



SWISS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

SCHWEIZISKA HANDELSKAMMAREN



## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

### **Dear Members, Partners and Friends,**

Time flies and we have already past the first quarter of 2019. After a long winter, and to initiate our new cooperation, we kick-started January with an invitation to all of you from the **Swedish Swiss Chamber of Commerce** in Switzerland to join the **SSCC Business Forum – Artificial Intelligence**. We were pleased to see that many of you took the opportunity to come to Zürich and listen to very interesting speakers and mingle with SSCCs members and friends.

Our **Annual Meeting** was held at the Swiss Ambassador's residence in Djursholm.

The presentation of the Annual Report and the finance of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Sweden show a prosperous organisation with potential to grow. During 2018 we have organised 8 events and continue to expand our network in cooperation with our members, partners, friends and other chambers of commerce in Sweden and Switzerland.

**We would like to express our gratitude to the Swiss Ambassador Christian Schoenenberger and his wife Barbara Zehnder for hosting the Annual Meeting.**

In the beginning of April several of you took the opportunity to attend the event **Preparing Global leaders in a Modern World**, hosted by Grant Thornton and organised in cooperation with 8 other partner organisations and Chambers.

### **SAVE-THE-DATE!**

As we continue to expand our activities in other parts of Sweden, you will soon receive invitations to our upcoming **business lunches on 7th May in Gothenburg and 23rd May in Malmö**. The second quarter will end on the **4th June with the Summer Term Event** on board a boat, cruising in the beautiful surroundings of Stockholm.

**We are looking forward to meeting you all during the upcoming events in our three regions!**

*Anne Brennwald  
Chairman  
Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Sweden*

## BUSINESS LUNCH

7 MAY 2019 - Gothenburg



You are cordially invited to attend our highly appreciated Annual Business Lunch at The Royal Bachelors' Club in Gothenburg on the 7th of May. Take this opportunity to meet the Swiss Ambassador Dr. Christian Schoenenberger, network and listen to speakers from the Gothenburg commercial and political scene. Speakers include among others Anders Larson, CEO RUAG Space who will talk about the rapid

transformation of space industry through new commercial entrants, such as Elon Musk's Space X, challenging established business models.

We are looking forward to meeting you there!

Welcome!

**DATE:** 7 May 2019

**TIME:** 11.30 - 13.30

**LOCATION:** The Royal Bachelors' Club, Skyttegatan 1, Gothenburg

[Register here](#)

## SWISS BUSINESS LUNCH

23 MAY 2019 - Malmö



The Ambassador of Switzerland Christian Schoenenberger and the Chairman of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce Anne Brennwald, have the pleasure of inviting you to a Swiss Business Lunch at the Malmö Football Stadium, Swedbank Stadion.

Take this opportunity to network and listen to our specially invited speakers Charlotta Tönsgård, Entrepreneur and active in the Swedish startup scene,

and Claude Inauen, Managing Director at Bühler Nordic.

We are looking forward to meeting you there!

Welcome!

**DATE:** 23 May 2019

**TIME:** 11.30 - 13.30

**LOCATION:** Swedbank Stadion, Hederslogen

Eric Perssons väg 31, Malmö

[Register here](#)

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**4 JUNE 2019:** Summer Event - Stockholm

**29 AUGUST 2019:** After Work at Hotel Diplomat - Stockholm

## NEWS



**INTERVIEW WITH: Claudia Fontana Tobiassen, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm**

### Who is Claudia Fontana Tobiassen?

I was born and raised in the canton of Graubünden in the Swiss Alps. My educational background is in economics and business administration.

### What is your professional background?

### Where have you worked before becoming a diplomat and where have you been stationed before coming to Sweden?

I have always loved the mountains and my small home town Flims, but at the same time I have been longing to see the world since I was a child. I started my professional career working in the international client division at the head office of the Swiss Bank Corporation and in the accounting department at Basler Versicherungen, both in Basel, Switzerland. Soon I decided to join the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Since then, I have had different assignments on almost every continent. Most recently, my husband and I spent five years in Washington, D.C., where I was the commercial attaché at our Embassy.

## What is your role at the Embassy?

This is my second posting at the Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm (the first was from 1992 to 1995), and it's good to be back! I am the deputy head of mission and heading the Economic and Trade section at the Embassy. We follow developments in Sweden, interact with the Swedish government and authorities on a variety of subjects, exchange with the business community, organize events and prepare programs for visiting delegations. One of the most important instruments of a diplomat is a good network, and I am therefore constantly reaching out to new contacts. I appreciate the excellent cooperation the Embassy has with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce here.

## What is the biggest challenge working as a diplomat?

In one way, the work of a diplomat is very similar all over the world. Guided by our foreign policy goals, I am always representing Swiss interests. The more we have in common with a country, the easier this is. Sweden and Switzerland are highly like-minded countries, which is a good foundation for trust and mutual respect. If you are open-minded and willing to learn, most challenges become opportunities. Moving from one place to another is not always easy for your family. The career perspectives of your partner are limited and it is definitely not fun having to leave your friends behind and change school when you are 13! It's important to find the right balance to accommodate everyone's needs.

## Tell us about one of your major projects for the next couple of years in Sweden?

In the year 2020, Switzerland will celebrate 100 years of official presence in Sweden. We will commemorate this centennial with a series of events under the motto «*Sweden and Switzerland – 100 years of innovation*». Around ten events in the economic, political, cultural and culinary sphere, as well as a gala evening, are in the making. Recently, we have launched our sponsorship program. Sponsors will gain access to our network and increase their visibility in Sweden, all whilst celebrating with us throughout the year! We look forward to many new partnerships.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS PROGRAMME



Don't forget our membership benefits programme. Please login to our member pages to take part of the benefits [here](#).

Our newest offer is from Jura. Check it out now!

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