\\_Swiss\\_Confederation\\_VIDEO-972232](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/President_Ilham_Aliyev_received_delegation_of_Swiss_Confederation_VIDEO-972232)

## Fact & Figures

Switzerland has 4 national languages: German (63.5%), French (22.5%), Italian (8.1%) and Romansh (0.5%). The rest of the population speaks other languages: many foreigners resident in Switzerland have brought with them their own languages. The 2000 census showed that speakers of Serbian/Croatian were the largest foreign language group, with 1.4% of the population. English was the main language for 1%.

21% of the population do not speak one of the four national languages as their mothertongue.

English and Portugese are the most commonly spoken foreign languages in Switzerland.



## Swiss links



Information about Swiss Administration: [www.ch.ch](http://www.ch.ch)



Discover Switzerland: [www.swissworld.org](http://www.swissworld.org)



Switzerland Tourism: [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com)

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Auslandschweizer-Organisation  
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger  
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero  
Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad: [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

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Please regularly check our webpage for news and events: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/baku>

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