



Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we report to you that the FOSSUK AGM, which took place in Edinburgh in May 2016, has left all attendees energized.

We would like to use this occasion to once more thank all our local contributors; Honorary Consul Peter Mueller-Mc Dougall, Ron and Regi Butlin, Professor Franz Mulheim and of course the Swiss Club of Edinburgh, who arranged wonderful tours of the city, the parliament and the three bridges.

Thought-provoking speeches were given by, amongst others, Mr. Zimmerli of The Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gysin of The Organisation of Swiss Abroad, and His Excellency Ambassador Dominik Furgler. It is clear that we have important challenges ahead but we do believe that FOSSUK can play a role in being part of the solution.

You will have read the President's report as well as the OSA delegates' reports that, combined, outline FOSSUK's priorities for the year and our on-going commitment to supporting Swiss Clubs and Associations in the United Kingdom:

We believe our priorities for 2016/2017 to be as follows:

- 1 Understand the needs of the Swiss Clubs and Associations in the United Kingdom and provide the necessary support, where possible
- 2 Engage Young Swiss living in the United Kingdom by;
 - Listening to what matters to them
 - Communicating on platforms and using 'messaging' that is of relevance to the them
 - Ensuring that their voice is heard in the political environment
 - Sharing success stories from other clubs - like Italy's success presented by OSA President, Mr Remo Gysin
 - Tailoring events and communications to attract their participation
- 3 Promote, oversee and manage the 2017 OSA Delegate elections, with the support of the Swiss Embassy
- 4 OSA delegates to represent the Swiss abroad in the UK by attending the 100th Anniversary of OSA in Bern
- 5 Provide relevant content for the Regional Pages of the Swiss Revue
- 6 Use up-to-date social media platforms to keep the Swiss community informed on relevant matters, publicizing members' club activities and events (please do send us information and photographs for us to post!).

In order to address some of the priorities listed above we have organised the following initiatives. We hope that more will be added in the forthcoming months.

**1) Annual Swiss Clubs Roundtable Dinner**

FOSSUK is introducing this annual event with the purpose of bringing together the leadership of Swiss Clubs to discuss and share critical thoughts on the viability and the future of Swiss Clubs. The life-blood of any Club is attracting new membership and retaining existing members. This topic does merit serious discussion so best considered whilst enjoying a delicious dinner accompanied, of course, by Swiss wine. We look forward to welcoming you to a productive and enjoyable working session.

2) 2016 FOSSUK Forum

The next forum takes place on the 3rd of November 2016 at the Royal Society of Medicine located at 1 Wimpole in London. The FOSSUK Committee selected a relevant and topical theme: 'Engagement of Youth Abroad in the Swiss Political Process'. The Chancellor of State of Geneva, Mrs Anja Wyden Guelpa will be the principle guest, amongst other presenters, who will frame the challenge, the risks involved, and strategies to best ensure that the voice of the younger members of the public is heard.

3) 2017 OSA Delegate Elections

We have commenced preparations for the 2017 OSA Delegate Elections. The mandate for UK Delegates to the OSA lasts four years and each OSA Delegate then becomes a member of the FOSSUK Committee. Information on who is entitled to become a Delegate and how to apply will be announced later this year.

4) Swiss Church

The Swiss Church confronts an important budget challenge commencing in 2017. FOSSUK is in early discussions to investigate possible creative fund raising solutions in addition to securing pro-bono legal advice to raise short term contracts for the rental of 'hot desk' space for businesses.

The above covers some of the initiatives FOSSUK is undertaking and hopefully communicates to you that we are a passionate and committed team. The keyword is collaboration and communication with you.

Last but not least, and as announced during our AGM, there will be no membership fee increase. It therefore remains at £1 per member.

Would you please confirm in writing to Camilla Ghislanzoni (cghislanzoni@gmail.com), Treasurer, your intention to renew your membership and the way you intend to pay. Please do feel free to share with us any of your critical ideas or concerns.

The fee is payable by:

Cheque (to be sent to Camilla Ghislanzoni, 49 Beaumont Road, London W4 5AL)

or

Bank Transfer (!!new account details!!) to

FOSSUK, Account nr 31854321 Sort Code: 40-02-13

A warm thank you and looking forward to seeing you soon,

Your FOSSUK committee