

# Swiss Nationals in the EU

What will change with the Bilateral Agreement  
on the Free Movement of Persons?



Published by: Integration Office FDFA/FDEA  
Information  
Parliament Building East  
CH-3003 Berne  
Phone: +41 31 322 22 22, fax: +41 31 312 53 17  
e-mail: [europa@seco.admin.ch](mailto:europa@seco.admin.ch)  
[www.europa.admin.ch](http://www.europa.admin.ch)

Federal Office of Immigration, Integration and Emigration (IMES)  
Quellenweg 15  
CH-3003 Berne-Wabern  
[www.swiss.emigration.ch](http://www.swiss.emigration.ch), [www.imes.admin.ch](http://www.imes.admin.ch)

Directorate of Labour/seco  
Bundesgasse 8  
CH-3003 Berne  
[www.seco-admin.ch](http://www.seco-admin.ch)

Concept and texts: Zoebeli Communications Ltd., Berne

Graphic design: Oliver Slappnig, Herrenschwanden

Photography: Croci & du Fresne, Berne (cover)  
Marcus Gyger, Berne (portraits)

Printing: 8 000 copies

Distributed by: SFBL, Distribution of Publications, CH-3003 Berne,  
[www.bbl.admin.ch/bundespublikationen](http://www.bbl.admin.ch/bundespublikationen),  
available in English, German, French and Italian.  
Order number: 201.348.e, 201.348.d, 201.348.f, 201.348.i

04.04 8 000 860113059

# Contents

Foreword .....	4	Questions about residence in the EU .....	8
<b>Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons: the key points in brief .....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Entry .....</b>	<b>8</b>
What's new? .....	5	<b>People in employment .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Who is affected by the Agreement? .....	5	Employees .....	8
When do the new rules come into effect? .....	5	Self-employed .....	8
Where does the new Agreement apply? .....	6	Swiss with existing permits to stay and work in the EU .....	10
What's unchanged? .....	7	Cross-border commuters .....	10
		Service providers .....	12
		<b>People without gainful employment .....</b>	<b>12</b>
		Pensioners .....	12
		Students .....	12
		Others .....	14
		<b>Looking for work and job-finding services .....</b>	<b>14</b>
		<b>Family reunification .....</b>	<b>16</b>
		<b>Recognition of diplomas and certificates .....</b>	<b>16</b>
		<b>Taxes .....</b>	<b>17</b>
		<b>Social security .....</b>	<b>17</b>
		Old age, survivors' and invalidity insurance .....	18
		Occupational benefit plan (the "second pillar") .....	18
		Sickness insurance .....	19
		Accident insurance .....	20
		Family and children's allowances .....	21
		Unemployment insurance .....	21
		<b>Buying property in the EU .....</b>	<b>21</b>
		<b>Useful addresses and websites .....</b>	<b>22</b>

EU nationals intending to live and work in Switzerland can order another booklet about the Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons ([www.bbl.admin.ch/bundespublikationen](http://www.bbl.admin.ch/bundespublikationen), order number: 201.349.e, 201.349.d, 201.349.f, 201.349.i).

For simplicity's sake and to make it easier to read, this text in general uses masculine forms, but the remarks it contains apply of course equally to women in the various categories it refers to.



**Dear Reader,**

In the summer of 1999 Switzerland and the European Union signed seven bilateral Agreements including the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons. As soon as the Agreements have been ratified and enter into force the requirements for Swiss nationals wishing to live or work in the EU will be simplified progressively.

The right of free movement of persons will be complemented by the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, by the right to buy property, and by the coordination of the social security systems.

This brochure is intended to provide you with an initial overview of the new legal situation, and perhaps allow you to make plans for travel and residence. We wish you all the best in this venture.

For the three departments responsible for the free movement of persons:

Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor  
Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Christoph Blocher, Federal Councillor  
Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police

Joseph Deiss, Federal Councillor  
Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs






# Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons: the key points in brief

## What's new?

The Agreement means that the same living, employment and working conditions will apply to Swiss nationals in the EU as apply to nationals of EU member states. In future Swiss nationals in the EU will have the right:

- to occupational and geographical mobility (i.e., they can change their place of residence, place of work or job at any time)
- to equality of working conditions
- to coordinated social security protection
- to equality of social support (grants for schoolchildren, housing allowances, etc.)
- to equality of tax concessions
- to be self-employed
- to mutual recognition of diplomas with a view to access to a regulated profession (i.e., one requiring approval)
- to be joined by their family
- to remain in the EU member state, even if no longer in gainful employment
- subject to certain conditions, to buy property.

The Agreement provides for long-term work permits, running for five years, and short-term permits running for up to a year. Your residence permit will be renewed if you continue in gainful employment. You will no longer be required to leave the receiving country as soon as your contract ends.

### People in employment

**Both the employed and the self-employed will have the right to enter, reside and obtain a work permit in the states which have signed the Agreement, whether Switzerland or a member of the EU.**

### People without gainful employment

**People without gainful employment such as pensioners and students will also have the right to enter and stay, if they have sickness insurance and financial means sufficient to ensure that they will not be a burden on the social security system of the EU member state in question.**

### Services

**Service providers will have the right of entry and residence for up to 90 working days.**

## Who is affected by the Agreement?

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons applies to all Swiss nationals, and all nationals of EU member states. The Agreement does not affect nationals of other states, except in the case of family members, or of workers from other states who are integrated into the labour market in Switzerland or the EU, and temporarily provide services in another signatory state (i.e. posted employees).

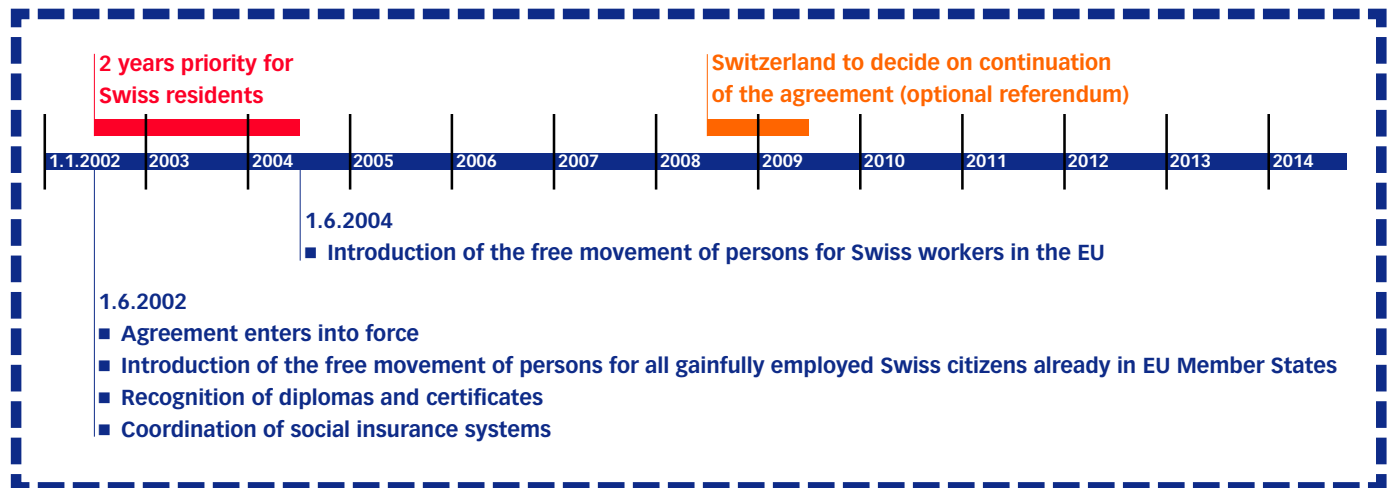
The right to free movement of persons will be enjoyed by people in gainful employment, whether employed or self-employed, and by people without gainful employment (pensioners, students and others) if they have sickness insurance and dispose of financial means sufficient to ensure that they can support themselves without being a burden on the social security system of the EU member state in question.

### Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons

Signature of the Agreement: ..... 21st June 1999  
 Approved by the EU parliament: ..... 4th May 2000  
 Swiss referendum: ..... 21st May 2000  
 Entry into force of the Agreement: ..... 1st June 2002

# Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons: the key points in brief

The opening of the EU labour market for Swiss workers will take place in stages and begins with a two year transition period. The details of the timetable are as follows:



## Two-year transitional period

### People moving to the EU

During the transition period, EU Member States may still apply restrictions to gainfully-employed persons from Switzerland: they have the option of offering priority to national workers. Swiss workers obtain full freedom after two years; that means they have equal free access to the EU labour market.

### People already in employment

Swiss citizens, who were entitled to work in the EU on 1 June 2002 obtain the right to be treated as national residents with the entry into force of the agreement. The transitional provisions do not apply to them.

### People without gainful employment

Full freedom of movement will apply to people without gainful employment (students, pensioners and others) as soon as the Agreement comes into force.

## After seven years

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons with the EU was concluded for an initial period of seven years. After that time, both parties can state whether they wish to continue the agreement. The EU has already stated that it is in favour of tacitly continuing the Agreement. The Swiss Federal Council and Parliament will make their decision on the basis of experiences drawn over the seven years. This decision may also be challenged in a referendum. If a referendum were to come about, the Swiss people would have to approve the continuation of the agreement. In the event that Switzerland does not decide against the Agreement after the seven year period, the Agreement will be continued for an indefinite period.

## After twelve years

If the Agreement is extended after the seven years have elapsed, after twelve years full freedom of movement will apply to the EU and to Switzerland equally. It will continue to be possible to invoke a protective clause by mutual agreement.

## Where does the new Agreement apply?

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and the EU applies to the following states<sup>1)</sup>:

### Switzerland

**15 EU member states:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland<sup>2)</sup>, France<sup>3)</sup>, Germany, Great Britain<sup>4)</sup>, Greece<sup>5)</sup>, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal<sup>6)</sup>, Spain<sup>7)</sup> and Sweden.

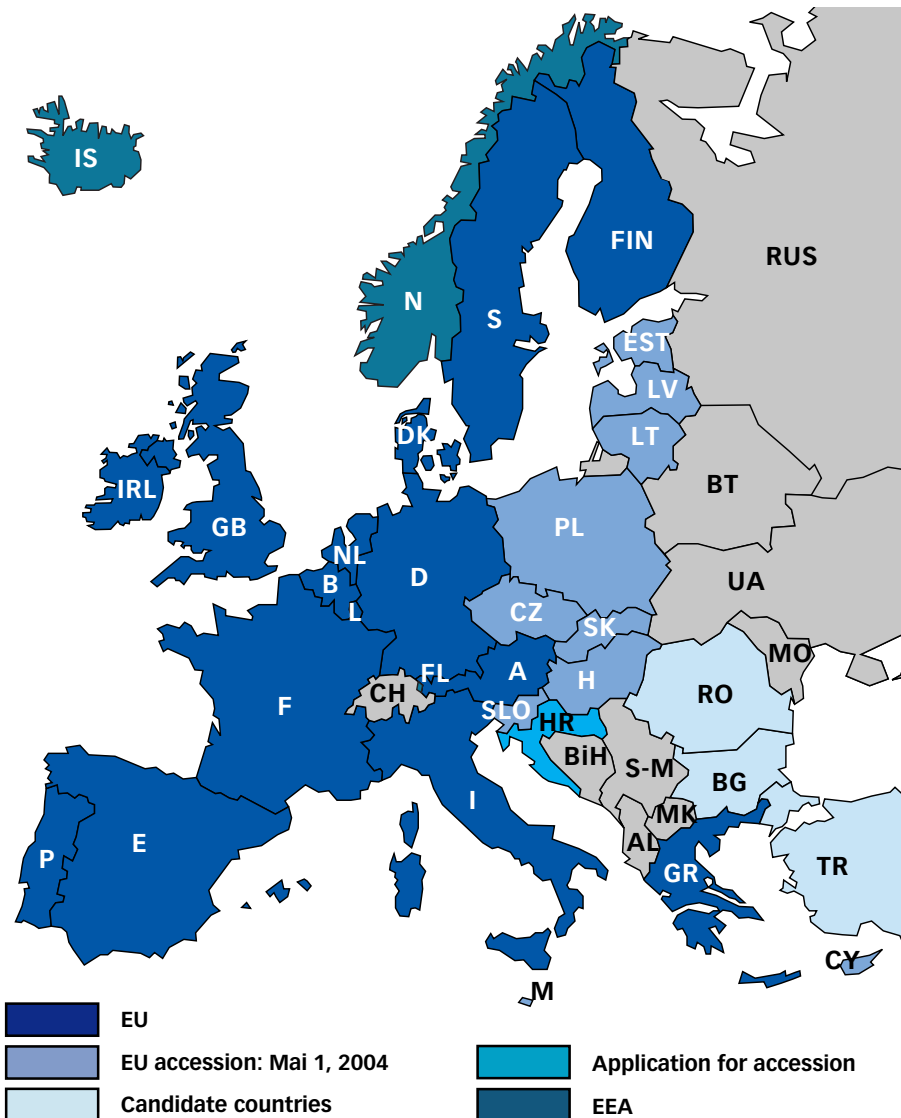
Negotiations concerning the extension of the free movement of persons to the ten new Member States on 1 May 2004 are still underway. Such an extension would not come into effect before the beginning of 2005 at the earliest.

## What's unchanged?

The Bilateral Agreement will bring with it free movement of persons, but frontier controls between the EU and Switzerland will remain. Switzerland continues to be neither a member of the European Union nor part of the Schengen area. This means:

- There will continue to be border





- checks on people and goods.
- Value added tax and where appropriate customs duty will continue to be raised on goods imported from Switzerland into the EU and vice versa.
- The euro will not be legal tender in Switzerland even though it will be legal tender throughout the EU except in Great Britain, Denmark and Sweden.
- The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons has no influence on the applicable tax system of individual Swiss cantons. Cross-border commuters will still be subject to withholding tax in Switzerland.
- Every country will retain its own legislation on residence, labour and social security, but the various social security systems are to be better coordinated.
- There will continue to be Swiss embassies and consulates in the various EU member states.

**Laws on citizenship, inheritance, the family, social security and military service will not be affected by the Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.**

**1) The Agreement does not apply to the following territories linked to European member states:**

- Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, Faeroe Islands, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, Vatican, United Kingdom Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in Cyprus.
- Greenland, New Caledonia and dependent areas, French Polynesia, French territories in the southern hemisphere and Antarctic, Wallis Islands (Wallis and Futuna), Mayotte, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (archipelago south of Newfoundland), Aruba
- Netherlands Antilles: Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint-Martin
- Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, the Island of South Georgia (South Georgia, Antarctica) and Southern Sandwich Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Saint Helena Dependencies, British Antarctic Territory, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, etc.

2) including the Åland Islands

3) including the following French Overseas Departments: Guadeloupe (including la Désirade, les Saintes, Marie-Galante, Saint-Barthélemy and the French part of Saint-Martin), Martinique, Guyana, Réunion

4) including Gibraltar

5) including Mount Athos

6) including the following Portuguese archipelagos: Azores, Madeira

7) including the following Spanish archipelagos: Balearic Islands, Canary Islands, and including the following Spanish towns (enclaves on Moroccan territory): Ceuta, Melilla

**EEA States:**

**Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein**

**The revised EFTA Convention came into force on 1 June 2002 at the same time as the agreement on the free movement of persons and contains corresponding provisions on the free movement of persons between Switzerland, Norway and Iceland. Special provisions apply with regard to Liechtenstein: Since 1 June 2003, Liechtenstein treats citizens of Switzerland resident in Liechtenstein in the same way as residents from an EEA Member State. Switzerland and Liechtenstein have agreed to regulate access for swiss citizens not resident in Liechtenstein by 31 May 2005 at the latest.**

# Questions about residence in the EU

## Entry

### I should like to enter the EU. What documents do I need?

A valid identity card or valid passport each will be all that is required for you and members of your family to enter or leave any EU member state. You will not need a visa. Only if a member of your family is neither Swiss nor a national of an EU member state may an entry visa be required.

## People in employment

**In the first two years after entry into force of the Agreement transitional arrangements will apply (see the section "When do the new rules come into effect?" on page 5)**

## Employees

### I should like to live in the EU and work for an EU employer. What requirements will I have to meet?

As a Swiss national you will have the right to stay in any EU country and take work. The country concerned will issue a residence permit.

### What will determine the type of residence permit issued?

It depends on how long you want to work in the EU. If your job is to last less than a year, you will be a so-called short-term resident. If you have an employment contract which runs for a year or more, or has no fixed term, you will count as a long-term resident.

### What rules apply to residence permits for short-term residents?

**Jobs lasting up to three months:** You will not need a residence permit if you take up employment in the EU for no more than three months.

During the first two years after the entry into force of the Agreement, there could be different regulations depending on the country. Please contact the consulate of your future host state for more information.

### Employment for more than three months, but less than a year:

If you have an employment contract which runs for more than three months but less than a year you will receive a residence permit for the period of your contract of employment.

### What rules will apply to long-term permit holders?

If your contract runs for a year or more you will receive a residence permit valid for five years. On expiry this will be extended automatically for at least five years. At the first renewal the validity of your residence permit may however be limited to one year if you have been involuntarily unemployed for more than twelve consecutive months.

### What documentation may the authorities in the receiving country ask for when I apply for a residence permit?

1. The identity document which you used to enter the EU state in question.
2. Your employer's declaration of engagement or an employment certificate.

### Can my residence permit be withdrawn if I am sick, out of work against my will, or have an accident?

No, but in case of involuntary unemployment you will need confirmation from the competent employment office that you are unemployed against your will.

### May I change where I live and work in the receiving country?

Yes, you will have the right to geographical and occupational mobility whether you have a short-term or long-term permit, i.e., you can change where you work or live at any time.

### May I change my job in the receiving country? And may I set up on my own account?

Yes. You will have a right to professional mobility, i.e., you may at any time change your profession, or switch from being self-employed to being an employee.

## Self-employed

### I should like to work in the EU on a self-employed basis. How do I set about this?

If you want to stay in the EU to work in a self-employed capacity during the transitional period, the receiving state will issue you initially with a six-month residence permit. This period can be extended by two months if there are real prospects of your being successfully self-employed. Thereafter if you can show the national authorities concerned that you are pursuing a self-employed occupation you will be issued with a residence permit running for at least five years. If you can show that you continue to be self-employed this residence permit will be extended automatically for a further five years at least.

### What documentation may the authorities in the receiving country ask for when I apply for a residence permit?

1. The identity document which you used to enter the EU state in question.
2. Evidence of a self-employed occupation.



# “My daughter feels Swiss in England, and English in Switzerland.”



Christiane Barber in England

It was language-learning which drew Christiane Barber to England, but it was love which kept her there. When Christiane, who is now aged 48 and hails from Ticino, finally took the decision to emigrate to England in 1977, she had to go through a laborious immigration procedure in Dover. After lengthy questioning, she was granted a residence permit for just three months. It was only because she subsequently married her English boyfriend that she was later able to stay on in the country. She found a job with an airline in London, but today this mother of two works for the Swiss Embassy. The bond with her mother country extends far beyond business, however. Even her daughter, who has grown up in England, identifies with Switzerland: “In England I feel Swiss, and in Switzerland English”.

Emigrated: 1977

Residence permit: Christiane Barber is also a British subject.

In England she appreciates: the multicultural society; the fact that everyone can adopt the lifestyle they prefer.

Things she doesn't like so much about England: are inefficiency and some aspects of the health service.

What she misses when in England: her family and the mountains.

What she appreciates about Switzerland: efficient organisation, high standard of living, cleanliness, and beautiful scenery.

Her recommendation to those hoping to emigrate: make the most of cultural and career opportunities; don't allow yourself to get worn down by integration problems at the outset.

What she hopes bilateral relations with the EU will mean: Greater possibilities for individual self fulfillment.



## May I change where I live and work in the receiving country?

Yes, you will have the right to geographical mobility, i.e., you can change where you work or live at any time.

## May I change my job in the receiving country? And can I switch from being self-employed to being employed?

Yes, you will have the right to occupational mobility, i.e., you may at any time change your job, and switch from being self-employed to being employed.

## Swiss with existing permits to stay and work in the EU

### I already have residence and work permits in an EU member state. What does the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons mean for me?

From the start you will receive the same treatment as EU nationals. This means that you will enjoy all rights linked to freedom of movement – e.g. full occupational and geographical mobility – as soon as the Agreement enters into force. The two-year transitional period rules will not apply to you.

### Will my residence and work permits be extended automatically?

Yes, you will have a right to have your permit extended, whether you are a short-term resident (with a work permit valid for less than a year) or a long-term resident (with a work permit valid for a year or more).

## Cross-border commuters

**Transitional arrangements will apply for the first two years after entry into force of the Agreement (see the section "When do the new rules come into effect?" on page 5).**

### What changes will there be for me as a cross-border commuter?

- A previous stay of six months in the frontier region will no longer be required.
- The obligation to return home every day will be replaced by an obligation to return home once a week.
- If you are to work in an EU member state for at least one year you will be issued with a cross-border commuter permit valid for five years rather than for one.
- You will now be able to be self-employed as a cross-border commuter.
- You will be able to buy business premises and/or a second home in the EU if this is linked to your job.
- For the first five years you will be entitled to enjoy occupational and geographical mobility within all the frontier zones bordering on any of the neighbouring states; after five years the frontier zones will be abolished and you will have complete occupational and geographical mobility.

### What places lie in the Swiss-EU frontier zone?

In principle all places which are within 20 kilometres of the Swiss frontier are in the frontier zone. You can apply to the local authorities for more detailed information on which places count as in the zone.

## Cross-border commuters as employees

### I live in Switzerland and should like to take up a job in the EU. What documents will I need?

You will need a cross-border commuter permit (i.e. a form of work permit). You will not need a residence permit.

For a cross-border commuter permit to be issued you will have to return to your home in Switzerland at least once a week.

If your job is to last more than three months but less than a year, the competent authorities will issue a cross-border commuter permit for the duration of the job.

If your job is to last longer than a year, you will be issued with a cross-border commuter permit valid for at least five years.

In both cases your permit will be extended for at least five years if you show that you continue to be in gainful employment.



# “Many clients particularly value my agency’s international touch.”

## André Cléménçon in France

founded a communication and design agency in Biel in 1995 when he was 30. Five years later he opened a branch in Paris. Since then this self-employed PR consultant commutes regularly between Biel and Paris: “I chose Paris because I feel so at home here and the city inspires me every day. I love the ‘big city groove’ and the buzz it gives me”. Commuting is not a problem for André Cléménçon – quite the opposite. He uses the time he spends in the high-speed train to work, and distance can be quickly offset with a click of his computer mouse. Distance also leads to entirely new solutions, because he finds himself dealing with daily challenges in a less piecemeal fashion, and seeing them in an international context. Many clients particularly value the international touch in André Cléménçon’s work.

**Working in two countries since:** 2000

**Residence permit in France:** “Carte de séjour” renewable annually. André Cléménçon does not need a work permit in France, as he is self-employed.

**What he likes about the international environment:** insight into two different ways of living and working.

**What he likes less about working in two different countries:** tedious frontier checks, and despite the double taxation agreement between the two countries it is very time-consuming and expensive to pay income-tax in both France and Switzerland – France especially is costly.

**His recommendation to anyone thinking of emigration:** “Just do it”!

**What the Agreement on Free Movement means for him:** For André Cléménçon the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons will mean above all less administrative hassle. His residence permit will be valid for five years.



## Self-employed cross-border commuters

**I live in Switzerland and should like to work on a self-employed basis in the EU. What documentation shall I need?**

As a self-employed cross-border commuter you will not need a residence permit. If you return to your home in Switzerland at least once a week, you will initially be issued with a cross-border commuter permit valid for six to eight months. A cross-border commuter permit valid for at least five years will then be issued if you show the national authorities concerned before six months have passed that you are self-employed. This permit can be extended for a further five years if you continue to be self-employed.

## Service providers

**What services will be liberalised under the new Agreement?**

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons provides for limited liberalisation of cross border personal services. This concerns both the exercise of a self-employed occupation for a limited time without establishment in the EU, and cases involving employees of firms with head offices in Switzerland who are posted to the EU to provide a service.

**I have a service business in Switzerland and provide services in the EU too. What difference will the new Agreement make for my Swiss employees?**

Switzerland already has agreements with a number of states in specific sectors (e.g., public procurement, air transport and rail and road transport, and – in the case of Germany – exhibition stand installation and assembly work), and these include arrangements for freedom of movement. These agreements will not be affected as long as they provide better conditions than the

Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.

The Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons will give your employees as a matter of principle the right to enter an EU member state and to provide services there without a permit for up to 90 working days in any calendar year (with the exception of temporary staff hire, placement and financial services which are not included in the Agreement).

If your staff work for no more than three months in the EU they will not need residence permits. During the first two years after the entry into force of the Agreement, there could be different regulations depending on the country. Please contact the consulate of your future host state for more information. If you employ your staff in the EU for more than three months but less than a year, they will need a short-stay permit. For postings of a year and longer they will require long-term residence permits.

Your staff will be granted residence in the EU member state in question if they are authorised to provide a service, that is to say, if you obtain the necessary authorisation from the authorities in the receiving state. Authorisation will be given whatever the nationality of your staff if they have been integrated in the regular Swiss labour market and are to be posted to the signatory state in the context of the service provided. Your staff will however need a visa for the EU if nationals of their state of origin are subject to visa requirements.

## People without gainful employment

### Pensioners

**I am a pensioner and should like to live in the EU. What are the requirements?**

You will have to show that:

- you have enough financial resources to ensure that you will not be obliged to claim social assistance;
- you have all-risks sickness and accident insurance.

You will then receive a residence permit valid for at least five<sup>9)</sup> years. This residence permit will be extended automatically for at least five years if the conditions continue to be met.

### Students

**I am a student and should like to study for a few semesters in Brussels. How long can I stay in the receiving country? Shall I need a residence permit?**

As a student you will be issued with a residence permit with up to twelve months validity. You will need:

- evidence that you have sufficient financial resources to maintain yourself during your stay as a student (the receiving country will not in general give you any social assistance)
- confirmation that you are registered at a recognised school or university with professional education as your principal goal
- sickness insurance covering all relevant risks (including sickness and accident) and events such as maternity.

Your residence permit will be renewed annually for a further year each time – but if your course is to last less than a year it will be renewable for the remaining period of study only.

<sup>9)</sup> It will however be open to the authorities in the receiving state to require renewal of the residence permit after the first two years.



# “The sea in summer, the mountains in winter – that’s the life for me.”

## Helene Rieder in Spain

A pensioner, 68, Helene Rieder worked for many years as an account executive in a bank in Rapperswil, Saint Gall. She always liked to travel a great deal: she lived for ten years in Cape Town and her son and daughter were born there. While there she got to know and like a southern climate. When she was 52 she bought herself a small holiday home on Mallorca. Later she moved into a house on the Costa Blanca with more space and a swimming pool. This is where she spends summers: “I shouldn’t want to spend winter on the Costa Blanca. I’m drawn to Switzerland in the cold season, to the Grisons where winter is so beautiful: no fog, blue skies and lots of sun and snow. The sea in summer, the mountains in winter – that’s the life for me. I shouldn’t like to live the whole year round in either Spain or Switzerland.”

**Emigrated:** 1985

**Residence permit:** Obtained with no problem in Spain.

**What she likes about the Costa Blanca:** that there are many other older people living there who take time off to enjoy a glass of wine with friends under the pines; the low cost of living; the Swiss Club where she’s a member.

**What she doesn’t much like about Spain:** that she can hardly get anywhere without a car because there is so little public transport; that she can’t take her dog with her on buses or trains, to hotels or beaches or to any other sort of public place; the high humidity and the storms in winter.

**Her recommendation to anyone thinking of emigration:** find out about the country at an early stage, face up to the Spanish mentality and organise everything in peace and quiet; learn to speak the language well and be thoroughly flexible.

**What she hopes the Agreement on Free Movement will mean for her:** sickness insurance that covers doctors’ fees and hospital expenses anywhere in Europe, but is nonetheless affordable; in other words Europe-wide insurance that doesn’t have to be private, but can be public or semi-private.



**As a Swiss student, shall I be able to take on part-time paid work in the EU?**

Yes, but it will be open to the receiving country to set a maximum number of working hours.

**Shall I be able to take my family with me to the EU if I am to study there for a certain time?**

Yes, your husband or wife and your dependant children will be able to accompany you to the EU.

**Does the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons mean that I shall find it easier to obtain an exchange place at a university in the EU? What about fees and grants at EU universities? Shall I have to pay less in future?**

**These matters do not fall under the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.**

### Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate study

As in the past, it is open to schools and universities themselves to lay down the basis for accepting students from other countries such as Switzerland. In some countries students from Switzerland may find themselves unable to secure a place because of a limit on the number of foreigners. The EU's education, professional training and youth programmes such as ERASMUS, SOCRATES and LEONARDO DA VINCI do not fall under the Bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons concluded between Switzerland and the EU, but Switzerland and the EU are shortly to start negotiations on Switzerland's participation in these programmes.

Unlike admission to gainful employment, the recognition of degrees and diplomas with a view to admission to graduate and postgraduate studies is not covered by the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (see also the section "Recognition of diplomas and certificates – Admission to

university courses and postgraduate study" on page 17).

### Fees

Depending on the receiving country and university, Swiss students may still find themselves having to pay substantially higher fees than students who are nationals.

### Grants and fellowships

Since grants and fellowships are not governed by the Agreement, you should ask the local authorities, schools or universities for information about requirements for the award of grants or fellowships.

### Others

**I live in the EU but work in Switzerland. What does freedom of movement mean for me?**

Whether you are self-employed or an employee, in the EU you will count as being without gainful employment. You have the right to a residence permit if you meet the requirements for people without gainful employment. In Switzerland you will count as a cross-border commuter.

## Looking for work, and job-finding services

### Looking for work

**I am Swiss but should like to find a job in the EU. How should I go about it?**

You will be able to stay for six months in an EU member state in order to find work there. During this period, as a job-seeker you will be entitled to the same help in finding a job as the employment offices in that state give to their own nationals.

After the end of a job that lasts less than a year you will be able to remain in the receiving country for a further six months to look for a new one, if:

- your financial resources are sufficient to ensure that you will not have to claim social assistance;
- you prove that you have sickness insurance covering all relevant risks.

If you have accrued a right to claim unemployment benefit on the basis of your employment in the receiving country you will have a right to stay for as long as your right to unemployment benefit lasts.

If you are looking for a job in the EU, you are entitled to the help of the Emigration and Trainees Service of the Swiss Federal Aliens Office (SFAO) (see the contact address on page 22).



# “It was only after trying repeatedly that I was accepted for a course in Germany.”

## Pascal Savary in Germany

This 28-year-old Swiss from Sâles near Bulle in the canton of Fribourg began studying agricultural science at the Swiss College of Agriculture at Zollikofen (Berne) in 1995. Because he wanted a degree recognised in the EU he applied for a place at a German university of applied sciences. This turned out to be a hard nut to crack: “Because my vocational maturity was not recognised abroad, and the Swiss College of Agriculture was not initially recognised as a university of applied sciences, it was only after trying repeatedly that I was accepted for a course in Germany”. In autumn 1998 he was successful at last: Pascal Savary switched to the Nürtingen University of Applied Sciences in Baden-Württemberg and graduated there in 2000 as an agricultural engineer. Since then he has been working as a member of the scientific staff on a research project. Although Pascal Savary enjoys Nürtingen he thinks he may one day come back to Switzerland.

**Emigrated:** 1998

**Residence permit:** Since Pascal Savary’s wife is German, he had no difficulty getting a three-year residence permit.

**What he likes about Germany:** the quality of life, especially in the south of Germany.

**What he doesn’t much like:** the taxation system.

**What he misses in Germany:** chocolate and Swiss food generally.

**His recommendation to anyone thinking of emigration:** get in touch as soon as possible with the nearest Swiss consulate for advice about the formalities.

**What he hopes bilateral relations with the EU will bring him:** more professional opportunities for Swiss. Pascal Savary is convinced that their good language skills mean that the Swiss have an excellent chance of finding interesting jobs in the EU.



## Job-finding services

### Where can I get information about the situation on the EU employment market?

Switzerland and the EU have agreed to cooperate in the field of job finding. Contacts are to be set up and job vacancies and applications matched on the European Employment Services network, EURES. There will also be exchanges of information on the state of the labour market and living and working conditions. In Switzerland the lead department for job exchange questions is the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, seco; the information system is coordinated by the Emigration Service of the SFAO.

Information currently available from the EU can be found on the Internet at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/eures/en/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/eures/en/index.htm)

## Family reunification

### Who counts as my family?

- Your wife or husband and those of your children who are under 21, or whom you support
- Both your parents and the parents of your wife or husband, but only if you support them
- If you are a student: your wife or husband and your dependant children.

### Can my family accompany me without problem? Will my husband or wife and my children be able to stay and work?

However long you are to stay, the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons will give you the right to family reunification as long as you have suitable accommodation for your family. Your spouse and children will have the right to gainful employment whatever their nationality.

### I am a cross-border commuter, living with my family in Switzerland but working in the EU. Where will my children go to school?

As a rule your children will go to school where you live, i.e., in Switzerland. But if you wish they can go to school in the EU.

## Recognition of diplomas and certificates

### Will my diplomas, certificates and evidence of professional qualification be recognised in the EU?

#### Admission to gainful employment

Degrees and diplomas obtained in Switzerland are recognised in the EU if they meet certain minimum standards. Comparability of training is required. Degrees from universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen) for instance are generally recognised if they were obtained after three years of study.

There are special guidelines for physicians, dentists, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons, midwives, lawyers, architects and engineers. These regulate the fundamental features of the training and the requirements for the award of specialist titles. Swiss courses generally meet the guidelines' requirements.

The mutual recognition of diplomas is especially valuable for the self-employed, but it also benefits employees since salaries often depend directly on recognition of a diploma. Swiss nurses for instance have been able to work in the EU in the past, but in cases where the Swiss diploma was not recognised in the EU Swiss nurses had often to accept wages that were substantially lower than those paid to local staff.

All provisions in the new Agreement apply equally to Switzerland and to the EU. Nonetheless, a Swiss with a profession that is not regulated in Switzerland will not be able to apply for simplified approval if his profession is regulated in the receiving EU member state.

**A profession is deemed to be regulated if the professional requires a particular degree, diploma or federal certificate to exercise it.**

### Examples of professions with special guidelines

#### Physicians, dentists, veterinary surgeons or pharmacists

The new Agreement provides for federal diplomas in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and pharmacy to be recognised in the EU as equivalents. This allows these professions to be exercised on a self-employed basis in any EU member state.

#### Architects and engineers

A four-year university course is required. The following are recognised:

- A degree from one of the Federal Institutes of Technology
- A degree from the University of Geneva.

Any architect in Register A of the "Foundation of Swiss Registers of Engineers, Architects and Technicians" will be recognised as an architect in the EU. Architects trained at an advanced technical college or university of applied sciences are not yet covered by these arrangements, and are therefore not currently recognised. There are to be further discussions on this issue.

#### Lawyers

The EU directive of 16 February 1998 on facilitating the practice of the profession of lawyer in a Member State makes it possible to exercise as a lawyer in any EU member state on a permanent basis using the quali-



# Taxes/Social security

fication obtained in the country of origin. It is open to the receiving state to impose the condition that when representing a client in the courts the foreign lawyer should work with a lawyer who is entitled to appear in the court in question. After three years activity a lawyer is entitled to ask to be placed on the same footing as the lawyers of the receiving state.

## Admission to university courses and postgraduate study

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons does not govern recognition of diplomas and degrees with a view to an applicant's being accepted on a university course or as a postgraduate student. It remains the prerogative of EU member states to decide on what basis to accept students from other countries such as Switzerland at their universities. It is advisable to seek detailed information from the individual school or university. (See also the section "Living in the EU without working there", "Students" on page 12.)

## Driving licences and similar permits

Such matters are not covered by the bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.

## Taxes

### Where shall I have to pay taxes?

Switzerland has concluded a double taxation agreement with each of the EU member states. Where you have to pay taxes will be governed by the relevant agreement.

Information on the various double taxation agreements can be obtained from the Federal Tax Administration (part of the Swiss Federal Department of Finance) (see the contact address on page 22).

## Social security

### Will the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons mean that the social security systems of the EU and Switzerland will now be identical?

No, states will continue to shape their social security schemes as they require and as their economic strength allows. If an EU member state changes its social security legislation that will have no impact on Switzerland or the other EU member states. The various systems will however be better coordinated. Coordination of the social security systems is intended to achieve cross-border protection. In particular the intention is to avoid Swiss abroad losing their insurance entitlements when they return to Switzerland. Swiss in gainful employment in the EU must be treated in the same way as EU nationals.

### As a Swiss citizen, where should I pay contributions for old age, invalidity, unemployment, sickness and accident insurance and for the second pillar, if I work for a long time in the EU?

As a matter of principle, you must be insured where you work. This means that if you work for some time in an EU member state, it is there that you must pay social security contributions.

### Where should I pay social security contributions if I work temporarily for my Swiss employer in an EU member state?

In this case you count as a "posted person" and will remain insured in Switzerland during your posting. Your cover may extend to your family, depending on the sort of insurance in question. To obtain exemption from the obligation to insure in the country where you work you must present a form E-101 to the authorities in the receiving country. The old age insurance compensation fund will provide you with this form if your employer applies for it. You will then be exempted for a year from the obligation to insure; it will be possible to apply for this exemption to be extended.

### What are the rules on obligatory insurance if I work in Switzerland and in an EU member state at the same time?

In this case you must in principle be insured in only one of the two states. If you live in one of the two states it is there that you must pay all insurance contributions. There is often no obligation at all for the self-employed to be insured.

The principle applying to all branches of insurance is that Swiss citizens must receive the same treatment as nationals of the EU member states.

## Old age, survivors' and invalidity insurance

### Can I claim a pension from EU member states in which I have worked for a period?

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons will make it easier for you to claim a pension from EU member states. Hitherto many states would only grant you a pension if you had been insured there for a certain number of years. The Agreement provides for all periods of insurance in other EU member states and in the Swiss Old Age, Survivors' and Invalidity Insurance Scheme (both compulsory and voluntary) to count towards the minimum insurance period of any EU member state (this is known as the aggregation principle).

### Which state will pay how much?

The principle is as follows: if you have been insured in two or more states the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons provides that you will receive a partial pension from each of those states. In accordance with the so-called pro rata system each EU member state will pay you a share of the pension corresponding to the length of time you have contributed there, providing that you have paid contributions for at least a year. If you return to Switzerland at some stage the EU member states concerned must pay your pension in Switzerland. Swiss Old Age, Survivors' and Invalidity Insurance Scheme pensions will similarly be calculated pro rata and paid to Swiss citizens and EU nationals abroad (again providing that they have paid contributions for at least a year).

### When will my pension start to be paid?

When your old-age pension starts to be paid will depend on pensionable age in the country concerned. Disability pensions are also paid in accordance with the pro rata system, from the moment the person concerned is held to be disabled under

the law of the country concerned. Survivors' pensions (as a rule also paid pro rata) will be paid from the time of death of the person insured if the conditions applying in the country concerned have been met.

### Will I be able to join the Voluntary Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Scheme even if I am living in an EU member state?

No, it has not been possible for you to join the Voluntary Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Scheme since 1st April 2001 if you are resident in an EU member state. But if you lived in the EU in the past and joined the voluntary insurance scheme at that time, you can stay insured for a further six years; if you are aged over fifty you will retain the right until you reach pensionable age.

### What about the Voluntary Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Scheme if I live in a state outside the EU?

If you live outside the EU you will be able to join the voluntary scheme only if you have been insured hitherto for five years under the Swiss Old Age and Survivor's Insurance Scheme.

## Occupational benefit plan (the "Second Pillar")

### I shall be taking up a job in an EU member state and leaving Switzerland definitively. Will I be paid the second pillar vested benefit (the compulsory minimum benefit)?

No. The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons is intended to make it possible to move from one country to another for professional reasons without gaps in old-age cover being created. If you worked in Switzerland initially and paid contributions here, and subsequently continued to work in an EU member state, similarly paying contributions there, you will in due course receive a partial pension from each of the states. This means that you will not

be buying yourself into the scheme at your new place of work in the EU for the full period, and the Swiss partial pension must therefore remain. For this reason you cannot be paid the compulsory minimum benefit if you have compulsory cover for old age, death and invalidity at your new place of work in the EU. The money that stays behind in Switzerland will be credited to a blocked bank account or a blocked insurance policy and paid out in due course as a pension. You will be able to claim payment of the compulsory minimum benefit under the Federal Law on Occupational Benefit Plans Concerning Old Age, Survivors and Invalidity only if you have no compulsory pension insurance in an EU member state covering old age, death and invalidity, i.e., if you have given up gainful employment or if your vested benefit is less than your annual contribution.

### Non-compulsory occupational benefit plans

There is to be no restriction on payment of that part of the benefit plan that does not come under the Federal

## Transitional arrangements

If you leave Switzerland definitively in the first five years after entry into force of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons you will be entitled to ask that your vested benefit should be paid out to you.



Law on Occupational Benefit Plans Concerning Old Age, Survivors and Invalidity (so-called non-compulsory benefit). It will remain possible to use pension fund assets to buy a home abroad under the Law Encouraging Home-Ownership. For detailed information contact the pension funds.

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons means that you can expect better insurance cover as a worker moving from Switzerland to the EU, thanks especially to consistent application of the pro rata pension system.

## Sickness insurance

### Paying premiums

#### As a Swiss national working in the EU where must I pay sickness insurance premiums?

This is determined by the place of work. If you work in an EU member state you will have to pay sickness insurance contributions there for yourself and for those members of your family who are not in gainful employment, even if you live in Switzerland.

#### And if I am a cross-border commuter, working in Switzerland and living in an EU member state? Where must I pay premiums then?

In this case you will have to arrange with a Swiss insurer for sickness insurance for yourself and for those members of your family who are not in gainful employment, and pay premiums in Switzerland. Depending on where you live you may also be able to insure yourself in the EU and apply for exemption from compulsory insurance in Switzerland. This is the case for instance if you reside in Germany, Austria, Italy or France.

#### I am in gainful employment and insured in Switzerland, but live in the EU – will the members of my family be covered by the sickness insurance scheme in Switzerland or in the EU member state where we live?

In principle members of your family come under the Swiss sickness insurance scheme. But if you live in Denmark, Great Britain, Portugal or Sweden members of your family come automatically under the sickness insurance scheme of the EU member state where you live.

#### What about premium payments if I am out of work?

If you are drawing Swiss unemployment benefit and looking for a job in the EU you must pay your premiums in Switzerland for the three months you are allowed to look for a job.

#### And if I am no longer in gainful employment?

Assuming I am Swiss, a pensioner, living in an EU member state, and drawing a Swiss pension there, which sickness insurance scheme do I come under?

Category of person	Option to choose insurers in country of residence or Switzerland	Insurance in Switzerland not possible	Insurance in Switzerland compulsory
Pensioners drawing principal pension in Switzerland but no pension in the country of residence	Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Spain		Belgium, Denmark, Portugal, Greece, Great Britain, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland
Members of a pensioner's family not in gainful employment	Germany, France, Italy, Austria	Denmark, Great Britain, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, Spain	Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Classification of Swiss pensioners resident in an EU member state under sickness insurance law

Currently if you emigrate to an EU member state as a Swiss pensioner drawing a pension only from Switzerland, you are excluded from the compulsory Swiss sickness insurance scheme. Very few insurers offer you the option of continuing to insure privately. On entry into force of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons you will remain in principle compulsorily insured in Switzerland. There are however exceptions to compulsory insurance in Switzerland; these will depend on the country in which you live, i.e., you can choose whether you insure in Switzerland or where you live. This exceptional arrangement applies currently to Germany, Austria, Italy, France and Spain (see the box on page 19).

## Reimbursement

### Will the sickness insurers provide cross-border insurance cover?

If you are insured in Switzerland but live in an EU member state, you are entitled to the same treatment in sickness as people insured in the country of residence. You will only be able to obtain treatment in Switzerland if you live in Germany, Austria, Belgium or the Netherlands.

### What will happen if I fall ill on holiday and need medical treatment in an EU member state other than the EU state where I live?

You are entitled to the same in-patient or outpatient treatment as you would receive if you were insured in the country in question. You are also insured if you fall ill when staying in Switzerland. The cost will be divided up between the participating insurers under arrangements specific to the country concerned. You may initially have to pay yourself – the insurer will reimburse

you subsequently. If the country in question requires people insured there to pay part of the cost of treatment, you will have to pay this yourself.

### What must I do if I return to Switzerland after a prolonged period living and working in the EU?

Whatever your age and state of health you will have to arrange basic health procedures insurance within three months of taking up residence in Switzerland. It will be open to you to choose an insurer anywhere in Switzerland. It will be open to the insurer to make the conclusion of optional supplementary insurance subject to conditions, e.g. by setting an age limit. For detailed information you should contact the sickness insurers or *santésuisse* (previously known as the Concordat of Swiss Health Insurances) in Soleure. See the contact address on page 22.

## Accident insurance

### Occupational accidents

If you have an occupational accident you will receive compensation in accordance with the legislation of the country where you work and are insured.

### What happens if, as a Swiss citizen, I have an accident when I am temporarily in an EU member state engaged in work for my Swiss employer?

In this case the accident insurance of the EU state concerned will look after you, i.e., the EU insurance scheme will meet the cost of treatment initially, and charge it subsequently to the Swiss accident insurer.

### Accidents unrelated to your occupation

Accidents unrelated to your occupation count as sickness in the EU, and fall accordingly into the category of sickness insurance. See the "Sickness Insurance" section on page 19.

### Occupational diseases

If you suffer from an occupational disease you will be compensated by the insurance scheme of the country where you last worked with the harmful substance involved.



# Buying property in the EU

## Family and children's allowances

**If I am in gainful employment and accompanied by my family, shall I be entitled to family allowances in my country of residence or employment?**

In principle you will receive family allowances where you are employed, i.e., where you pay social security contributions. The nature and amount of family allowances will be set by the regulations in the country concerned.

**What happens if I work in one EU member state and my wife or husband in another?**

In this case you will be entitled to family allowances in the country where you live if either you or your partner works there. If the allowance is higher in the other country you can apply for the difference in addition.

A number of information pamphlets on social insurance are available from the Federal Social Insurance Office – see the contact address on page 22.

## Unemployment insurance

The Agreement on Free Movement of Persons introduces two new concepts to unemployment insurance:

- the principle of aggregation
- benefit export for three months at most.

**What is meant by the principle of aggregation?**

The principle of aggregation means that, when the time comes to decide whether an unemployed person has reached the minimum contribution threshold, periods of employment in the EU will be included.

**Exactly what is meant by benefit export?**

Benefit export makes it possible to look for work in an EU member state for up to three months. For this period unemployment benefit is "exported". It is however required that you take advantage of the job-finding services available in the country where you are looking for work, and satisfy the control regulations there.

**Which state is responsible for paying unemployment benefit?**

In principle the last state where you have been employed must pay unemployment benefit. There are however exceptions for cross-border commuters and short-term residents. If they are wholly out of work cross-border commuters will receive benefit from their country of residence. Employees with short-stay residence permits can choose whether they wish to draw unemployment benefit in the state where they were last employed or in their country of origin.

**How much benefit will I draw if I become unemployed in an EU member state?**

How much unemployment benefit is paid, and for how long, will depend on the law of the state concerned.

## Buying property in the EU

**As a Swiss citizen, can I buy property in an EU member state?**

If you have the right to remain in the EU and are living there, you will have the same rights in respect of buying property (i.e. real estate) as nationals of EU member states (i.e. equality of treatment). If you have the right to remain in an EU member state but do not have your principal residence there, you will have the same rights as nationals of the EU member state only if the property in question is to serve for the exercise of your profession. To buy a second residence or holiday home you will need a permit from the EU state concerned.

**Shall I be able to buy property as a cross-border commuter?**

If you wish to buy a second residence, or premises which are intended to serve the exercise of your profession, you will have the same rights as nationals of EU member states. You will be able additionally to buy a holiday home, but will have to have a permit from the state concerned.

**If I leave an EU member state after buying property there, shall I have to sell my property?**

No.

# Useful addresses and websites

## General

Integration Office FDFA/FDEA  
Bundeshaus Ost  
CH-3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 22 22  
Fax +41 31 312 53 17  
europa@seco.admin.ch  
www.europa.admin.ch

Euro Info Centre Switzerland  
(EICS)  
Stampfenbachstrasse 85  
PO Box 492  
CH-8035 Zurich  
Tel. +41 1 365 54 54  
Fax +41 1 365 54 11  
eics@osec.ch  
www.osec.ch/eics

Osec Business Network  
Switzerland  
Stampfenbachstrasse 85  
PO Box 492  
CH-8035 Zurich  
Tel. +41 1 365 51 51  
Fax +41 1 365 52 21  
info@osec.ch  
www.osec.ch

## Emigration, entry, residence

Federal Office of Immigration,  
Integration and Emigration  
(IMES)  
Quellenweg 15  
CH-3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 42 02  
Fax +41 31 322 44 93  
swiss.emigration@imes.admin.ch  
www.swiss.emigration.ch  
www.imes.admin.ch

## Social security

Federal Social Insurance Office  
Effingerstrasse 20  
CH – 3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 90 11  
Fax +41 31 322 78 80  
info@bsv.admin.ch  
www.bsv.admin.ch

## Swiss old age, survivors' and invalidity insurance

Compensation offices and  
disability insurance offices  
(You will find compensation  
office addresses on the last page  
of any swiss telephone book.)  
www.ahv.ch

## Occupational benefit plan

Swiss LOB  
Belpstrasse 32, PO Box 5032  
CH-3001 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 320 61 71  
Fax +41 31 320 68 43

## Sickness insurance

santésuisse  
Römerstrasse 20  
CH-4500 Soleure  
Tel. +41 32 625 41 41  
Fax +41 32 625 41 51  
info@santesuisse.ch  
www.santesuisse.ch

Common Institution under the  
Federal Sickness Insurance Act  
Gibelinstrasse 25  
CH-4503 Soleure  
Tel. +41 32 625 48 20  
Fax +41 32 625 48 29  
info@kvg.org, www.kvg.org

## Accident insurance

Swiss National Accident  
Insurance Fund Suva  
Fluhmattstrasse 1  
CH-6004 Lucerne  
Postal address:  
PO box, CH-6002 Lucerne  
Tel. +41 848 830 830  
www.suva.ch

Swiss Insurance Association  
C. F. Meyer-Strasse 14  
CH-8002 Zurich  
Tel. +41 1 208 28 28  
Fax +41 1 208 28 00  
www.sv.ch

## Unemployment insurance, labour market, job placement

State Secretariat for Economic  
Affairs (seco), Labour Market  
and Unemployment Insurance  
Bundesgasse 8, CH-3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 28 35  
Fax +41 31 323 56 78  
info@seco.admin.ch  
www.seco-admin.ch

## Professional education, recog- nition of diplomas under the Law on Professional Education

Federal Office for Professional  
Education and Technology  
Effingerstrasse 27  
CH-3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 21 29  
Fax +41 31 324 96 15  
info@bbt.admin.ch  
www.bbt.admin.ch

## University

### Recognition of university degrees

Rectors' Conference of the  
Swiss Universities, National  
Recognition Centre / Swiss ENIC  
Sennweg 2  
CH-3012 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 306 60 36  
Fax +41 31 302 68 11  
christine.gehrig@crus.ch  
www.crus.ch

A special memorandum can be  
obtained from the Federal Office  
for Professional Education and  
Technology on questions of  
academic recognition in the  
fields of health, education,  
social work and forestry.

### Grants and fellowships:

Information on grants and  
fellowships offered by foreign  
governments  
Tel. +41 31 306 60 31  
Fax +41 31 302 68 11

Swiss National Science  
Foundation  
Office for Fellowships  
Wildhainweg 20  
CH-3001 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 308 22 22  
Fax +41 31 301 30 09  
fellowships@snf.ch  
www.snf.ch

### Education programmes:

ERASMUS Switzerland Office  
Sennweg 2  
CH-3012 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 306 60 39/40  
Fax +41 31 302 68 11

## Taxes

Swiss Federal Tax Administra-  
tion, Division for International  
Fiscal Law and Double Taxation  
Matters  
Eigerstrasse 65  
CH-3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 71 29  
Fax +41 31 324 83 71  
dba@estv.admin.ch  
www.estv.admin.ch

## Buying property

Federal Department of Foreign  
Affairs  
Directorate of International Law  
Bundeshaus West  
CH-3003 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 322 31 61  
Fax +41 31 322 37 79  
DV-VOELKERRECHT@eda.admin.ch  
www.eda.admin.ch

## Swiss missions in the EU

### Austria

Schweizerische Botschaft  
Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 7  
AT-1030 Wien  
Tel. 0043 1 795 05  
Fax 0043 1 795 05 21  
Vertretung@vie.rep.admin.ch

### Belgium

Ambassade de Suisse  
26, rue de la Loi, bte 9  
BE-1040 Bruxelles  
Tel. 0032 2 285 43 50  
Fax 0032 2 230 37 81  
Vertretung@bru.rep.admin.ch

### Denmark

Embassy of Switzerland  
Amaliegade 14  
DK-1256 København K  
Tel. 0045 33 14 17 96  
Fax 0045 33 33 75 51  
Vertretung@cop.rep.admin.ch

### Finland

Embassy of Switzerland  
Uudenmaankatu 16A  
FI-00120 Helsinki 12  
Tel. 00358 9 64 94 22  
Fax 00358 9 64 90 40  
Vertretung@hel.rep.admin.ch



**France**

Ambassade de Suisse  
142, rue de Grenelle  
FR-75007 Paris  
Tel. 0033 1 49 55 67 00  
Fax 0033 1 49 55 67 67  
Vertretung@par.rep.admin.ch

**Germany**

Schweizerische Botschaft  
Otto-von-Bismarck-Allee 4A  
DE-10557 Berlin  
Tel. 0049 30 390 40 00  
Fax 0049 30 391 10 30  
Vertretung@ber.rep.admin.ch

**Great Britain**

Embassy of Switzerland  
16-18 Montagu Place  
GB-London W1H 2BQ  
Tel. 0044 20 76 16 60 00  
Fax 0044 20 77 24 70 01  
Vertretung@lon.rep.admin.ch

**Greece**

Embassy of Switzerland  
Rue Iassiou No 2  
GR-Athens 115 21  
Tel. 0030 1 723 03 64  
Fax 0030 1 724 92 09  
Vertretung@ath.rep.admin.ch

**Ireland**

Embassy of Switzerland  
6, Ailesbury Road  
Ballsbridge  
IE-Dublin 4  
Tel. 00353 1 218 63 82  
Fax 00353 1 283 03 44  
Vertretung@dub.rep.admin.ch

**Italy**

Ambasciata di Svizzera  
Via Barnaba Oriani 61  
IT-00197 Roma  
Tel. 0039 06 809 57 1  
Fax 0039 06 808 85 10  
Vertretung@rom.rep.admin.ch

**Luxembourg**

Ambassade de Suisse  
Forum Royal  
25A, boulevard Royal  
LU-2449 Luxembourg  
Postal address:  
Boîte postale 469  
LU-2014 Luxembourg  
Tel. 00352 22 74 74 1  
Fax 00352 22 74 74 20  
Vertretung@lux.rep.admin.ch

**Netherlands**

Schweizerische Botschaft  
Lange Voorhout 42  
NL-2514 EE Den Haag  
Post Office:  
Postbus 30913  
NL-2500 GX Den Haag  
Tel. 0031 70 364 28 31/2  
Fax 0031 70 356 12 38  
Vertretung@hay.rep.admin.ch

**Portugal**

Embaixada da Suíça  
Rua Castilho, 20-6°  
PT-1250-069 Lisboa  
Tel. 00351 213 191 890  
Fax 00351 213 142 170  
Vertretung@lis.rep.admin.ch

**Spain**

Embajada de Suiza  
Calle Nuñez de Balboa 35-7°  
Edificio Goya  
ES-28001 Madrid  
Postal address:  
Apartado 1317  
ES-28080 Madrid  
Tel. 0034 91 436 39 60  
Fax 0034 91 436 39 80  
Vertretung@mad.rep.admin.ch

**Sweden**

Embassy of Switzerland  
Birger Jarlsgatan 64  
SE-100 41 Stockholm  
Postal address:  
Box 26143  
SE-100 41 Stockholm  
Tel. 0046 8 676 79 00  
Fax 0046 8 21 15 04  
Vertretung@sto.rep.admin.ch

**Missions in Switzerland of EU member states**

**Embassy of Austria**  
Kirchenfeldstrasse 77-79  
PO Box 266  
CH-3005 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 356 52 52  
Fax +41 31 351 56 64

**Embassy of Belgium**

Jubiläumsstrasse 41  
PO Box 150  
CH-3000 Berne 6  
Tel. +41 31 351 04 62  
Fax +41 31 352 59 61

**Embassy of Denmark**

Thunstrasse 95  
CH-3006 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 350 54 54  
Fax +41 31 350 54 64

**Embassy of Finland**

Weltpoststrasse 4  
PO Box 11  
CH-3000 Berne 15  
Tel. +41 31 351 30 31  
Fax +41 31 351 30 01

**Embassy of France**

Schosshaldenstrasse 46  
CH-3006 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 359 21 11  
Fax +41 31 359 21 91

**Embassy of Germany**

Willadingweg 83  
CH-3000 Berne 16  
Tel. +41 31 359 41 11  
Fax +41 31 359 44 44

**Embassy of Great Britain**

Thunstrasse 50  
CH-3000 Berne 15  
Tel. +41 31 359 77 00  
Fax +41 31 359 77 01

**Embassy of Greece**

Hausmattweg 2  
CH-3074 Muri b. Bern  
Tel. +41 31 951 08 24  
Fax +41 31 954 12 34

**Embassy of Ireland**

Kirchenfeldstrasse 68  
CH-3005 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 352 14 42  
Fax +41 31 322 14 55

**Embassy of Italy**

Elfenstrasse 14  
CH-3000 Berne 16  
Tel. +41 31 352 41 51  
Fax +41 31 351 10 26

**Embassy of Luxembourg**

Kramgasse 45  
PO Box 619  
CH-3000 Berne 8  
Tel. +41 31 311 47 32  
Fax +41 31 311 00 19

**Embassy of Netherlands**

Kollerweg 11  
CH-3006 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 350 87 00  
Fax +41 31 350 87 10

**Embassy of Portugal**

Weltpoststrasse 20  
CH-3000 Berne 15  
Tel. +41 31 351 17 73  
Fax +41 31 351 44 32

**Embassy of Spain**

Kalcheggweg 24  
PO Box 202  
CH-3000 Berne 16  
Tel. +41 31 352 04 12  
Fax +41 31 351 52 29

**Embassy of Sweden**

Bundesgasse 26  
CH-3011 Berne  
Tel. +41 31 328 70 00  
Fax +41 31 328 70 01

**Useful websites**

**Tourism in Switzerland**  
[www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com)

**Emigration**

[www.expatriation.com](http://www.expatriation.com)

**Finding work**

European Employment Services (EURES) Network  
<http://europa.eu.int/eures/index.jsp>

Regional Employment Centres  
[www.rav.ch](http://www.rav.ch)

**Addresses of Swiss missions abroad (Embassies and Consulates):**

[www.eda.admin.ch/eda/e/home/emb/addch.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/e/home/emb/addch.html)

Swiss Nationals in the EU