



MINUTES

57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 21st of May 2022, 14:00 – 18:00

Swiss Embassy London & Online

WELCOME

H.E. Markus Leitner, Swiss Ambassador to the UK, opened the AGM and welcomed participants physically at the Embassy and online. The Ambassador explained some of his areas of focus since his arrival. In particular, he highlighted his upcoming tour the UK in an electric-powered Swiss cab. With events and meetings planned in Cambridge, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Belfast, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff and Oxford, he invited members of the Swiss community to get in touch to find out more.

FOSSUK President, Nathalie Chuard welcomed participants on behalf of the FOSSUK Committee.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Joelle Nebbe-Mornod FOSSUK Committee
Carla Maurer Swiss Church London
Jurg Bentele Swiss Club Manchester

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the AGM held on 19th of June, 2021 were approved.

Approved by Ruth Muheim (Swiss Club Edinburgh) and Camilla Ghislanzoni (New Helvetic Society).

ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nathalie Chuard presented her President's report.

Approved by Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (Unione Ticinese) and Camilla Ghislanzoni (New Helvetic Society).



DELEGATES' REPORT

Andreas Feller-Ryf presented the delegates' report. This included:

- Highlight of some of the issues discussed at recent OSA meetings
- Reminder for Swiss abroad to join www.SwissCommunity.org
- Update on plans for celebrations of Swiss National Day (including a special surprise of a free ticket for a lucky AGM participant)

Approved by Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (Unione Ticinese) and Camilla Ghislanzoni (New Helvetic Society).

FINANCE

Michelle Hufschmid, FOSSUK Treasurer, presented FOSSUK's financial situation:

- 1) The Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2021

Approved by Camilla Ghislanzoni (New Helvetic Society) and Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (Unione Ticinese).

- 2) Budget for 2022

Approved by Camilla Ghislanzoni (New Helvetic Society) and Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (Unione Ticinese).

- 3) Membership subscription for 2022

Approved by Camilla Ghislanzoni (New Helvetic Society) and Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (Unione Ticinese).

CHANGES IN THE FOSSUK COMMITTEE

Nathalie announced that she will step down as FOSSUK president, as she has recently moved back to Switzerland. Ané-Mari Peter, a long-standing member of the Swiss Community in the UK, will take over as FOSSUK president. Andreas Feller-Ryf, OSA delegate elected in 2021, will take on the role of vice-president.

Ané-Mari discussed some of the FOSSUK Committee's plans for the coming year.

AGM 2023

The FOSSUK Committee is delighted to host the first hybrid AGM meeting this year, after disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim is hold the next AGM outside of London. Discussions are currently underway to find a suitable date and location in Oxford.



FOSSUK DIGITAL STATS & SWISS REVIEW

FOSSUK's social media presence is growing steadily. We now have 297 followers on Facebook. The FOSSUK website garnered 29,655 page views – a 231% increase on the previous year.

The Swiss Review remains one of the most important communication channels to reach the Swiss abroad. Huge thanks to Gioia Palmieri, editor of the UK & Ireland part of the Review.

SPEECHES FROM SPECIAL GUESTS FROM SWITZERLAND

- *Johannes Matyassy – director of the consular direction of the FDFA*
Ambassador Matyassy discussed some of the main priorities of the Swiss government's consular arm. He explained some of the actions the government took to support Swiss abroad during the Covid-19 pandemic and in regions of geopolitical instability such as Ukraine since the start of the war. He cautioned that the expectations of the Swiss abroad can sometimes be out of step with the support the government is able to provide. The FDFA's focus will be on informing the Swiss abroad about their rights and responsibilities and on preventing difficult situations wherever possible. The FDFA will also launch a campaign on "aging abroad" for citizens looking to retire outside of Switzerland.

- *Filippo Lombardi – President of OSA and former member of the Council of States*

Mr Lombardi explained that there were 788,000 Swiss citizens living abroad in 2021 (38,900 in the UK) – representing 10.8% of all Swiss citizens. As President of OSA, he is keen to ensure that their voices are heard. OSA's mission is to inform, network, represent and advise the Swiss abroad. Mr Lombardi discussed the organisation's structure, membership, duties and priorities for 2022. He reminded the Swiss abroad to follow OSA on social media channels to stay informed. OSA is pleased to restart activities for young people from abroad, including camps and online courses. The upcoming 98th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano in August 2022 is a fantastic opportunity to meet Swiss people living all over the world, and will be opened by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Ignazio Cassis.

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE NEXT GENERATION

Michelle Hufschmid provided some background about why FOSSUK has been working on creating better links with younger Swiss citizens in the UK and introduced a panel of five young Swiss studying at the British universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London School of Economics: Simon Bühler, Flurin Caviezel, Léonore Lavorel, Emmanuel Robert and Amanda Wicki.



In a conversation moderated by Lakshmi Sundaram, the students discussed some of the challenges and opportunities they have found pursuing their studies in the UK at different levels. As representatives of Swiss societies, they highlighted how these societies can provide invaluable connections and information for students coming from Switzerland, but that funding to run activities is difficult to obtain. Finally, they brainstormed about how Swiss students could better interact with the broader Swiss community in the UK and what the benefits would be of building deeper partnerships.

CLOSING AND CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Loredana Guetz-Wyatt brought the formal part of the AGM to a close. She then described the New Helvetic Society (which organised the cultural programme) and introduced two remarkable artists:

- Rene Dee, who presented “The Life & Works of Maurice André Kaspar 1892-1946”
- Alessia, a talented young Swiss singer

DELEGATES & GUESTS

- **FOSSUK Committee Members and OSA delegates**

Nathalie Chuard
Andreas Feller-Ryf
Loredana Guetg-Wyatt
Michelle Hufschmid
Franz Muheim
Gioia Palmieri
Ané-Mari Peter
Lakshmi Sundaram

Excused: Joelle Nebbe-Mornod

- **Representatives from member clubs**

New Helvetic Society: Camilla Ghislanzoni

Unione Ticinese: Emily Martinoni Hoogenboom

Swiss Club Guernsey: none

Swiss Club Edinburgh: Ruth Muheim



East Surrey Swiss Club: Camilla Ghislanzoni (proxy)

Swiss Club Manchester: none

West Surrey Swiss Club: none

Swiss Benevolent Society – no voting: Marc Peter (proxy)

Swiss Church London – no voting: none

- **Special representatives**

Markus Leitner, Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK

Filippo Lombardi, President of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad

Johannes Matyassy, Director of Consular Direction at FDFA

- **Swiss student panellists**

Simon Bühler, Cambridge University Swiss Student Society

Flurin Caviezel, President of the Oxford University Swiss Student Society

Léonore Lavorel, LSE SU Swiss Society

Emmanuel Robert, President of the Cambridge University Swiss Student Society

Amanda Wicki, Oxford University Swiss Student Society

- **Other guests**

Magda	Aref
Alexandra	Baertsch
Elsbeth	Baldeo
Wilfred	Baldeo
BerkBurak	Bektas
Alexis	Bernini
Christina	Brandao
Rosemarie	Breitenstein
Chantal	Brooks
Catherine	Caspersz
Anna	Chelchowska
Alfredo	Di Silvestro
Jean-Philippe	Dufour
William	Edwards
Daniel	Everett



Nicole	Everett
Alessio	Fiori
Alec	Garrett
Liam	Garrett
Janet	Grab
Martina	Greenwood
David	Guhl
Stephanie	Gygax
Tobias	Hafner
Annalisa	Hauck
Alicia	Joho
Venla	Karppinen
Erna	Kaufmann
Imola	Kurel
Manisha	Kushwaha
Jelena	Lando
Audrey	Liechti
Sean	Lim
Brett	Newmark
Claudia	Peter
Fionnuala	Rasse
Matthias	Reich
Timo	Rey
David	Rochat
Suzanne	Rozario
Joesphine	Ruegsegger
Flavia	Sanchez
Jan	Schurch
Alex	Simons
Andrea	Stadelmann
Ursule	Thurnherr
Jonathan	Wyatt
Cuie	Xu
Nazmiye	Yolcu
Julian	Zagalak
Jan	Zwiebel