



SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE TIR DE PARIS

Paris, December 7 th, 2022

Monsieur Tony EDER
General Secretary
Department of Defense
Bundeshaus Ost
CH 3003 BERN
Suisse

Objet : End of Federal support to swiss Out of Duty shooting in foreign countries

M. General Secretary,

By separate letter, we sent Ms. Stucki the usual reports, which supplement the form already returned in June 2022.

But beyond these administrative reports, we would like to underline the disastrous image that this operation, initiated by your letter GS-VBS-D-983E34001/409 of 17/12/2020, gives of the Confederation in general and the DoD in particular, both to the 700,000 Swiss abroad and to the civil and military authorities of their respective countries of residence, as far as we are concerned, France.

We will not go into detail about the legal bases, namely the manifest violation of the principles of Art. 38 Chapter 5 of the Law LSEtr of 2014¹ Article 46 Section 2 of the Ordinance OSEtr of 2015², Article 62 Chapter 7 of the Law LAAM³, Article 20 of the Shooting Ordinance⁴, and worse, Article 40 (1) and (2) of the **Federal Constitution**⁵ that these decisions provoke. The services of the Confederation and their annexes in charge of the Swiss Abroad have been formally notified, without any response being provided.

From a financial point of view, where the Confederation spends more than CHF 9 million annually on compulsory shooting, field shooting and training for young shooters, and more than CHF 10 million annually on ammunition subsidies, it appeared urgent for the DoD to save CHF 30,000⁶ on ammunition sales to Swiss shooters abroad.

¹ https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/653/fr#art_38

² https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/654/fr#art_46

³ https://fedlex.data.admin.ch/filestore/fedlex.data.admin.ch/eli/cc/1995/4093_4093_4093/20220101/fr/pdf-a/fedlex-data-admin-ch-eli-cc-1995-4093_4093_4093-20220101-fr-pdf-a.pdf

⁴ <https://www.droit-bilingue.ch/rs/lex/2003/08/20030864-a20-fr-de.html>

⁵ https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1999/404/fr#art_40

⁶ <https://www.vbs.admin.ch/fr/actualites/communiqués.detail.nsb.html/77803.html>



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This sums up, if necessary, the Confederation's consideration for its citizens abroad. 20 million francs for nearly 9 million residents, including 2 million foreigners, i.e. 3 francs per resident Swiss citizen, is normal and acceptable. 30,000 francs for 700,000 Swiss abroad, or 4 cents per citizen, or a hundred times less, is a sumptuous expense that must be eliminated urgently. Not to mention that 30,000 francs out of a DoD budget of nearly 7 billion excluding investments, this still represents 1/230,000th of the annual budget.

Operationally and procedurally, without any on-site audit, without any serious knowledge of the reality on the ground of the 31 swiss shooting societies that came forward, it was decided somewhere in an office that there would be "security risks to shooting societies abroad". To underline the lack of seriousness of the allegation, the same circular states that "the DoD cannot verify (...) nor the safety of foreign shooting installations and activities." In other words, the DoD decides that since it does not bother to go and survey the subject or to be aware of it, or to verify on documents the procedures put in place, there is necessarily a risk, and that the best solution to absolve itself of its responsibilities is to eliminate the activity.

With regard to the Paris Swiss Shooting Society, It is a society more than a hundred years old, which has survived two world wars, which prides itself on having never recorded a single accident. But no matter, her seriousness will have been erased with the stroke of a pen by a central administration that only knows the receptions in which she was able to participate at the Embassy. The name of Mrs. Viola Amherd will go down in history as that of the Federal Councillor who signed the death warrant of the activity.

Whatever the contribution shooting societies abroad make to Switzerland's image⁷, no matter how much they have contributed to strengthening the ties of the Swiss citizen abroad with their homeland, no matter how loyal they will come from the other side of the world. Swiss shooters abroad are returned to their status as second-class citizens.

Collateral damage, the Defense attaché to the Swiss Embassy in Paris, who also happens to be the dean of CAMNA (club of naval and air military attachés) will have to rely on another structure than the SSTP to organize the much appreciated shooting of the defense attachés that made it possible to enhance the image of the Swiss Army among the defense attachés of the rest of the world.

De minimis non curat prator we say in the organizations that deal with international issues at a certain level when we talk about saving 30,000 euros on a budget of 7 billion. But to describe how Switzerland treats its citizens abroad, it is better to ask Michel Bühler, who is no longer censored but unfortunately deceased: *"I was told that I was your son, that you were my mother, Switzerland. All those who repeated it to me, at school, and then in the army, finally persuaded me of it. That is why I come simply to speak to you familiarly, I come to tell you in face, and without detours, all that I feel today, looking at you: Do you see what you look like, my mother, with your mask of virtues, with your grocer's belly, and your apron full of crowns? »*

¹ <https://sstp.suissemagazine.com>



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For the times to come, concerned about its integrity, the SSTP has therefore taken steps to have its operation inspected by the French Administration of Arms and Explosives (SCAE), which will therefore be responsible for compensating for the shortcomings of the Swiss Confederation. The SSTP will not fail to publicize and publish the results to those interested in its future, which is obviously no longer the case with the DDPS.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurance of our full consideration.

For the SSTP

(With approval of the SSTP Comitee on the 6 th of December 2022)

The President

Didier Ferré

The General Secretary

Philippe Alliaume

Copy hereof to:

- Mr Roberto Balzaretto, Ambassador of Switzerland to France
- Divisional Guy Vallat, Defence Attaché at the Swiss Embassy in France
- Mr Markus Seiler Secretary General of the FDFA
- Mr Jean-Luc Addor, President of Pro Tell
- Mr Luca Filippini, President of the FST
- Mr Filippo Lombardi, President of the OSA
- Ms Katrin Stucki, Head of SAT/DDPS
- Swiss Shooting Societies Abroad (translated version)