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Dear Swiss compatriots,  
Dear friends of Switzerland,

I hope you all had a good start into the new year.

Tragically, 2026 has shown its dark side in Switzerland. In its first hours, a [devastating fire](#) at a bar in the ski resort of Crans Montana claimed the lives of 40 young people and injured 116, many of them seriously. This unprecedented disaster sparked a wave of grief and solidarity that reached far beyond Switzerland's borders. I thank you all for the thoughts and sympathy, which have been conveyed to us.

In this newsletter, we look back on an intense 2025, which will leave its mark. With the signing of a Joint Declaration on 8 August 2025, the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia have committed themselves to a peace agreement that will hopefully be concluded soon. This will certainly change Azerbaijan and the region and shape the activities of the Embassy.

2025 was marked by sustained political dialogue, expanding economic cooperation, and a broad range of cultural, educational, and scientific exchanges. From high-level diplomatic engagements and Swiss support for economic and financial reforms to vibrant cultural events and academic partnerships, Switzerland has continued to engage actively and constructively with its partners in Azerbaijan.

The newsletter also highlights Switzerland's commitment to international cooperation including support for innovation ecosystems, mine action, and climate-resilient development.

At the same time, our cultural and educational initiatives once again demonstrate the importance of people-to-people contacts in strengthening mutual understanding and long-term cooperation.

I would like to thank all of you, partners, institutions, and members of the Swiss community, who contributed to these achievements throughout the year. Your engagement and collaboration are essential to the strength and visibility of Switzerland's presence in Azerbaijan.

I look forward to continuing our cooperation and dialogue in 2026.

Warm regards,

Thomas Stähli  
*Ambassador of Switzerland*

## News

### Swiss and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers meet in New York



At the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, met with Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov.

The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the current state of Azerbaijan–Switzerland relations and explore future avenues for cooperation. Both ministers highlighted the importance of strengthening political dialogue, enhancing economic and trade ties, and deepening collaboration within international organisations.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to sustained dialogue and partnership—particularly in view of Switzerland's upcoming OSCE Presidency.

<https://x.com/AzerbaijanMFA/status/1970606108625555924>

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### Azerbaijan and Switzerland hold political consultations in Bern

On 25 April 2025, political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Switzerland were held in Bern. The Azerbaijani delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Fariz Rzayev, met with the Swiss side headed by Muriel Peneveyre, Head of the FDFA's Eurasia Division.

The discussions reviewed the current state of bilateral political relations and underscored the importance of regular dialogue. Particular emphasis was placed on mutual visits and exchanges at international events. Both sides examined prospects for cooperation in the economic, energy, transport, and humanitarian fields, as well as collaboration within international organizations, and stressed the need to further develop the legal framework governing bilateral ties.

Deputy Minister Rzayev also briefed his counterparts on Azerbaijan's COP29 Presidency, the country's climate initiatives, and recent progress in this area. Regional issues were discussed as well, including the Armenia–Azerbaijan normalization process, the landmine challenge, and ongoing reconstruction efforts in the liberated territories.

The consultations reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to deepen cooperation and maintain a constructive partnership.



[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/azerbaijan\\_switzerland\\_hold\\_another\\_round\\_of\\_political\\_consultations\\_in\\_bern-3525391](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/azerbaijan_switzerland_hold_another_round_of_political_consultations_in_bern-3525391)

## Swiss National Bank delegation visits Azerbaijan



A high-level delegation of the Swiss National Bank (SNB), led by the Chairman of the Governing Board, Mr. Martin Schlegel, conducted an official visit to Azerbaijan on 8–9 July 2025.

Ahead of their consultations with Mr. Taleh Kazimov, Governor of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, and members of his management team, Mr. Schlegel and his delegation received a comprehensive briefing at the Swiss Embassy. Ambassador Thomas Stähli and Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Guy Bonvin provided an overview of the latest political developments in the country, the current state of bilateral relations, and key trends shaping Azerbaijan's economic landscape.

During their stay, the delegation was also hosted by Ambassador Stähli at his residence, providing an informal setting for further exchanges on bilateral

cooperation and regional developments.

The visit contributed to strengthening dialogue between the monetary authorities of Switzerland and Azerbaijan and offered an opportunity to exchange perspectives on current global financial challenges.

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## FM and GICHD delegations visit Baku



On 8-9 December 2025, a delegation led by Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), visited Baku.

During the visit, the delegation met with Mr. Vugar Suleymanov, Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan Mine Action Agency (ANAMA) and received a detailed briefing on Azerbaijan's landmine challenges and ongoing clearance efforts.

Discussion focused on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed earlier this year between ANAMA and

GICHD, aimed at supporting mine action activities in Azerbaijan. Both sides exchanged views on cooperation in areas such as training and experience sharing, information management, innovative approaches, capacity building, and potential joint projects.

The visit underlined the shared commitment to advancing mine action efforts and contributing to safer communities.

Earlier, on 3-4 November 2025, the delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland visited Baku to explore potential areas in which Switzerland could assist the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization process.. Within the frame of the visit, the delegation met with senior officials from the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, the Secretary of State Commission on Missing Persons, Gazanfar Ahmadov and representatives of civil society members and think-tanks.



## Business Lunch for Swiss companies in Azerbaijan



On 6 February 2025, Ambassador Thomas Stähli hosted a Swiss Business Lunch at his residence, bringing together representatives of Swiss companies operating in Azerbaijan for an informal exchange.

Participants were briefed on the state of bilateral relations and shared insights into their business activities in 2024, as well as expectations for 2025. Overall, the CEOs assessed the business environment in 2024 as stable and expressed cautious optimism regarding growth opportunities in 2025.

The lunch reaffirmed Switzerland's commitment to supporting its business community abroad and fostering dialogue to strengthen economic ties.

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## Swiss Ambassador visits Lankaran to explore cultural and economic ties

On 18 April, Swiss Ambassador Thomas Stähli visited Lankaran, meeting with Mr. Taleh Garashov, Head of the city's Executive Authority, to discuss opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, economy, and regional development.

During his visit, Ambassador Stähli toured a local confectionery factory, Khan's House, and the Carpet Museum, highlighting the region's potential in both industry and cultural heritage.

The visit concluded with a special screening of the Swiss film *"One-way to Moscow"*, organized by the Embassy. The event brought together over 200 guests and offered an enjoyable evening of cultural exchange and dialogue.



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## From the Alps to the Caucasus: Advancing resilient mountain futures



On 11 December, in celebration of International Mountain Day, the Embassy of Switzerland, together with UN-Habitat's Azerbaijan Country Office and the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCUPA), co-organized the conference "From the Alps to the Caucasus, Resilient Futures in Mountainous Regions: Regional Urban Settlements as Sustainable Drivers."

Held under the Azerbaijan Urban Campaign 2026, the event contributed to preparations for the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) and brought together experts and decision-makers from Switzerland, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Guy Bonvin (Swiss Embassy in Azerbaijan), Mr. Ramil Cahangirov (SCUPA), and Ma. Anna Soave (UN-Habitat Azerbaijan), who highlighted the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in strengthening mountain regions.

The keynote address by Mr. Thomas Egger, Director of the Swiss Association for Mountain Regions, presented Switzerland's experience in mountain development, showcasing policy approaches, practical solutions, and lessons learned from addressing the needs of mountain communities.

Discussions focused on sustainable economic development, climate adaptation, connectivity, agriculture, and strengthening linkages between mountain settlements and regional centers. The conference provided a valuable platform for exchanging experiences between the Alps and the Caucasus and for exploring pathways towards resilient and sustainable mountain regions.

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## Swiss Expertise highlighted on Azerbaijan's Builders' Day

Every year on 10 April, Azerbaijan celebrates *Builders' Day*—a professional holiday established in 2009 to honor the essential contributions of construction workers, architects, and engineers to the country's development. The day recognizes the vision, technical expertise, and dedication of those shaping Azerbaijan's urban and regional landscape.



To mark the occasion, Ambassador Thomas Stähli met with renowned Swiss architect Mr. Thomas Kovari, founder and CEO of SA Partners, a Zurich-based architecture and urban planning firm. Mr. Kovari and his team have played a significant role in the reconstruction efforts in the Karabakh region, bringing Swiss expertise, innovation, and quality standards to major development projects in Azerbaijan.

Over recent years, SA Partners has been actively involved in designing modern, sustainable, and community-oriented urban spaces. Their work supports Azerbaijan's long-term vision for rebuilding and revitalizing liberated territories, helping to transform them into vibrant and resilient regions. Ambassador Stähli commended Mr. Kovari for his tireless commitment and for the positive impact of Swiss know-how on Azerbaijan's reconstruction process.

Builders' Day provided a timely opportunity to acknowledge not only Azerbaijani professionals but also the international partners contributing to the country's progress. Switzerland is proud to see its architectural and engineering expertise reflected in projects that enhance local communities and promote sustainable development.



# Swiss International Cooperation

## Switzerland Supports Azerbaijan's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Program



The Ministry of Finance of Azerbaijan has launched a new training program on the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), financed by the Swiss government and implemented by the World Bank in Azerbaijan.

The inaugural session was opened by Mr. Guy Bonvin, Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus. He emphasized the importance of medium- and long-term financial planning for sustainable public investment, including social and economic infrastructure, which is essential for economic development and diversification.

The MTEF program aims to strengthen macroeconomic stability and support the sustainable development of Azerbaijan's economy. It builds on the long-standing cooperation between the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and Azerbaijani public institutions, reflecting Switzerland's ongoing commitment to fostering effective governance and economic resilience.

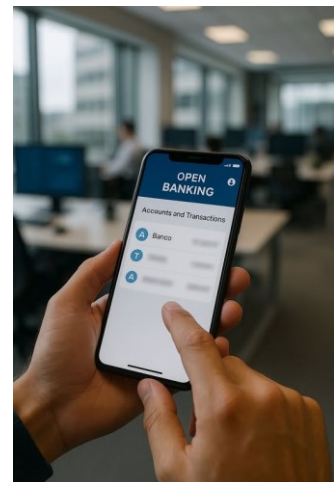
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## Azerbaijan advances open banking with support from Switzerland

Azerbaijan is making significant strides in implementing Open Banking, with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Open Banking allows banks to securely share customer financial data with licensed third parties, thereby promoting innovation, competition, and improved access to financial services.

As of 6 October 2025, Bank ABB and Turan Bank had introduced Open Banking features in their mobile application, enabling customers to view accounts and transactions from multiple banks in one place. In addition, thirteen banks have fully integrated with the technical platform developed by the Central Bank to regulate Open Banking, while six others are nearing completion of their integration.

This development marks an important step in modernizing Azerbaijan's financial sector and enhancing convenience and choice for consumers.



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## VC Academy Azerbaijan concludes with strong momentum for local startup ecosystem



On 18 June 2025, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) hosted the closing event of the VC Academy Azerbaijan Program, bringing together participants and regional venture fund managers and investors for a final day of exchange and networking.

The program, launched on 8 April 2025 with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), provided 20 participants with hands-on training in startup investing and venture capital (VC) fund management. Through interactive workshops, online sessions, and tailored learning

materials, participants gained practical skills designed to strengthen their role in Azerbaijan's growing innovation ecosystem.

Targeted at entrepreneurs, finance professionals, corporate executives, business owners, and aspiring angel investors, the initiative aims to cultivate local VC expertise, empower future investors, and contribute to a more dynamic and resilient startup environment in Azerbaijan. In addition to capacity building, the program offered valuable networking opportunities—connecting local talent with experienced regional investors and fostering new partnerships for the future.

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## Azerbaijan Introduces enhanced AZIR benchmark rate with support from SECO



With support from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), through a technical assistance project implemented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Central Bank of Azerbaijan has introduced a new methodology for calculating and publishing the Azerbaijan Interbank Rate (AZIR).

AZIR, a key benchmark that influences loan and deposit rates across the banking sector, will now be calculated using a more accurate and reliable methodology, simplifying the work of commercial banks and strengthening overall financial market transparency.

In addition to daily rates, the updated framework introduces new long-term AZIR rates for 30, 90, and 180 days, as well as daily compounded rates. These enhancements provide market participants with greater flexibility in using AZIR for different maturities and financial products.

The revised AZIR has been published daily on the Central Bank's website since 15 May 2025, marking an important step toward modernizing Azerbaijan's financial infrastructure.

# Culture & Education

## Swiss Days in Baku: A Celebration of Sport, Culture, and Swiss Flavor



On 11–12 October, the lively Baku Boulevard was transformed into a little corner of Switzerland, as the Embassy of Switzerland in Azerbaijan hosted the much-anticipated Swiss Days festival. The two-day celebration brought together the best of Swiss sport, culture, and cuisine — offering locals and visitors a unique opportunity to experience the Alpine nation's traditions on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

At the heart of Swiss Days was Schwingen, the traditional Swiss wrestling style that dates back centuries. In a specially prepared open-air arena on Baku Boulevard, spectators witnessed thrilling matches between Swiss wrestlers — Mr. Gian Odermatt, Mr. Karim Leuppi, Mr. Andrin Poltera, and Mr. Daniel Bösch — and members of the Azerbaijani national wrestling team.

The athletes competed on a ring of sawdust, just as is done in Switzerland, blending physical power with skill and respect. The friendly competition drew enthusiastic crowds, who applauded both teams for their sportsmanship and spirit.

Beyond the wrestling arena, Swiss Days delighted visitors with a culinary journey through Switzerland. A vibrant food pavilion featured traditional Swiss dishes and delicacies, inviting guests to taste the flavors of the Alps.

Complementing the sports and food festivities, Swiss Days also featured live music, interactive games, and cultural presentations. Swiss and Azerbaijani performers shared the stage, celebrating friendship through art and rhythm.

One of the most memorable highlights was the performance of the Alphorn, Switzerland's iconic wooden wind instrument traditionally played in the Alps. Its deep, resonant tones echoed beautifully across Baku Boulevard, captivating the audience and adding a truly authentic Swiss touch to the event's atmosphere.

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## New Swiss-Azerbaijani Molecular Biology Laboratory opens in Baku

Ambassador Thomas Stähli attended the inauguration of a new molecular biology laboratory at the Institute of Botany of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The laboratory was established with the support of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) as part of the Swiss National Science Foundation–funded project *TreeFunAZ*—a joint research initiative between WSL's Phytopathology Research Group and the Institute of Botany in Baku.

Focusing on the impact of fungi and microbes on forest health, the project aims to strengthen the Azerbaijani partner's capacity in molecular analysis. This research is particularly timely, as forest ecosystems worldwide face increasing threats from invasive species and climate-driven pests and pathogens. Given Azerbaijan's



strategic position between Europe and Asia, and its emerging role as a logistics hub, monitoring tree-associated fungi is essential to preventing the spread of harmful organisms into Europe's forests.

During the event, Ambassador Stähli and Ilifat Ibrahimov, Head of the Department for Cooperation with Scientific Institutions at the State Agency for Science and Higher Education, highlighted the importance of such initiatives for advancing scientific collaboration and promoting sustainable environmental research.

The *TreeFunAZ* project stands as a strong example of Swiss-Azerbaijani cooperation in science, and the Embassy looks forward to supporting similar partnerships in the future.



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## Swiss Embassy Showcases “Where Traditions and Innovation Meet”



one of the most popular at the festival.

On 23 May 2025, the Swiss Embassy participated in the 13th International Festival at ADA University, an annual event that brings together embassies and diplomatic missions from across Baku. This year's edition was the largest yet, with more than 40 countries represented.

The Swiss stand, presented under the theme “Where Traditions and Innovation Meet,” highlighted Switzerland's rich cultural heritage alongside its global reputation for cutting-edge innovation. Visitors enjoyed an interactive quiz, and top performers were rewarded with an immersive virtual tour of Switzerland using VR glasses—one of the attractions that made the Swiss booth stand out as

Ambassador Thomas Stähli visited the venue, explored the Swiss stand, and met with Azerbaijani alumni of Swiss universities, who played an active role in organizing and animating the presentation.

The event offered an excellent platform to engage with students, showcase Switzerland's values and strengths, and celebrate cultural exchange in a dynamic, international setting.

## Swiss Ambassador hosts two Alumni gatherings in Baku



In 2025, Ambassador Thomas Stähli hosted two special events bringing together Azerbaijani alumni of Swiss universities at the Swiss residence in Baku.

The first gathering, held on 28 February, welcomed over 20 graduates for a networking and knowledge-sharing session. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Stähli highlighted the important role alumni play as “good ambassadors of Switzerland” and encouraged them to share innovative ideas. Discussions focused on experiences of studying in Switzerland, as well as ways to leverage this knowledge for mutual benefit, including ongoing Embassy initiatives in women’s

economic empowerment, support for startups, and arts and culture projects.

The second event, held on 12 November 2025, offered another opportunity for alumni to reconnect, exchange ideas, and explore collaborative opportunities. Attendees engaged in lively conversations, reminisced about their time in Switzerland, and discussed how they could contribute to the Embassy’s efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and foster business initiatives between Switzerland and Azerbaijan.

Together, these events underline the vibrancy of the Swiss alumni community and its pivotal role in building bridges between the two countries, promoting Swiss values, expertise, and cooperation.

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## “Blue Hearts” Choir Shines in Ganja concert for autism awareness



On 29 March, the “Blue Hearts” Inclusive Choir and Rhythm Group delivered a heartfelt and inspiring performance in the heart of Ganja city. The concert, held at Ganja Mall, attracted many visitors, who were captivated by the dedication and talent of the young singers and musicians.

Deputy Head of Mission of the Swiss Embassy, Mr. Guy Bonvin, attended the event and witnessed firsthand the passion and commitment of the performers. The performance was dedicated to April, Autism Awareness Month, as many members of the

group are young people with autism.

Organized by the NGO “Together and Healthy” and financed by the Swiss Embassy, the event also received support from the Regional Development Public Union and Ganja Mall. Warm congratulations go to the organizers and artists for their outstanding work in promoting inclusion and raising awareness through music.



## Swiss Delegation shines at 8th International Economics Olympiad in Baku



From 20 to 29 July, over 50 countries came together in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the 8th International Economics Olympiad (IEA2025), where talented young people showcased their economic knowledge and built valuable international connections.

The Swiss delegation stood out for its enthusiasm and high level of expertise. As part of the competition, participants tackled a business case that provided a unique opportunity to explore economic challenges in the Caspian Sea Basin and the South Caucasus region.

Congratulations to the Swiss participants for their exceptional dedication and achievements, recognized through medals and honorable mentions. The Embassy wishes them continued success in their academic, educational, and professional endeavors.

[https://science.olympiad.ch/fr/news/news/medailles-pour-les-jeunes-talents-economiques-suissees-en-azerbaïdjan?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEwS115YmxBclhLME16WHZZMgEeyMBLeFD\\_tkCCpY2XU4XWp7KOZmpLjxnjHmwE-rQa7CdJ1ZdFqWi8GG5m6iY\\_aem\\_nFrhrzg47Ovba1MbgtwvMQ](https://science.olympiad.ch/fr/news/news/medailles-pour-les-jeunes-talents-economiques-suissees-en-azerbaïdjan?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEwS115YmxBclhLME16WHZZMgEeyMBLeFD_tkCCpY2XU4XWp7KOZmpLjxnjHmwE-rQa7CdJ1ZdFqWi8GG5m6iY_aem_nFrhrzg47Ovba1MbgtwvMQ)

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## International Winter Charity Bazaar Brings Swiss Delights to Baku



The Swiss Embassy in Baku, together with several other embassies and representative offices, hosted the International Winter Charity Bazaar at the Kapellhaus on 29 November.

The event drew a vibrant mix of adults and children, locals and international visitors, all eager to explore the festive venue and browse unique items showcased at the various national stands.

This year, the Swiss Embassy delighted guests with Swiss chocolates, biscuits, fine wines, festive fan gifts, and a selection of unique Swiss

souvenirs. Visitors also had the opportunity to enjoy the iconic Swiss cheese specialty, raclette, served in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

All proceeds from the Bazaar will be directed toward charitable initiatives, with a special focus on supporting projects that benefit children and women.

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## Swiss Embassy team visits inclusive Kashalata Café in Baku



On 3 September, staff members of the Swiss Embassy visited the Kashalata Café, an inclusive social enterprise established and operated by the Together and Healthy Public Union. As the only inclusive café in Azerbaijan, Kashalata is dedicated to promoting employment opportunities for people with neuro-disabilities.

The café currently employs 10 individuals, including one person with Down syndrome and nine with autism, offering them meaningful work experience in a supportive environment.



During the visit, Embassy staff were also treated to a performance by the “Blue Hearts” inclusive musical group, which the Embassy has previously supported financially. Their performance added a warm and inspiring touch to the visit, highlighting the positive impact of inclusive initiatives in the community.

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## Consular Affairs

### New Biometric System for Swiss Visa Applications in Baku



Starting this year, the Embassy of Switzerland in Baku requires all first-time visa applicants to provide biometric data in person. This includes fingerprints and a live photograph, collected using the Easytower system.

Important tips:

- Photos must meet strict biometric standards including correct size, a neutral expression, a white background, and no shadows.
- Photos can be taken on-site or by professional photographers familiar with visa requirements.
- Only the first application requires in-person biometric capture.

This new system ensures secure and efficient processing of Swiss visas. Please be prepared to make your first application as smooth as possible!

Stay informed and ensure your Swiss visa application is processed efficiently by following the new requirements.

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### Switzerland Chairs the OSCE in 2026



From 1 January 2026, Switzerland assumed the Chairpersonship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) at a time of significant geopolitical instability. Switzerland becomes the first country to hold the Chairpersonship of the world's largest regional security organization for a third time.


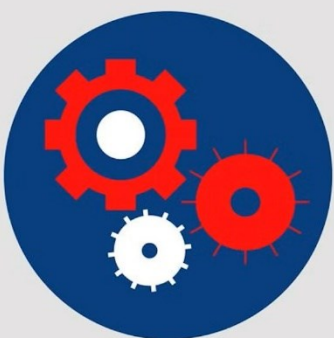
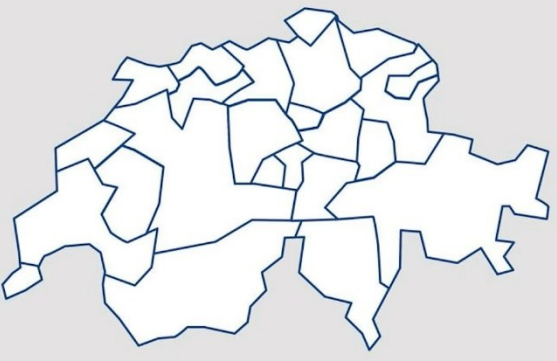
Under the guiding theme “Dialogue – Trust – Security,” the Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship will focus on the following key priorities:

- Helsinki Principles: Promoting a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, firmly grounded in international law.
- Inclusive multilateral diplomacy: Encouraging open dialogue and enhanced security cooperation among Europe, the United States, and Russia.

- Anticipating technologies: Connecting science and diplomacy to help shape a safe, secure, and humane future.
- Democracy, rule of law, and human rights: Strengthening democratic institutions and safeguarding fundamental freedoms.
- OSCE's ability to act: Preserving the organization's core instruments and ensuring sustainable financing.

Switzerland's OSCE Chairpersonship in 2026 reflects its longstanding commitment to peace, security, and stability in Europe and beyond. The Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, will serve as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE.

## Facts & Figures

 <h1>A WELL-BALANCED MECHANISM</h1>	
<h2>FEDERALISM</h2> <p>is what allows the <b>different aspects of Switzerland</b>, with its four national languages and large geographical differences, <b>to coexist</b>. Federalism was one of the <b>founding principles</b> of the Swiss Confederation in 1848.</p> 	<h2>1+26+2,000=1</h2> <p><b>Power is shared</b> by the federal government, the 26 cantons and around 2,130 communes.</p>
<h2>SUBSIDIARITY</h2> <p>The <b>cantons</b> and <b>communes</b> have <b>authority</b> over a <b>wide range of matters</b> (e.g. schools, hospitals, tax and policing) and a great deal of <b>autonomy</b>. The federal government only takes on tasks that the cantons and communes cannot manage alone.</p>	<p><b>Every canton</b> has its own constitution, parliament, government and courts. About <b>a fifth of communes</b> have their own parliament, in particular the cities.</p> 
<small>© FDFA, Presence Switzerland 2024 / Sources: The Swiss Confederation – a brief guide 2024, ch.ch / For more, visit <a href="https://aboutswitzerland.org">aboutswitzerland.org</a></small>	

## Useful Swiss links



Swiss authorities online: [www.ch.ch](http://www.ch.ch)

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Switzerland.

Discover Switzerland: [www.aboutswitzerland.ch](http://www.aboutswitzerland.ch)

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House of Switzerland: [www.houseofswitzerland.org](http://www.houseofswitzerland.org)

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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 (OSA): [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

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*... and please visit the Embassy's Facebook page to stay informed:*

<https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyBaku/>

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