



Welcome to the Launch of **SWISSCOMMUNITY UK**

Swiss Embassy London
Saturday, 6th of June 2026

AGENDA



- Welcome** 14:00 – 14:10
- Thomas Wagner, Consul General, Embassy of Switzerland
 - Franz Muheim, Acting President, FOSSUK
- Update on transition away from FOSSUK** 14:10 – 14:20
- Presentation of background around the transition and update from Extraordinary General Assembly of FOSSUK on 11 May
 - Franz Muheim, Acting President, FOSSUK
- SwissCommunity UK: discussion of concept and plans** 14:20 – 14:50
- Presentation of concept and main functions of SwissCommunity UK
 - Request for comments and suggestions from the participants
 - Call for expressions of interest in shaping SwissCommunity UK
 - Suggested timeline for next steps in building up the initial membership of SwissCommunity UK, finalising constitution, first AGM, and opportunity to stand for the first Committee
 - Joelle Nebbe-Mornod and Nat Cartier, Transition Committee
- Update from UK Delegates to the Council of Swiss Abroad** 14:50 – 15:00
- Isabelle Schenk and Stefan Bucher, UK Delegates to the Council of Swiss Abroad
- COFFEE BREAK**

Presentations by representatives of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs 15:15 – 15:45

- Laurent Perriard, Deputy Director
- Michel Malizia, Consular Officer

Presentation by representatives of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad 15:45 – 16:00

- Filippo Lombardi, President
- Daniel Hunziker, Director (online remarks)

Presentation by the3Million 16:00 – 16:15

- Kaelynn Narita, Research and Policy Manager
- Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, Member of the EU Citizens' Network representing the interests of the Swiss in the UK

Contributions from representatives of formal and informal Swiss clubs and groups (in-person and online) 16:15 – 16:45

Closing remarks and acknowledgments 16:45 – 17:00

- Informal discussions and meeting new and old friends**
- Musical performance by Nat Cartier
 - Aperitif kindly offered by HE Ambassador Dominique Paravicini

AGENDA



- **Welcome**

- Thomas Wagner, Consul General, Embassy of Switzerland
- Franz Muheim, on behalf of transition Committee

TRANSITION FROM FOSSUK TO



- **Background**

- Federation of the Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom (**FOSSUK**) served Swiss in the UK as umbrella organisation for the last 60 years

- **Tempora mutantur**

- Over the last decade **FOSSUK** membership reduced significantly to a handful of Swiss clubs and associates.
- Since 2020 AGMs were held with usually 3 voting members:
New Helvetic Society, Unione Ticinese London and Swissclub Edinburgh

- **The future**

- At last AGM **FOSSUK** member clubs voted unanimously to transition to a new model of operation: **SwissCommunity UK**

DISSOLUTION OF FOSSUK



- **FOSSUK Extraordinary General Meeting**
 - was held online on 11th May 2026
- **Motion**
 - *The Unione Ticinese London, the New Helvetic Society, and the Swiss Club Edinburgh **propose to dissolve FOSSUK**, in accordance with Art. 7 of the constitution.*
- **All 3 member societies present confirmed individually in favour**
- **FOSSUK** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom **is dissolved**

TRANSITION COMMITTEE



Toby Matthiesen
CSA Delegate



Stefan Bucher
CSA Delegate



Isabelle Schenk
CSA Delegate



Lakshmi Sundaram
CSA Delegate



Franz Muheim
CSA Delegate
OSA Executive Board



Lorenza Anna Cavalli
Deputy CSA Delegate



Joelle Nebbe Mornod
Deputy CSA Delegate



Geraldine Kraev
Deputy CSA Delegate



Ane Marie Peter
Committee Member



Nat Cartier
Committee Member



Gioia Palmieri
Committee Member
Editor of the UK Pages of
the Swiss Review

LAUNCH OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- Presented by Joelle Nebbe-Mornod and Nat Cartier
- **Name: SwissCommunity UK**
 - In line with branding efforts by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) - SwissCommunity
 - <https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/>
- **The Swiss in the UK are pioneering**
 - A new model for an umbrella organisation suited to the needs of Swiss Abroad
 - Exciting times ahead!

AIMS OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- To be a **virtual hub** for Swiss citizens in the UK.
- To act as a **single point of contact** for the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)**:
 - There is a need for an umbrella organisation
 - To **connect Swiss citizens** to the work of **OSA**
 - To represent the **interests of Swiss citizens in the UK** in Switzerland.
- To organise the **elections of the UK delegates** to the **Council of the Swiss Abroad** every four years.

AIMS OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- To have close contacts with the **Swiss Embassy in the UK** and the **Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**.
- To ensure regular publication of activities in the **Swiss Review**:
 - **Swiss government** is mandated to keep Swiss Abroad informed.
Publication of Swiss Revue is delegated to Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
 - Each issue of the **Swiss Review** has **Regional pages for UK and Ireland**
- To connect people with **Swiss clubs** and support **Swiss social networks** in the UK.
- Open for additional suggestions, ...

MEMBERSHIP OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Membership**

- Open to all Swiss citizens living in the UK of at least 18 years of age
- Persons who are not Swiss but have strong connections to Switzerland may be admitted by the Committee.

- **How to join Swiss Community UK ?**

- Please register your interest on <https://swisscommunity.uk/>
- We encourage you to sign up before 31st August

- **Partners and Affiliates**

- Swiss Clubs and Societies recognized by OSA are invited to join
- Groups and networks with strong Swiss connections, including informal online networks, e.g. Facebook groups, are invited to join



COMMITTEE OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Swiss Community UK shall be governed by a Committee**
 - This is required for an association
- **Composition of Committee**
 - Every member can stand for committee
 - OSA Council delegates, their deputies and Editor of Swiss Review UK & Ireland
- **Invitation to stand for Committee**
 - This is your chance to shape and influence SwissCommunity UK
 - Get in touch in person today or by email: enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk
 - Call open until 31st August 2026
- **Committee elections**
 - Will be held at a **General Meeting** on 24th October 2026

FUNDING OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Committee is charged with raising funds**
 - To achieve aims and to cover costs of operation
- **Membership**
 - Could be fees or donations
 - Basic membership: £5 or £10 gives voting rights at Annual General Meeting
 - Membership plus: £25 or £50 will also allow for covering actual costs
 - Actual numbers to be decided by members at General Meeting
- **Partners and Affiliates**
 - A few Swiss clubs already offered seed monies

FUNDING OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Companies and Commercial entities**
 - Will be encouraged to connect via sponsorship et al.
- **Sponsorship**
 - Tier based donation or sponsorship scheme is proposed
- **Additional funding models**
 - Events
 - Merch
 - Projects, etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Webpage**

- <https://swisscommunity.uk/>

- **Facebook**

- <https://www.facebook.com/swisscommunityuk>



- **Instagram**

- https://www.instagram.com/swisscommunity_uk/



- **LinkedIn**

- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/swisscommunityuk/>



CONSTITUTION OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Draft Constitution and Guidelines**

- Are available at <https://swisscommunity.uk/>
- Hard copies available today

- Your input is appreciated
- Please send feedback to enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk

LAUNCH OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Summary**

- **Swiss Community UK** will allow Swiss citizens in the UK to have close connections to and be represented with the FDFA and OSA in Switzerland
- Allow to connect inside the UK in your preferred ways
- Please tell everyone that **Swiss Community UK is launching!**

NEXT STEPS OF SWISSCOMMUNITY UK



- **Join Swiss Community UK**

- Please register your interest on <https://swisscommunity.uk/>

- **Get involved**

- Consider standing for Committee until 31 August 2026
- Feel free to talk to us if you have questions
- Email address enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk

- **General Meeting of SwissCommunity UK**

- On Saturday 24 October 2026, will be held online
- Will hold election of Committee
- Will vote on Constitution and Guidelines



COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD



- **Report from the UK Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad**
 - Presented by Stefan Bucher and Isabella Schenk

Council of the Swiss Abroad UK Delegate Report



YOUR UK DELEGATES TO THE CSA



Franz Muheim
CSA Delegate & OSA
Executive Board



Isabelle Schenk
CSA Delegate



Lakshmi Sundaram
CSA Delegate



Stefan Bucher
CSA Delegate



Toby Matthiesen
CSA Delegate

E-ID — A WIN FOR THE SWISS ABROAD



YES

28 Sept 2025

- **What happened**

The CSA voted 84–3 in August 2025 to call for a YES in the referendum on the Swiss State Electronic Identity (E-ID). Swiss voters approved it.

- **Why it matters for us**

E-ID enables the Swiss abroad to access e-government services, verify identity remotely with banks, and underpins the expansion of e-voting to all cantons.

- **What comes next**

The OSA is pushing for rapid implementation.

E-VOTING: OUR #1 PRIORITY

- **The problem**

Late or lost voting documents remain the single biggest barrier to Swiss abroad participation in Swiss democracy.

- **Where we are**

4 cantons now offer e-voting: Basel-Stadt, St. Gallen, Thurgau and Graubünden. The goal is all cantons by 2029.

- **What the CSA is doing**

E-voting is the top priority of the Legislative Goals 2025–2029, adopted at the March 2026 session. UK delegates are actively pushing for acceleration.

- **What you can do**

Register with your canton. If you experience problems with voting materials, let your delegates know — your cases strengthen our advocacy.



4

cantons
now offer
e-voting

838,600

Swiss abroad
(11% of all
Swiss citizens)

LEGISLATIVE GOALS 2025–2029



E-Voting for All Cantons

Every Swiss abroad should be able to vote digitally. Rapid expansion is the mandate.

Banking Access

Swiss nationals abroad are still being denied accounts. E-ID should help — but banks must act.

Direct Parliamentary Representation

A proposal for Swiss abroad to have dedicated seats in the Federal Assembly is under active discussion.

Health Insurance Outside EU/EFTA

Swiss living in the UK face unaffordable or unavailable Swiss health cover. A parliamentary motion is needed.

KEY ISSUES FOR SWISS IN THE UK



- **Post-Brexit residency & rights**

Settled Status, professional recognition, and access to Swiss consular services all remain live concerns. The Swiss–UK bilateral relationship evolves independently of Bilaterals III (CH–EU).

- **Banking**

Many UK-resident Swiss struggle to open or keep Swiss accounts. Raise specific cases with delegates — we can escalate.

- **Health insurance**

Swiss living outside the EU/EFTA — including the UK — face high costs or gaps in Swiss health cover. We raised this directly with Federal Councillor Baume-Schneider in November 2025.

- **Voting & political participation**

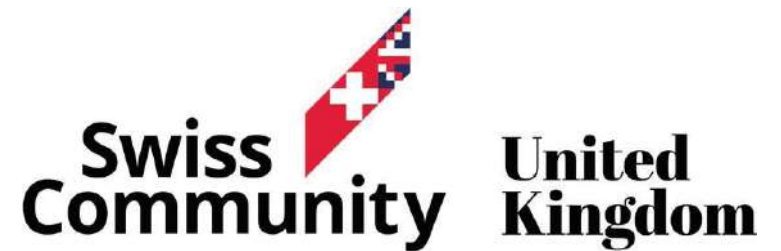
Are you registered? Have you received your materials? Have you been able to vote? Every case matters.

→ *Bilaterals III (CH–EU package): referendum not expected before summer 2027. UK delegates are monitoring closely.*

COFFEE BREAK



PRESENTATIONS



- **Presentations by representatives of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**
 - Laurent Perriard, Deputy Director
 - Michel Malizia, Consular Officer



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

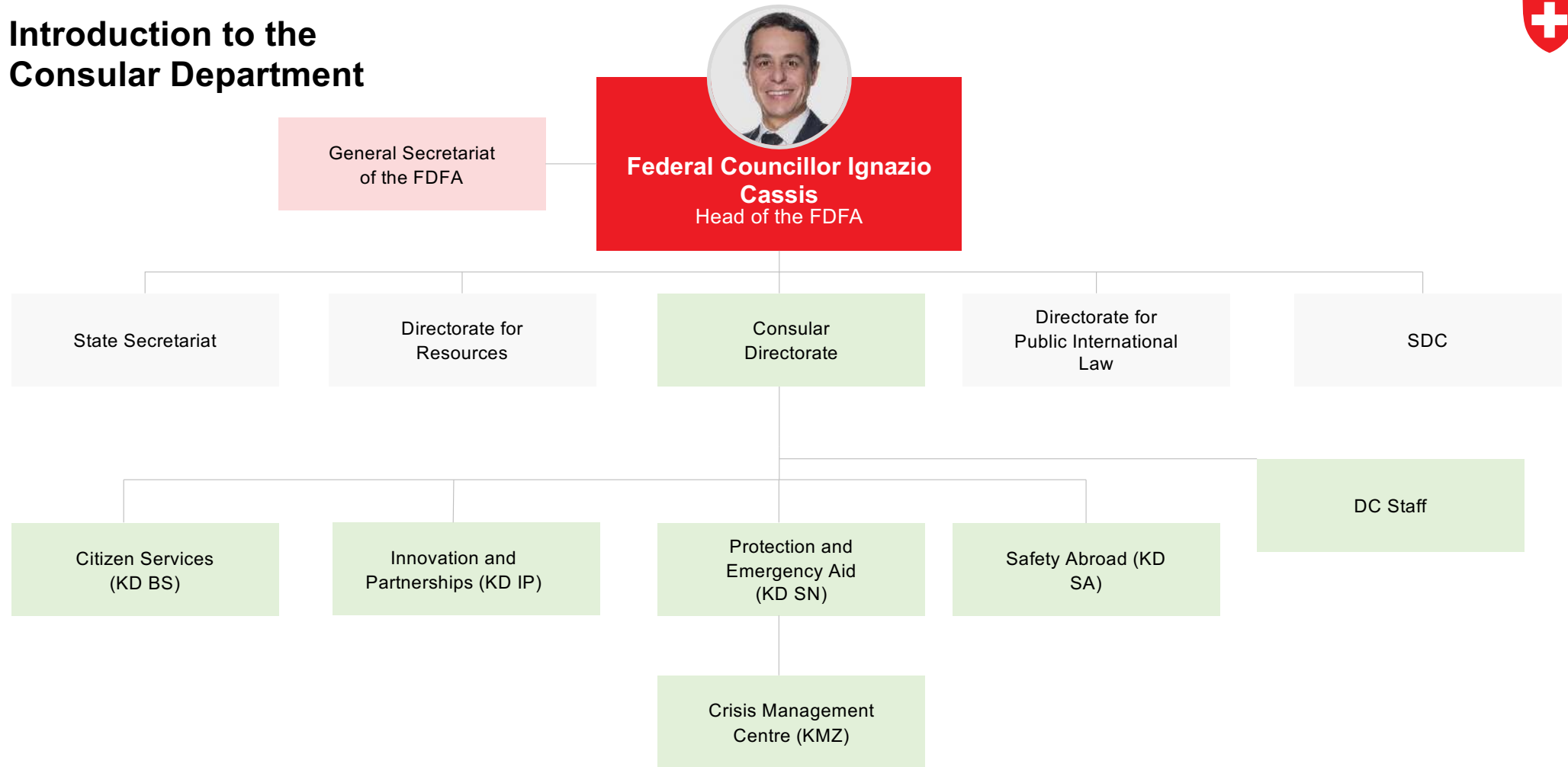
Eidgenössisches Departement für
auswärtige Angelegenheiten EDA
Konsularische Direktion KD

Presentation by the Consular Directorate of the FDFA

London

June 6th, 2026

Introduction to the Consular Department



Swiss citizens living abroad

2025

01 Population

Swiss citizens living abroad



838 600

By sex



388 700



449 900

Average age

41 years

46 years

Swiss citizens living abroad by sex and age group

0-17 years



23%



19%

18-64 years



56%



53%

65 years or older



21%



28%



75%

Swiss abroad with multiple citizenships

The most common countries of residence

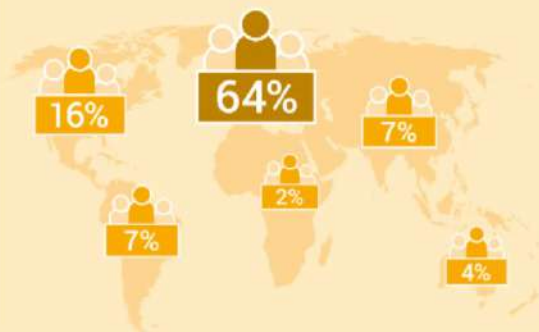
(including dependent territories outside the mainland)



Swiss citizens living abroad as a percentage of all Swiss citizens



Percentage of Swiss citizens living abroad by continent of residence



Source: FSO - Population and Household Statistics (STATPOP) Statistics on the Swiss Abroad (SE-EtA)

Statistics.admin.ch

© FSO 2024





Statistics on Swiss nationals abroad 2025

✓ **838,600** Swiss citizens living abroad

✓ **+1.4%** compared to 2024

✓ **11.3%** of the total Swiss population

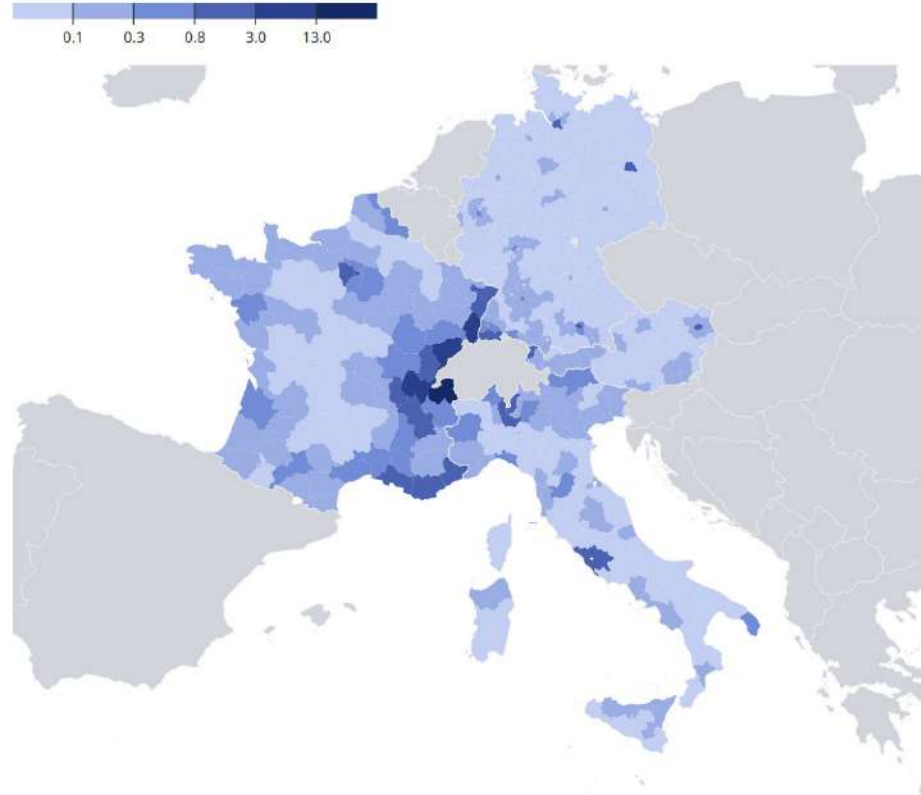


✓ **64%** live in Europe

✓ **3/4** hold multiple nationalities

Regional distribution of Swiss citizens living abroad in neighbouring countries, 2025

Percentage of total number of Swiss citizens living abroad in neighbouring countries, in %



Total number of Swiss citizens living in neighbouring countries: 392,244
Mainland France: 212,421 (54%), Germany: 102,064 (26%), Italy: 53,081 (14%), Austria: 19,078 (5%), Liechtenstein: 5,600 (1%)

Geographical level: NUTS3 regions
Values from 1 to 3 are hidden for data protection reasons.

Data as on: 31.12.2025
Source: FSO – Statistics on the Swiss Abroad (SE-Stat)

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© FSO 2026



- ✓ Almost half of Swiss citizens living abroad (392'244) live in neighbouring countries
- ✓ Almost 43'200 Swiss nationals live in the Consular district of London
- ✓ + 212,000 Swiss nationals live in mainland France (a quarter of Swiss nationals living abroad)
- ✓ Regions geographically close to Switzerland are popular

Swiss Expatriate Statistics – Consular district London



- 43'166 people at the end of 2025
- 56% women, 44% men
- 69% hold multiple nationalities
- 24% aged 0–17
60% aged 18–64
16% aged 65 and over



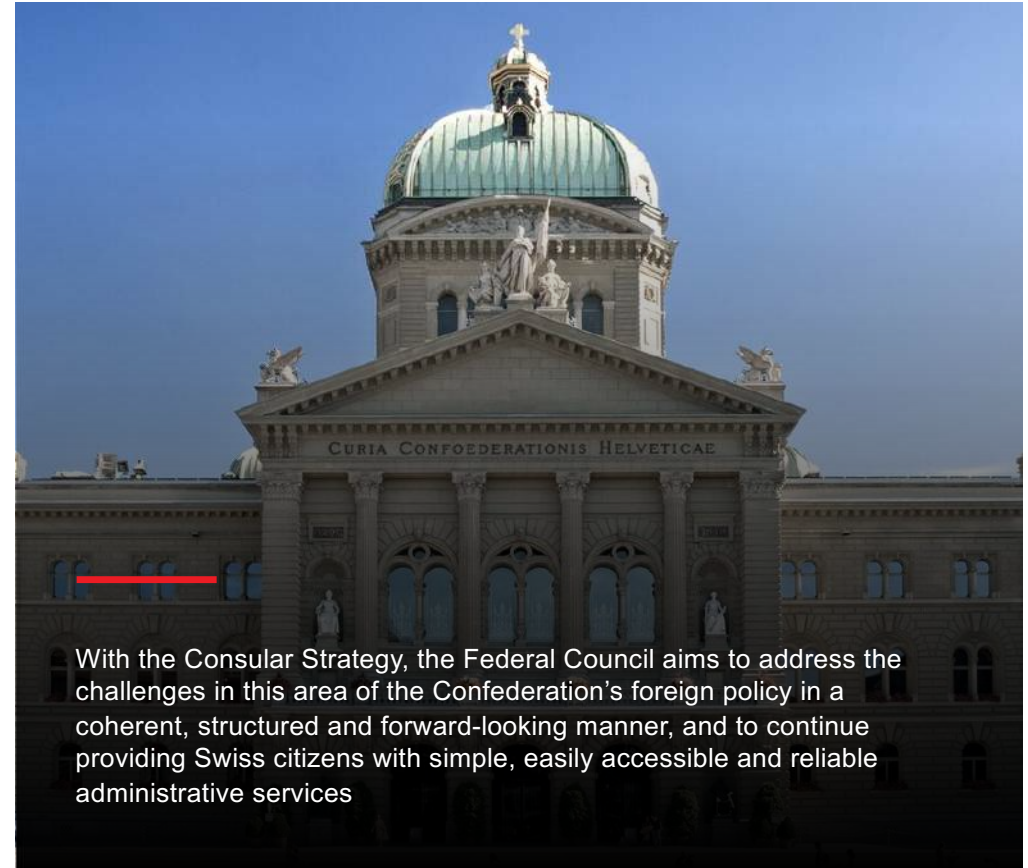
Consular Strategy 2026–2029

adopted by the Federal Council on 19 December 2025

4 strategic priorities

- > Prevention
- > Protection and emergency assistance
- > Administrative services

- > Visa management



With the Consular Strategy, the Federal Council aims to address the challenges in this area of the Confederation's foreign policy in a coherent, structured and forward-looking manner, and to continue providing Swiss citizens with simple, easily accessible and reliable administrative services



Priority 1: Prevention

The aim is to improve preparedness before any departure in order to minimise, as far as possible, the need for state intervention:

- Strengthening the **personal responsibility** of Swiss citizens travelling abroad or living there
- Proactive **communication** and targeted **information**, particularly for those retiring abroad
- Promote the use of **digital prevention tools**



Priority 2: Protection and emergency aid

The aim is to enhance the effectiveness of the response through targeted cooperation and constantly improved operational arrangements:

- Protection and emergency assistance are a key pillar of consular action
- The aim is to provide rapid and targeted assistance to Swiss nationals in critical situations



Priority 3: Administrative services

Administrative services should be more easily accessible and delivered more quickly ('Digital First'):


- Developing e-government
- Strengthen the link between Swiss citizens abroad and Switzerland (for example, by developing, in collaboration with partner organisations, information aimed at young Swiss citizens abroad / promoting digital (SwissInTouch) and interactive (webinars) information channels)
- Ensuring a flexible physical presence

Priority 4: Visas



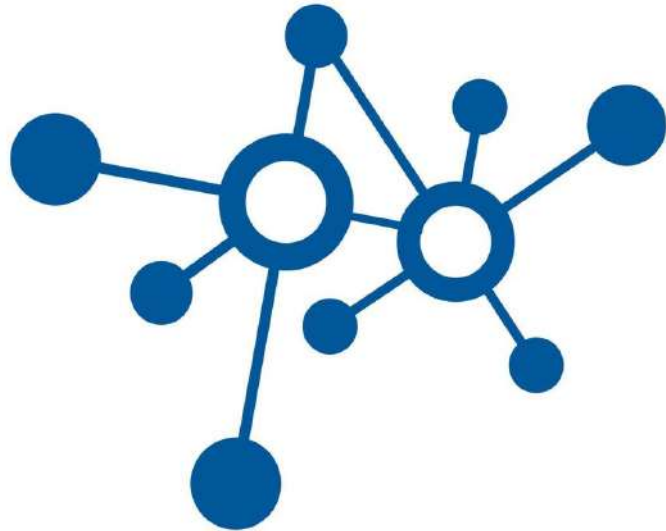
The aim is:



- to optimise procedures by making them faster and more efficient
-  whilst ensuring rigorous checks in line with legal requirements, national security and the security of the Schengen area



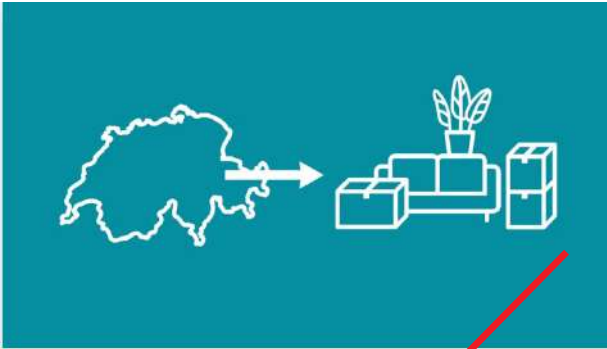
DigiHub Project: Digital Hub for Consular Services



- ✓ Digitisation of certain consular services
- ✓ Replacement of eVera
- ✓ Launch of the new DigiHub platform in 2027
- ✓ A modern and attractive online portal
- ✓ SwissInTouch: access point for the DigiHub
- ✓ eID as a means of identification
- ✓ DigiHub has no connection with eVoting



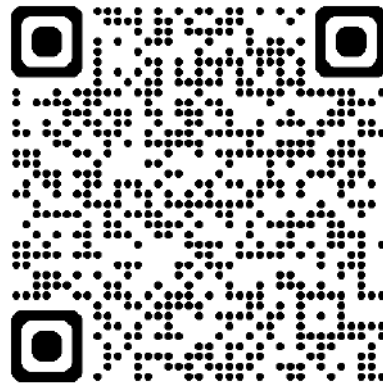
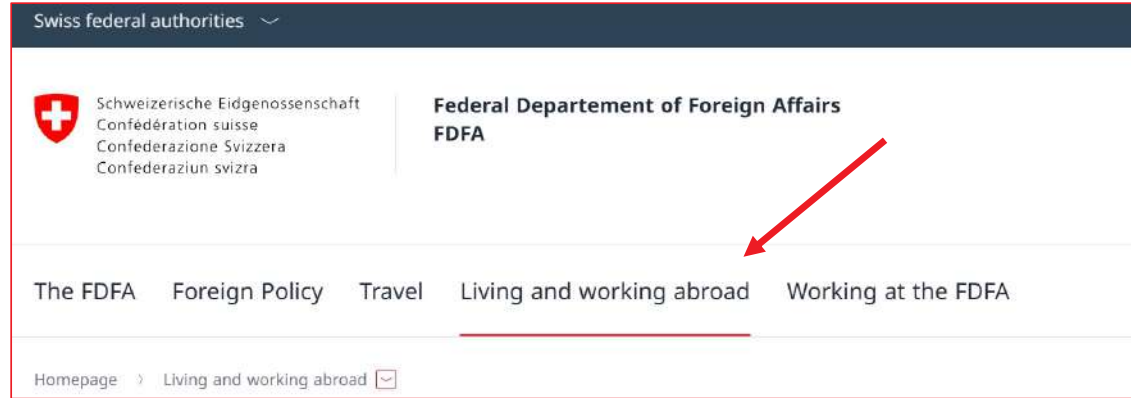
New FDFA website



1 February 2026

Living or working abroad as a Swiss citizen

Information on services for Swiss citizens abroad, on their rights and obligations, and on how they can remain connected with Switzerland.



EP27 cost-saving measures



- ✓ Spring parliamentary session: Initial package of planned cost-cutting measures to be partially scrapped
- ✓ No budget cut of CHF 0.4 million, as originally planned, in relations with the Swiss abroad
- ✓ No cut in the subsidy to Swissinfo
- ✓ Reduction in the subsidy to educationsuisse



Ageing Abroad - follow-up



01.

Prevention before travelling abroad



02.

Better information for retired people



03.

Support for institutions with materials (flyers, brochures)



04.

Raising awareness among key institutions in Switzerland



05.

Improving the assistance provided by Swiss representations



Young Swiss Abroad



Target audience

150,000 young Swiss people living abroad aged between **15 and 30**



Challenge

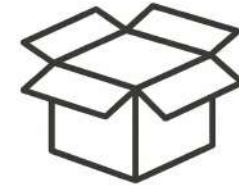
Low individual registration of young people with diplomatic missions



Objective

Raising awareness of rights and obligations

Strengthen ties with Switzerland



Package

Young Swiss Abroad website + flyer

Preparation of communication tools and resources for diplomatic missions



SwissInTouch

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



swissintouch.ch

Switzerland in your pocket

SwissInTouch.ch
The app for the Swiss abroad

swissintouch.ch

Exclusively available here





Webinars



- 9 webinars organised by the DC since 2023
- Partners: OSE, Soliswiss
- Ageing Abroad, Banks, Work, etc.
- Available on YouTube
- 16 June 2026: As a binational family in Switzerland / Connection to Switzerland
- 15 September 2026: Pension provision abroad
- 17 November 2026: Opportunities for young Swiss people abroad



Questions Discussion





Thank you

PRESENTATIONS



- **Presentation by representatives of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad**
 - Filippo Lombardi, President
 - Daniel Hunziker, Director

PRESENTATIONS



- **Presentation by the3Million**

- Kaelynn Narita, Research and Policy Manager
- Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, Member of the EU Citizens' Network



the 3 million

Ten years since Brexit

Snapshot of ongoing problems for EUSS holders

Swiss citizens in the UK

22,823

Swiss-born in the UK (2021 Census)

13,877

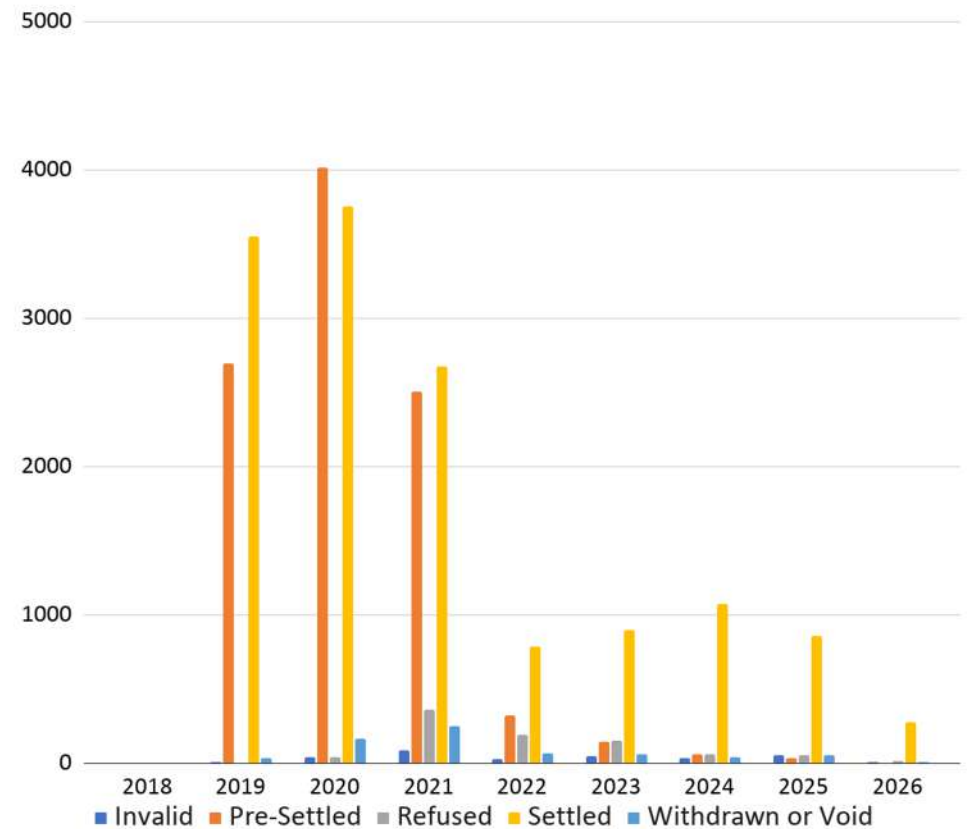
Swiss applications granted settled status

9,787

granted pre-settled status



Swiss Citizens: EUSS application statistics



Source: Home Office EU Settlement Scheme statistics, concluded applications 2018 to March 2026: 25,559 in total, withdrawal/refused/invalid. Figures count each outcome, so they exceed the number of people. Census 2021.

Five core problems

Issues we are highlighting at the Mass Lobby

1

Excluded from getting status

People who qualify still cannot get onto the scheme.

2

Long waits for status

Over 112,000 people are stuck in the backlog.

3

Insecurity of pre-settled status

Rights that stay conditional and time-limited.

4

Keeping your status

5

Using status

Not issued a tangible form of immigration proof

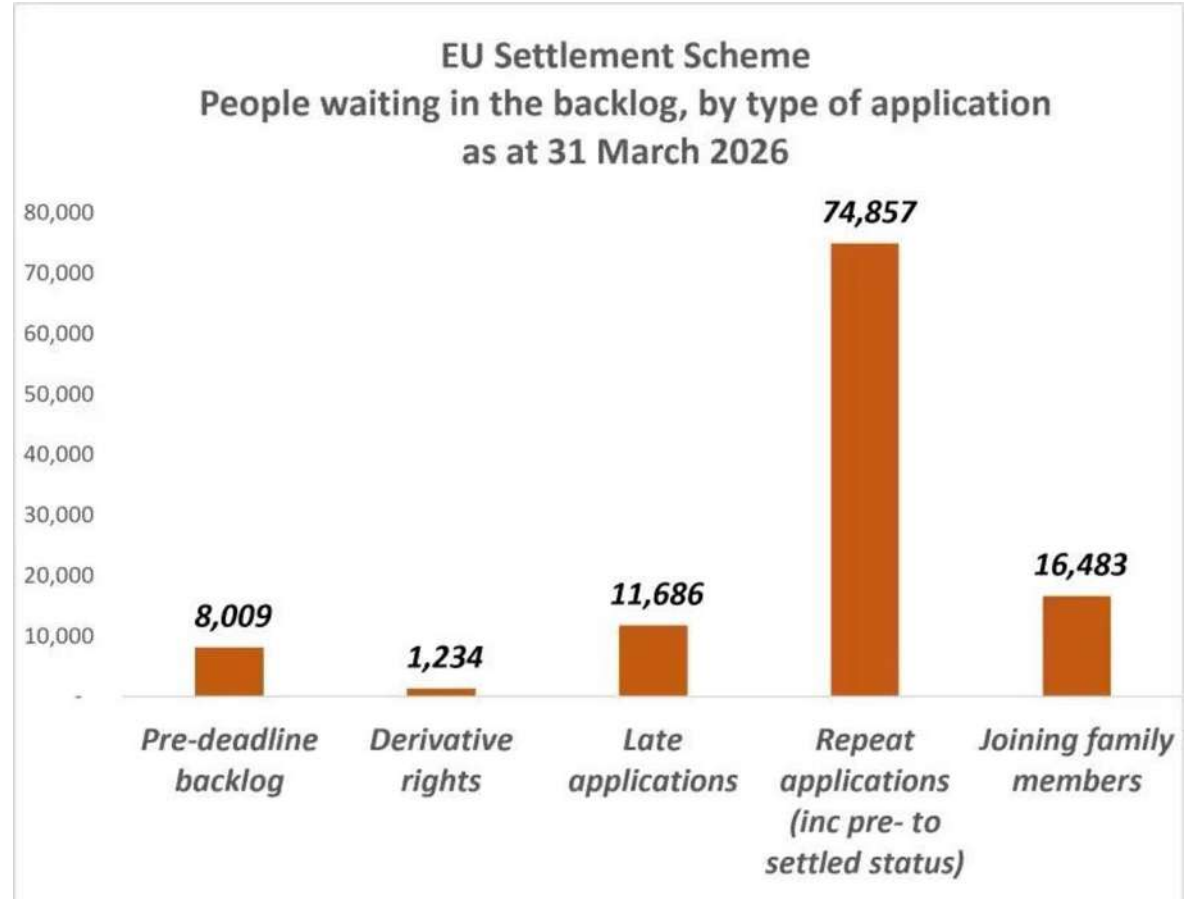
Waiting for status

112,000+

people still waiting for a decision

74,857

are repeat applications, including people moving from pre-settled to settled status

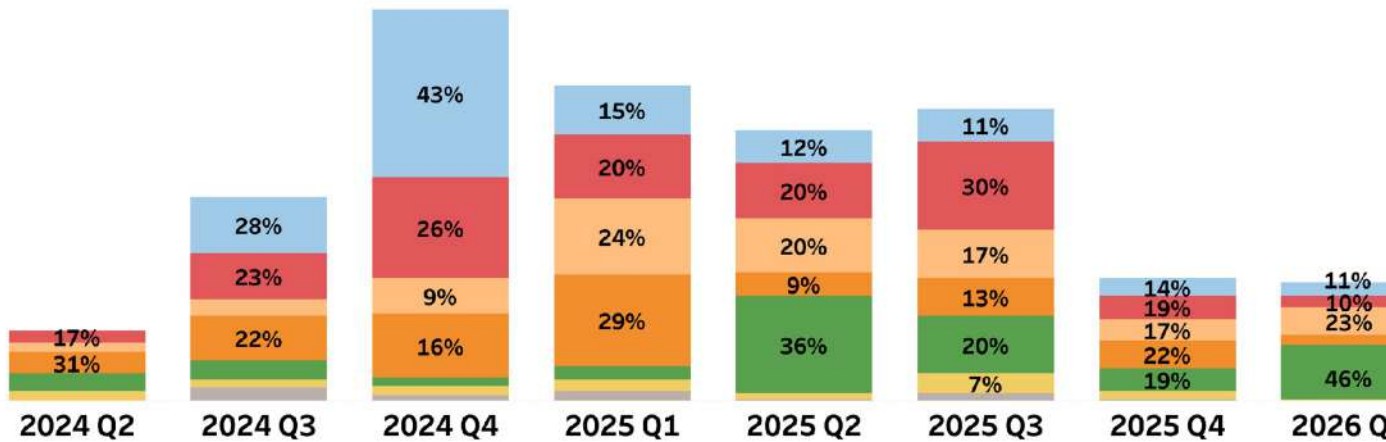


Using and travelling on your status

Distribution of problem categories by quarter

Total reports: 917

April 2024 to March 2026



- Problems setting up UKVI account
- Problems accessing eVisa
- Problems updating eVisa
- eVisa details incorrect
- Problems proving permission to travel to carriers
- Problems accessing service despite correct eVisa
- Other

“

This experience very painfully reminded me of how vulnerable our online status is, and how crucial it is that we get a physical backup of our status.

EU citizen reporting to the3million



Quarterly eVisa reports (Apr 2024 to Mar 2026).

What we are asking for after 10 years

1 Reinstate Grant Funding Advice

There is a lack of reliable, free and appropriate advice for EUSS applicants now that the Home Office funding has ended

2 Increase caseworking resources

The Home Office must allocate sufficient caseworking resources to process applications promptly and accurately

3 Remove barriers for pre-settled holders

Pre-settled status holders face barriers to access mainstream welfare support and face uncertainty as they wait for settled status

4 An independent review of eVisa system

There needs to be a review of the number of errors and implementation problems the 11 to 12 million eVisa users have faced

This is our home – we are here to stay

Join our Mass Lobby at
Westminster: 23 June 2026

Victoria Tower Gardens South (Abingdon St, Millbank,
London SW1P 3JA) by 11.30am

- Chance to share your story with
your MP

the 3 million



Mass Lobby at Parliament

10th Brexit Anniversary

**Swiss
Centre** 
Centrum
Helveticum
Britanniae **UK**

Why we need a Mass Lobby?

- **WHAT IS A MASS LOBBY?**

A mass lobby is when a large group of people come to Parliament at the same time to speak to their MP about an issue.

On **23rd June 2026**, the 10th anniversary of the Brexit referendum, people will come to Parliament from across the country to tell MPs that they **must demand the government address the severe flaws and injustices within the post-Brexit EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and eVisa system.**

- **WHY DO IT?**

Swiss citizens living in the UK are also affected by the transition to the digital immigration system. While many have successfully secured their status, others continue to face challenges navigating the EU Settlement Scheme, proving their rights, and understanding the implications of the eVisa system. **The mass lobby is an opportunity to speak directly with MPs and ensure these issues remain on the political agenda.**

Why Engage with your MP

- **WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT:**

Many people underestimate the influence their MP can have. MPs can raise issues directly with ministers, ask questions in Parliament, participate in debates, and lend their support to campaigns that matter to their constituents.

Crucially, they represent all residents of their constituency—not just British citizens. That means Swiss citizens living in the UK have a legitimate voice, and speaking to your MP is one of the most direct ways to ensure that your concerns are heard at the heart of government

- **HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MP:**

You can find your MP and contact details via the UK Parliament website. Local surgeries are often the most effective way to build an ongoing relationship with your MP.

How to prepare for it?

- **Before the Mass Lobby:**

Try to organise a 1:1 conversation with your constituency MP (**email them in advance using the3million template**)

MPs are not always at Parliament and are often very busy when the House is sitting, particularly if votes are scheduled. It is therefore advisable to request meetings well in advance and remain flexible, as timings can change at short notice.

- **On the day of the Mass Lobby:**

If you secure a meeting on the 23rd of June hand them the 2-page briefing on the top issues (prepared by the3million). **Follow up your meeting by writing to them or their assistant to secure a commitment to act or discuss further. We will be there to support you in your discussion!**

If your MP does not respond, you may still attend Westminster on 23 June and ask for your MP to be contacted through Central Lobby ('green carding'). While there is no guarantee of a meeting, it demonstrates your commitment and can sometimes lead to a useful conversation with the MP or their staff."

Local Meeting Surgery

For anyone unable to attend the Mass Lobby at Parliament, **writing to your MP for a local surgery meeting is a powerful alternative.** MPs usually hold these meetings on Fridays, providing a key opportunity around the Brexit Anniversary.

You can get in contact with us or the3million and we can provide you with the 2-page briefing on the top issues and prepare you for the meeting with your MP.

Every voice Matters

Ten years after the Brexit referendum, Swiss and EU citizens continue to contribute enormously to British society.

The Mass Lobby is an opportunity to ensure that our experiences and concerns are heard and that unresolved issues affecting residents under the EU Settlement Scheme remain on the political agenda.

Democracy works best when citizens engage directly with their elected representatives.

**Swiss
Centre** 
UK

Lorenza Anna Cavalli

Co-Chair & Founding Director

Chanel · LVMH · Nestlé | HSG St. Gallen, Master Finance & Accountancy | General Management | Brand Strategy & Team Leadership | Business Advisor, coach & mentor | City & Guilds Award in Education & Training

Loredana Guetg-Wyatt

Co-Chair & Founding Director

Arthur Andersen · Deloitte · Protiviti | Management Consultant | Governance, Compliance & Risk Management | Not-for-profit leadership | Former UK Delegate, Council of the Swiss Abroad and President, FOSSUK

The Swiss Centre UK — rooted in Switzerland, consequential in Britain.

SWISSCENTRE • UK

**Swiss
Centre** 
UK

CONTRIBUTIONS



- Contributions from representatives of Swiss clubs and informal Swiss groups

CLOSING



- Closing remarks and acknowledgments

CLOSING



- **Social gathering**

- Meeting new and old friends
- Musical performance by Nat Cartier
- Aperitif kindly offered by HE Ambassador Dominique Paravicini