



TÜRKİYE'DE İSVİÇRE TİCARET ODASI DERNEĞİ
SCHWEIZER HANDELSKAMMER IN DER TÜRKEI
CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE SUISSE EN TURQUIE
SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN TURKEY

e-Bulletin July 2014 Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey



Interviews

Roberto Grassi	3
Mehmet Erdem	5

Events

Canton Ticino	12
XI. Technology Awards	13
Swiss Arbitration	14
Summer Cocktail	15
Event Calendar 2014	16

News

Members	7-9
Culture & Art	10-11
Swiss News	17
Latest Members	18

PLATINUM PATRONS



GOLDEN PATRONS



SILVER PATRONS



EVENT PATRONS





TÜRKİYE'DE İSVİÇRE TİCARET ODASI DERNEĞİ
SCHWEIZER HANDELSKAMMER IN DER TÜRKEI
CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE SUISSE EN TURQUIE
SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN TURKEY



Editorial

Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Izmir

C. Hasan Umur

Dear Readers,

As the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in İzmir, I am delighted to have the opportunity to write the opening words for this issue of the Newsletter of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey. It is especially refreshing to report from İzmir for the July edition, as the Summer promises peak activity for tourism and travel in our region.

One of my important responsibilities as Honorary Consul is the promotion of cultural and commercial exchange between Switzerland and Turkey. I am fortunate to carry this responsibility in a location such as İzmir, as the city and its surrounding region offer such a wide spectrum of choices for culture, as well as for trade and investment.

For centuries, İzmir has been a prominent port in the Mediterranean, and acted as a natural home to tradespeople and trading companies. The port handles almost 20% of the country's foreign trade, embracing merchandise from all over the world, and acting as gateway for Turkish products to be sold globally. The Aegean region is the source of many traditional Turkish export products, including the world famous agricultural produce. At the same time, the region hosts

some of the country's most important investments in steel, textile, electronics, food products, agribusiness and many other industries.

The traditional businesses complement the modern outlook of our city's economic potential in progressive industries and research and development. Two of the country's leading teaching (university) hospitals are located here, alongside many private and state institutions offering comprehensive medical treatment. İzmir supports the theme "Health for All" and is welcoming investment in the pharmaceutical and biomedical industries as well as facilitating research and development in these fields. The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey, together with the Swiss Business Hub Turkey, supports the development of research centres and is in cooperation with the universities to organize bilateral workshops and conferences.

More than 1.4 million foreign nationals landed in İzmir in 2013. The new domestic terminal of the Adnan Menderes Airport opened in March, 2014, and promises to be the second hub in the country for air travel. The much awaited İzmir – Istanbul motorway is under construction and it is hoped that the new Road To The Sun will start coming in to service as early as the end of 2015. Once you are here, the

average journey time within the city is around 20 minutes and you can reach most destinations within half an hour. With the excellent port and the access to the hinterland, the increased ease in travel and the high quality of life, with its 19 Organized Industrial Zones, 2 Free Trade Zones, 7 Universities, and qualified workforce, İzmir is the obvious choice for business location and investment.

Finally, İzmir and environs are the amalgamation of natural beauty and favourable weather with the abundance of cultural and historical sights. Most attractions of western Turkey are within a two hour drive and the diversity of choice for leisure is unparalleled.

Our Honorary Consulate can be contacted at izmir@honrep.ch.

We look forward to hearing from all members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey and members of the Swiss-Turkish business community who show interest in İzmir.

Sincerely yours,

C. Hasan Umur



Interview with...

Name: Roberto Grassi
(Photo: Second from right)

Position title: Fidinam's CEO & Ticino Chamber of commerce Vicepresident

Date/Place of Birth: 27.02.1963
Sorengo- Ticino

Marital status: married

Education: Dr. oec (Economics)

Mr Grassi, tell us a little bit about your background.

I was born in Ticino and grew up there. I completed my studies in Economy and I started my career at the industrial sector, concretely in food industry. I worked at many companies as an executive manager. Over the years and until today I am focused in the consulting field and I'm the CEO of one of the most important consulting firms in Ticino. I am also part of many boards of directors at different private and public companies.

What is your impression of Turkey and the Turkish market so far?

Turkey is a dynamic market with a great capacity of growing up due to its huge internal domestic market. This capacity allows Turkey to sustain several projects abroad and increase exports

Why is Turkey interesting for Ticino?

We had 3 reasons. First of all, Turkey has a young and alive market with a great future.

Secondly, there is an european mentality without being Europe (as in Switzerland) and lastly, it is a meeting point between culture and economy: Europe, Middle East and East Europe. This mix of cultures and economies creates an optimal basis for the new business.

What was the purpose of your visit?

Our purpose was to meet different SME local companies and to understand the challenges of Turkey for the next years or near future.

Also we aimed to introduce to our companies an attractive market as the Turkish one through a new channel: the business trips of the Ticino Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The visit to Turkey allowed our companies to experience in firsthand how the country is evolving.

Which sectors are generally located in Ticino?

Ticino's main sectors and clusters:

- + Banking and Financial services
- + Trading
- + Micro mechanics (we have a precision's pens cluster in our Canton)
- + Fashion and luxury goods
- + Electronics and electrical engineering
- + Machine and components industry
- + Logistics, trading and supply chain management
- + Design and new materials
- + Drugs and life sciences, chemicals

What makes Ticino so attractive for these companies?

Ticino provides a strategic location with a public support to the companies. Companies also can get scientific research support such as high quality workforce (excellent education system). Furthermore, we have a

very flexible labour market and offer advantages for trading in terms of taxation.

What does your Chamber offer for its members?

The Cc-Ti represents the interest of companies and economic associations from an institutional, political and mediatic level. We are the umbrella association of Ticino's economy.

We promote a better framework conditions for companies in our canton.

Training and consulting activities:

-  Legal advice
-  Advising in export and expedition activities
-  Issue of Certificates of origin, CITES certificate, ATA Carnet and other documents
-  Opening new markets: International Desk

The Cc-Ti organizes numerous courses and seminars on economic, legal and political topics each year. Labor law, commercial mediation, creation and transfer of businesses, commercial law, social network or communication tools for managers. In some cases it is also possible to obtain certificates recognized by the federal authority; i.e. course for SMEs' managers, courses for branch director in retail trade, courses for economist in handicrafts, export training, etc.

Our Chamber offers also an interesting and wide range of events: seminars, public

conferences, deepening or ad-hoc meetings, networking events, etc.

Moreover, once a year take place the Economic Council and the General Assembly of Cc-Ti.

Three or four times a year, economic delegations visit overseas markets. These trips are organized in cooperation with foreign and bi-national Chambers, as well as institutional partners. Thus, the Cc-Ti also receives foreign delegations interested in Ticino's Business opportunities.

What future plans does your Chamber hold and what are your upcoming projects?

For this current year we are planning our second business trip to Russia that will take place next September. Also we are involved in several international events with some foreign partners: an International Trading seminar in September and a Fashion event with the Swedish consulate in October 2014.



Contact

Cc-Ti
Corso Elvezia 16
CH-6900 Lugano
T. +41 (0)91 911 51 11
F. +41 (0)91 911 51 12
E. info@cc-ti.ch



Memories from a Swiss Education

Name:

Mehmet Erdem, PhD

Company:

Boden Law

School:

University of Neuchâtel (2002-2006)
Faculty of Law

Place:

Neuchâtel

During which time period have you gone to university in Switzerland?

I went to Switzerland at the end of 2002 for my PhD studies, following the completion of my LLM degree at Galatasaray University; and after completing my PhD at the beginning of 2006, I returned to Turkey. Thus, I have been in the Canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland for approximately 4 years.

How come you went to Switzerland? Whose influence was behind this idea?

Before I went to Switzerland, I worked as a lawyer for some time while pursuing my LLM degree; after which, I started to work as a research assistant at the civil law department of Galatasaray University. I wanted to do my PhD abroad, especially in Switzerland since my studies were concentrated on private law. However, I cannot say that I made a special effort for doing so. When LLM was about to end, I went to Switzerland upon the invitation of Prof. Denis Miéville, one of the previous rectors of Switzerland Neuchatel University and with the encouragement of Prof. Duygun Yarsuvat, one of the previous rector of Galatasaray University.

It was a rapidly developing process, which I was not entirely ready. I can say that, it was tiring to commence my PhD studies in a foreign country, right after an intense period of LLM studies.

I should mention with gratitude, the interest and support of the honourable rector and instructors of

Neuchatel University Faculty of Law, especially Prof. Pierre-Henri Bolle and Prof. Roland Ruedin and, without any doubt, my PhD instructor (Doktorvater) Prof. Thomas Probst, which they showed me since the day I arrived in Switzerland.

Do you have any special memories?

As known, Switzerland is a place which is famous for its trains' punctual arrival, in so much that I heard about such punctuality before going to Switzerland. Indeed, I have witnessed such punctuality over the years; however, it is natural to encounter disruptions in situations where the human element and machines are involved. Within the first hours of my setting foot in Switzerland, I came across with such a disruption, with a significant delay in train schedules, and it was a surprise for me. Seeing over the years how punctually arriving the trains are, such rare situations are not even remembered, for sure.

Please give us a brief insight on your personal experiences during that time.

In fact, PhD studies are a tough and maybe a little abrasive experience, regardless of where it is done. When it is in a foreign language in a foreign country, difficulties naturally are increasing a little bit more. However, besides the difficulty, I should say that it was extremely enriching, enlightening and a great experience in academic sense.

Although I have completed my PhD studies in Canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland where French is spoken; French is not sufficient by itself to pursue a PhD in law in Switzerland. One should speak German too. I spoke French when I went to Switzerland, but my German was not at a sufficient level. Therefore, I had to improve my German while I was doing my PhD. This, of course, required a quite intensive work. I've been in Germany for a while too.

I should say that it was also very efficient process in terms of facilitating new friendships and broadening my network, and the contribution of the academic environment was extensive and notable either.

Describe briefly the Swiss education system in comparison to the Turkish one.

I can easily say that, Switzerland is more advanced in education; at least in terms of infrastructure. Undoubtedly, the relatively small population and the income level are the main factors effectuating such result. The most important difference between Turkey and Switzerland is that; in Switzerland, starting from primary and secondary school, children are guided towards different areas according to their personal characteristics. It can be said that, Switzerland is quite successful in education.

What is so special about Swiss education? What do you appreciate most having studied in Switzerland?

My acquaintance with the Swiss education system is limited to my PhD studies. Therefore, I cannot comment on all the features of the Swiss education system; since PhD studies do not reflect a nation's entire education system. However, if I were to limit my evaluation to PhD studies; I can say that, all kinds of facilities and amenities are provided to PhD students in Switzerland; and that is for sure, a very important feature.

What would you recommend Turkish parents who want to send their children to a Swiss boarding school?

I can genuinely recommend Switzerland to Turkish parents. By spending a part of their education lives in a foreign country, especially in Switzerland, their children will gain a deeper perspective, a broader network, increase their cultural and intellectual wealth. Such an experience will contribute substantively to their personal globalization process.

Photo: University of Neuchâtel



News from Members



CCR Company Overview

Call Center Resources was founded in January 2011. In 2013 we became Interactive Intelligence's Elite Partner and to this day CCR continues to grow its staff.

With over 20 years of experience in call center and voice solutions sector, company's main aim is to overcome the shortage of qualified and experienced personnel while providing high quality software integration and consulting services.

Our mission is to assist our customers with top-notch solutions, consultancy, development and implementation services, using the state-of-the-art technology and qualified human resources in the call center and voice solutions area in Turkey and Europe.

CCR provides complete business solutions for Call Centers:

- + Business and technical consultancy
- + Outsourced technical support & project management
- + Technical, admin and supervisor trainings
- + Technical project design, development and management services
- + Monitoring call center infrastructure and applications
- + Hosted call center solutions
- + Flexible monthly based licensing
- + Outsourced human resources

Contact

Call Center Resources Danışmanlık Limited Şirketi

Address: Park İş Merkezi Park Sokak No:10 D:208 Çağlayan - İSTANBUL

Phone: 0212 219 00 85

Fax: 0212 219 00 85

Web: www.ccr.com.tr

Business Contact

Türker Erkin - CEO

e-mail: turker.erkin@ccr.com.tr

News from Members



TOWARDS A MORE LIBERAL TURKISH ENERGY MARKET: THE NEW PETROLEUM LAW

Turkey's importance in world energy markets as both a regional energy hub and a growing consumer has been growing over the past few years. While the country's energy use is still relatively low, it is nonetheless increasing at a fast pace. In general, the country has been enjoying a steady rate of growth for the past decade, which has created a strong economy but also significantly increased the demand for energy. The state itself cannot meet this level of growth and therefore needs to obtain the support of the private sector in order to complete large investments in energy production and infrastructure. The primary aim and vision of the Turkish government for the next decade is to reduce the country's heavy reliance on imported energy and advance toward energy self-sufficiency. This is intended to be achieved through increasing domestic supply of oil and gas as well as diversifying domestic energy supplies, which entails greater use of nuclear and renewable energy resources.

Turkey is not an oil-rich country and imports nearly all of its oil supplies. Historically, the right to explore and produce petroleum has either been exclusively owned or managed by the Turkish state. The ability of the private sector to operate in the sector was limited by insufficient legislative framework, bureaucratic obstacles and also barriers on foreign investment. Also, since its incorporation in 1941 the state-owned Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) has enjoyed either a monopoly or preferential rights which made market entry very difficult, if not impossible, for private investors and thus prevented the establishment of a competitive petroleum market.

This has started to change with the recent legislative reforms in the energy market and the new Turkish Petroleum Law No. 6491, which officially passed into legislation on 11 June 2013, is among them. Overall, the new Petroleum Law aims to minimise bureaucracy; provide incentives for exploration and production operations; reduce the costs of operations and create a more competitive environment. What is of particular importance for foreign investors is that the Law removed the restriction existing under the previous Law, which limited the person(s) acting for and on behalf of a foreign state from engaging in petroleum activities in Turkey. Furthermore, the Law provides incentives for investors some of which are aimed specifically at foreign investors. For instance, there are tax-related incentives (including a cap on income tax deductions applicable to investors and exemptions from customs duty, levies and stamp tax for oil and gas equipment imported and supplied locally), ability to employ foreign staff for a period of six months without having to obtain a work permit, removal of barriers on repatriation of capital, the right to keep abroad the foreign currency generated from the exportation of petroleum, expropriation and lease of land and so on. The new Law has also simplified the obligations regime and now only includes administrative sanctions applicable for violations of the obligations set forth by the Law.

As well as the incentives the new Law also allows for exploration and operation licenses to be granted and extended for longer periods. Thus it provides the investors with sufficient time to conduct their activities. The responsible authority for granting licenses under the new Law is the General Directorate of Petroleum Affairs, which allows the investors to compete on equal terms with the TPAO, who was authorised to issue licenses under the previous regime.

The provisional articles of the new Law provides that new exploration licenses may not be obtained for a year following the publication of the Law. As seen above, the Law was published on 11 June 2013 and therefore this deadline has now expired. The implementation directive of the Law, which was enacted in January of this year, provides the procedures concerning new applications as well as the adjustment of the existing licenses with the new Law. Therefore the existing and prospective investors are able to submit new applications, adjust their existing licenses and be informed about the fine details of the relevant procedures.

To sum up, the new Petroleum Law is a right move towards the liberalisation of the petroleum market. That said, it could still do with some improvements especially in terms of offering a more flexible and varied licensing regime for the benefit of small investors and startup companies.

News from Members



“İSTANBUL LÜTFİ KIRDAR”, ICEC

"İstanbul Lutfi Kirdar", ICEC is located at the center where the business, culture & art worlds meet and surrounded with Istanbul's elegant restaurants, luxury brands and fashion district. The venue has been rendering its services since 1996 with its experienced staff, up to date technologic infrastructure and catering options both from Turkish and international cuisines.

"İstanbul Lutfi Kirdar", ICEC, in the heart of the Congress Valley, has the capacity to host all kinds of organizations from conventions to fairs, concerts to exhibitions.

In a metropolitan city as Istanbul, it is very significant to what extent the location and transportation facilities can be used. There are many 4 and 5 star hotels within walking distance to "İstanbul Lutfi Kirdar", ICEC and its location provides easy access and fast transportation to the historical attractions of the city.

Main Building

The Main Building has been designed for various organizations. The halls, having different capacities, a wide foyer area with daylight, Bosphorus view and state of the art technological equipment, enable the Main Building to meet all kinds of needs and requests of the guests.

Rumeli Building

The two-level Rumeli Building has a total area of 7.000 square meters, foyers with daylight, separable halls and its own private entrance. The Rumeli Building can also be combined with the Main Building for larger events.

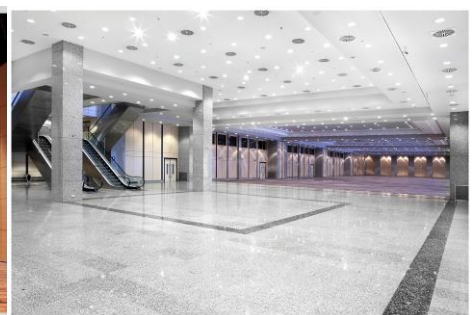
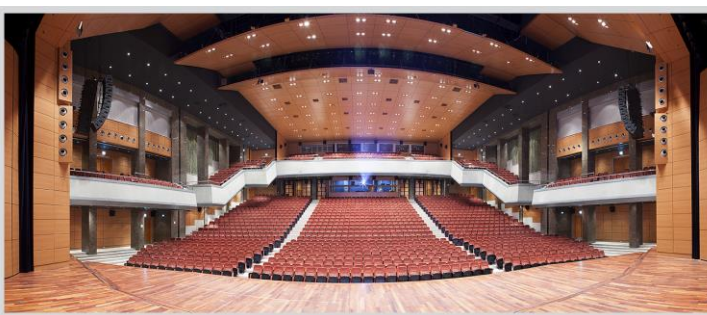
Terrace

In addition to the unique Bosphorus view of Istanbul, the Terrace is a preferred venue for cocktails, dinners, weddings and all outdoor activities with its own menu choices.

BORSA

The “Boğaziçi Borsa” Restaurant, established in 1950 in the leadership of gastronomy experts, carries on its business in 126 countries with 85.000 registered members and renders its services between the hours of 12:00 - 24:00 in its indoor and outdoor facilities for 250 guests.

The “Boğaziçi Borsa” Restaurant unites the unique Bosphorus view of "İstanbul Lutfi Kirdar", ICEC with the flavors of the Turkish & international cuisines.



Culture & Art



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Istanbul



Swiss Festival on the 20th and 21st September: Save the date!

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Swiss Festival was officially launched on the 20th May at the house of the Deputy Consul General in Ulus with a reception and presentation. Over 50 guests from the areas of culture, business and media attended the successful event. Things are running on track and the organizers Dream Design Factory are looking forward to welcome you at the Istanbul Quasar premises on 20th and 21st September. Please save the date as a detailed program will follow shortly.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Istanbul

Screening of the movie “The Sound of Insects – Record of a Mummy” by Peter Liechti

On the occasion of the 7th edition of DOCUMENTARIST Istanbul Documentary Days the Consulate General of Switzerland screened the movie “The Sound of Insects – Record of a Mummy” in memoriam of the renowned Swiss Director, the late Peter Liechti on 12th June 2014 at Salt Beyoglu. The screening was attended by a large audience.



Upcoming concert by a Swiss pianist, Mr. Leo Tardin, on Thursday, 3rd July at 8 p.m. in Akbank Sanat

Mr. Leo Tardin, a talented Swiss pianist, is coming to Istanbul to give a solo piano recital on 3rd July, at 8.p.m. in Akbank Sanat for his Turkish fans. The Consulate General of Switzerland is happy to support this initiative. For tickets and information please visit <http://www.akbanksanat.com/>

and

<http://www.biletix.com/etkinlik/RM412/TURKIYE/en> . (During his stay in Istanbul, Leo Tardin will also be rehearsing with Istanbul-based dabrbuka master Burhan Öçal, with whom he will be later performing at the Montreux Jazz Festival).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

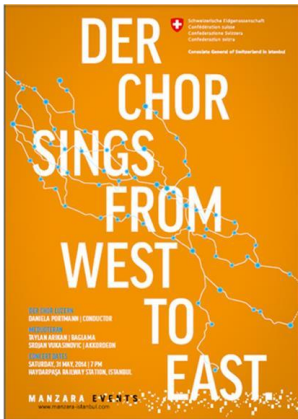
Consulate General of Switzerland in Istanbul

Culture & Art

Successful Concert on the 31st May: “Der Chor” sings from West to East

During the years between the two World Wars, the Orient Express, which operated between Paris and Istanbul passing through Switzerland, brought the Western world to the Bosphorus. “Der Chor” from Lucerne revived on the 31st May this journey in two ways: on the one hand, by bringing together music from the Orient and the Occident and, at the same time, by making the journey to Istanbul itself and by giving a concert here in the venerable, disused halls of the railway station Haydarpasa. The concert was supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland.

Der Chor Luzern performs works which embody the Western roots of choral music. They include musical interpretations of literature, which has been set to music repeatedly throughout the western world from Istanbul, formerly known as Constantinople, to England. With regard to the context, the texts are oriented towards the evening and night, darkness and death – but this is always accompanied by the hope of morning, light, and a new life.



Young Performance Artists Festival

The Platform for Young Performance Artists Festival was held between Wednesday, the 25th June to Sunday, the 29th June 2014 in Istanbul at locations such as SALT Galata, MixerArts as well as the Greek Galata Primary School. It brought together young performance artists from all over the world to perform and discuss their practices, combining the Festival with a conference on “Teaching Performance Art”. It enabled the artists to participate in an exchange of ideas and experiences, encouraging the practice of performance art. The Consulate General of Switzerland is happy to announce that with the support of the Swiss Cultural Foundation **prohelvetia**, a group of four young Swiss artists performed at the Festival.

Upcoming Concert with Swiss Jazz Band Rusconi on Monday, the 14th July, at 9:30 p.m. in Salon İKSV

European Jazz Club series within Istanbul Jazz Festival has been organized since 2007. The series consists of concerts that bring together important musicians of Jazz in Turkey together with European Jazz musicians. This year the Swiss Jazz Band Rusconi will join forces with Turkish guitarist and composer Erdem Helvacioğlu. For more information, please visit <http://caz.iksv.org/en/program/418>



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Istanbul

prohelvetia



Canton Ticino Delegation Visit

Date: 28th-29th April, 2014

Location: DEIK, ABB Kartal, Swiss Residence



The Consulate General of Switzerland, Swiss Business Hub Turkey, DEIK and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey jointly organized B2B-meetings for the delegation from Canton Ticino.

Turkish companies had the chance to cooperate with Swiss firms from the sectors Medical, Banking, Machinery and Project Management.

An excursion to ABB in Kartal and a Cocktail Reception at Deputy Consul General Mr John Ruhoff's residence were part of the program.





SCCT President Doğan Taşkent attended the XI. Technology Awards, organized by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Technology Development Foundation of Turkey (TTGV), Turkish Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD).

SCCT Board Member and General Manager of İTÜ Arı Teknokent Mr Kenan Çolpan joined the awarding as well.





Swiss Arbitration Conference

Date: 21st May, 2014

Location: Ceylan InterContinental Hotel, Taksim



The Swiss Chamber's Arbitration Institution, in cooperation with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey organized the late afternoon seminar "The Swiss Rules of International Arbitration" at Ceylan InterContinental Istanbul. Deputy Consul General Mr John Ruhoff welcomed all guests by giving an opening speech.

Distinguished Turkish and Swiss Arbitrators spoke on interesting features of the Swiss Rules, the experiences made in Swiss Rules proceedings and the enforcement of awards in Turkey. The presentations have been followed by four workshops that offered further insights on the use of the Swiss Rules and provided ample opportunities of discussing them with experienced practitioners. More than 70 participants joined the networking cocktail in the end of the event.





The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey organized a Summer Welcoming Reception on Halas Yacht, kindly sponsored by **IWC Schaffhausen**. Consul General of Switzerland Ms Monika Schmutz Kirgöz and distinguished guests enjoyed the Bosphorus, live music, finest buffet and refreshing drinks which have been generously sponsored by **Marjinal Porter Novelli**. One of the guests had the chance to win an IWC Aquatimer watch at the end of the trip.



Event Calendar 2014

Month	Date	Subject	Organizer	Type
August	1 August	Swiss National Day	Consulate General of Switzerland	Social Event
September	17 September	Innovation Event with Prof. Dr. Claudio Boer	SCCT	Swiss Innovation Series
	20-21 September	Swiss Festival Quasar	Dream Design Factory	Culture
October	not confirmed	Breakfast Seminar with Gide Loyrette Nouel -Best practices for lease agreements	SCCT	Business Events
	14-17 October	SERV Swiss Export Risk Insurance	S-GE/SCCT	Business Events
	20 October	Koç University Career Day with Swiss Companies in Turkey	SCCT	Education
	24 October	Italian language Day of Switzerland	Consulate General of Switzerland	Culture
	not confirmed	Networking Event with V-Zug	SCCT	Business Events
November	2-8 November	Delegation from Jura Canton, Ankara, İzmir & Istanbul	S-GE/SCCT	Business Events
	5 November	Lucheon for delegation & SCCT members at Mövenpick Hotel	SCCT	Business Events
	not confirmed	Entrepreneurship As an Adventure	Consulate General of Switzerland, ITU & SCCT	Swiss Innovation Series
	not confirmed	ISE World Swiss Education Fair	ISE WORLD	Education
December	not confirmed	10th Swiss Turkish Economic Forum	SCCT	Forum
	not confirmed	End of the Year Cocktail Reception	SCCT	Social Event
Board Meetings	19 February	Mövenpick Hotel Istanbul		
	26 March	AGM 2014 - Mövenpick Hotel Istanbul		
	6 May	Mövenpick Hotel Istanbul		
	17 September (tbc)	tbc		

News from Switzerland

Immigration vote: businesses fear lack of skilled workers

Swiss business leaders have criticised the government for not using all the time at its disposal to implement the result of a national referendum, two days after the proposal of a draft law on immigration curbs. In response, the government urged companies to make more of an effort.

In February, 50.3% of Swiss voters approved a proposal by the rightwing Swiss People's Party to re-introduce immigration quotas for EU citizens, as well as a national preference when filling job vacancies. It also stipulates that Switzerland will have to renegotiate its bilateral accord with the EU on the free movement of people within three years or revoke it.

The cabinet, which had urged voters to reject the proposal, suddenly found itself with three years to implement a result which violates a fundamental element of the EU: the freedom of movement for all its citizens. Switzerland is not part of the EU but has signed various bilateral agreements with the 28-nation bloc, including on free movement of labour, partly to ensure its access to European markets.

The government is aware that it will upset someone whatever it does. "You can twist and turn as you like, the new models are either unconstitutional or not compatible [with EU agreements]," Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga admitted on Friday. The government said the new law would set immigration quotas – as voters demanded in February – but hoped softer rules for EU citizens may reduce retaliatory measures from Brussels and big neighbours such as Germany and France.

It did not specify exactly what restrictions the new law would impose on EU citizens. The government said it had refrained from setting a fixed, inflexible target for reducing immigration in its proposal for the law, which will come into force in 2017.

As expected, the European Commission swiftly denounced the Swiss proposal as "irreconcilable" with a pact that since 2002 has allowed Swiss and EU citizens to cross the border freely and work on either side as long as they have a contract or are self-employed.

"Quantitative limits and national preference are contrary to our treaties. Negotiating them is not an option for the Commission," Commission spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic said.

Business leaders fear that immigration quotas will make it harder – if not impossible – for them to attract the necessary skilled employees. In addition, they believe picking a fight with the EU on this issue will make already tough negotiations even tougher. "Without specialists from abroad, we'd have to move part of the work abroad," warned Hans Hess, president of the Swissmem industrial lobby group, in the NZZ am Sonntag.

Heinz Karrer, president of economiesuisse, the Swiss Business Federation, told the Zentralschweiz am Sonntag that he feared "a negative impact on Switzerland as a business location" if highly skilled workers could be recruited only in reduced numbers. For his part, Economics Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann defended the government's proposal – as he is obliged to by the principle of collegiality – saying "all sides have their jobs to do and must deliver".

Latest Members

ALFA KLEBSTOFFE AG

Address: Vor Eiche 10, 8197 Rafz, Switzerland
Tel: +41 43 433 30 30
Fax: +41 43 433 30 33
Sector: Adhesives
Web: <http://www.simalfa.ch>



CALL CENTER RESOURCE

Address: Park İş Merkezi Park Sok. No:10/208
34403 Çağlayan Kağıthane İstanbul
Tel: +90 212 219 00 85
Fax: +90 212 219 00 85
Sector: IT Services
Web: <http://www.ccr.com.tr>



ÜLKÜ CIBIK, Associate at Homburger AG

Address: Prime Tower | Hardstrasse 201 | 8005 Zurich, Switzerland
Tel: +41 43 222 1000
Fax: +41 43 222 1500
Sector: Law Firm
Web: <http://www.homburger.ch>

