

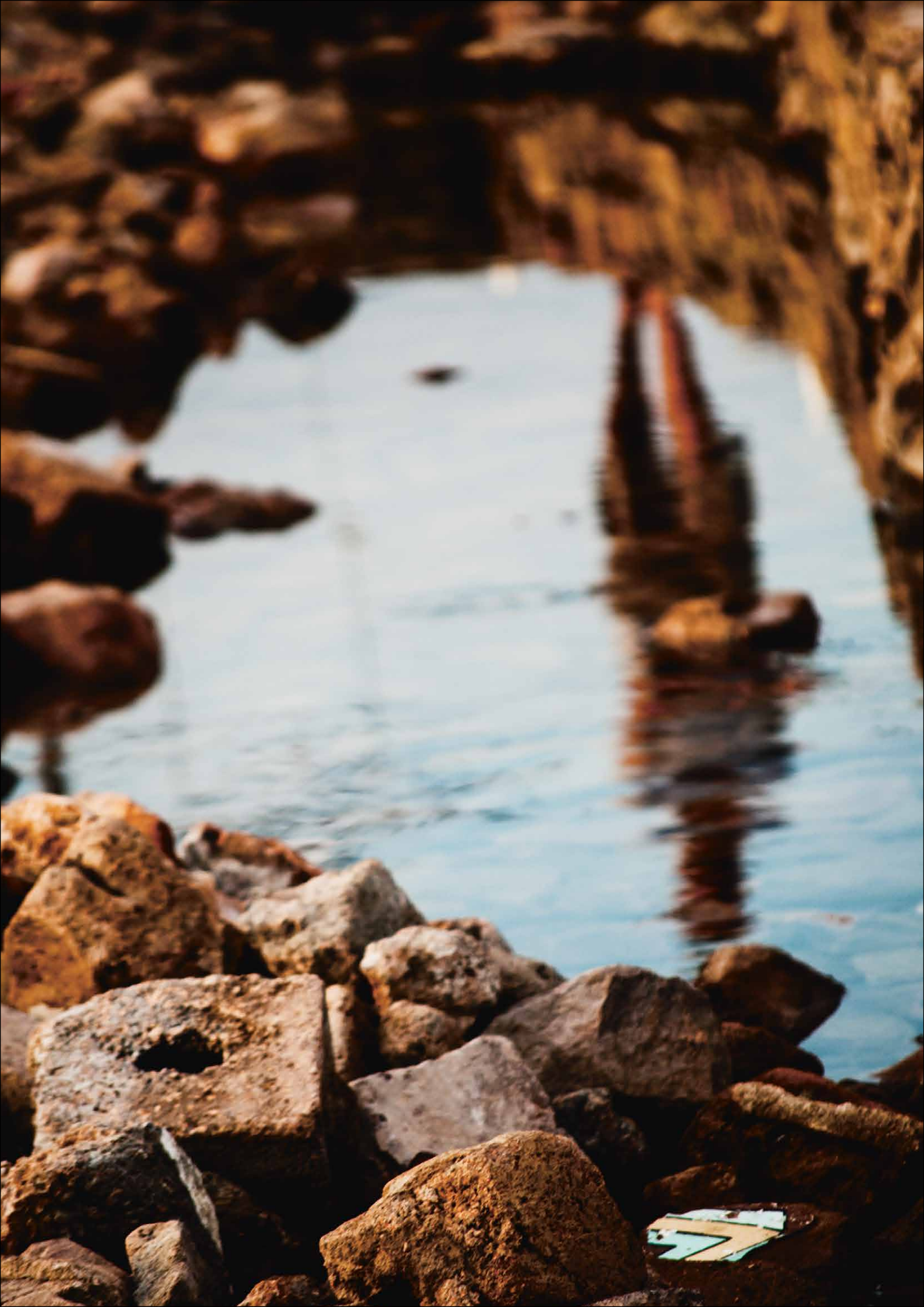


# Annual report 2016

ASA | SVV

Schweizerischer Versicherungsverband  
Association Suisse d'Assurances  
Associazione Svizzera d'Assicurazioni  
Swiss Insurance Association





*A love for detail and a focus on the essentials are characteristic of Jessica Keller's work for the Swiss Insurance Association SIA. Light and shadow, perspectives, colour and angles make her pictures stand out. Old-age insurance, climate change or the digital revolution: The 29-year old photographer's strength lies in illustrating complex questions through everyday scenes. She knows how to bring out the main points – in an individual and dialogue-oriented fashion. Just like the SIA.*

*Jessica Keller was born in 1987 in Zurich. She spent five years in South Africa, an inspirational place for this young photographer. This is no accident: Her roots are in South Africa; she learned her craft at Vegaschool in Pretoria. The vast South African landscapes inspired her passion for photography.*





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## Private insurers - a major player

**Over 20 million** active insurance contracts

**6.9 million** insured persons and/or policies in life insurance

**CHF 1318 billion** insured lump-sum and pension benefits in life insurance

**CHF 60 billion**

Premium volume Switzerland

- Life insurance CHF 30.7 billion
- Non-life insurance CHF 26.8 billion
- Reinsurance CHF 2.3 billion

**CHF 20.7 billion** Gross value added in Switzerland

The life insurance companies insure over **180,000** small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with roughly **1.1 million** employees in the full-insurance system, offering comprehensive security with guarantees. They also provide risk coverage for some **70,000** SMEs with over **700,000** employees.

**CHF 561 billion** in insurers' investments

Nearly **120,000** employees in total  
**46,500** employees in Switzerland  
**72,000** employees abroad

**2000** apprentices and interns

Sources: SIA, FINMA 2016, SIA extrapolation 2016

## The SIA in 2016

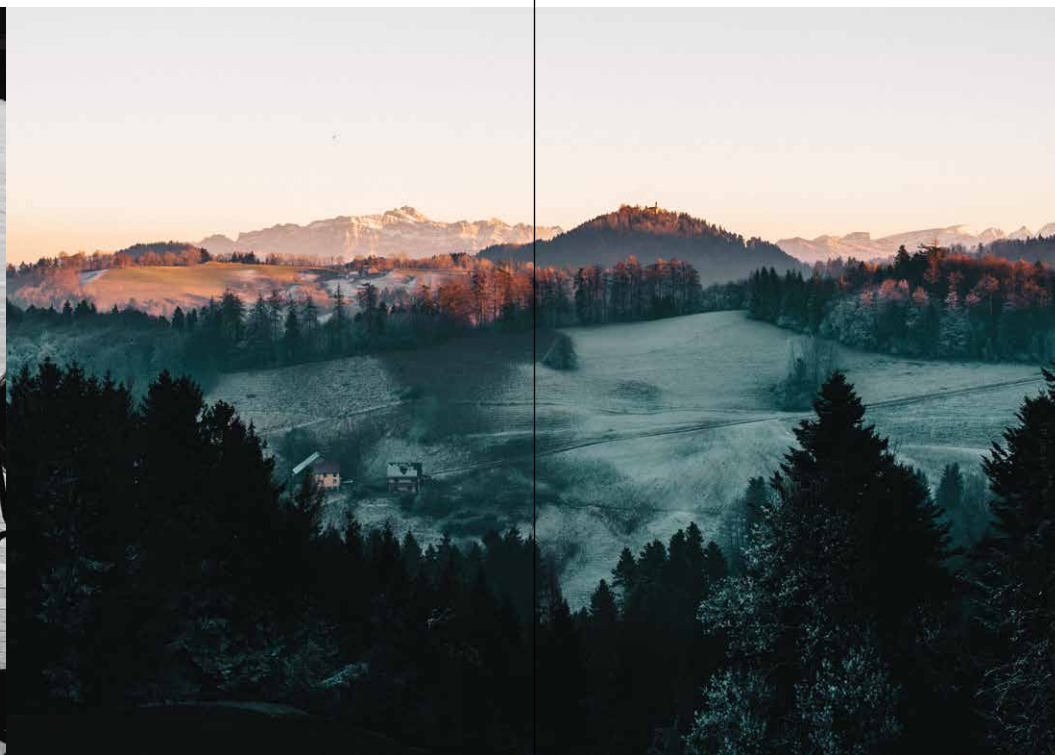
**78 MEMBERS**

SIA member companies account for over 90% of private insurance premiums generated in the Swiss market.

**THE SIA HEAD OFFICE COUNTS 37 EMPLOYEES,** with an additional **19** persons carrying out building surveys and related services.

**IN 2016, SOME 520 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SWISS PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES WERE INVOLVED IN 25 STANDING BODIES, VARIOUS TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS.**





## Report of the Chairman



## The post-truth era

The term “post-truth” became the 45th international word of the year in 2016. Come again? “Post” always denotes the aftermath of something. The term “post-truth” has been coined to describe an alarming trend both in politics and in society: facts are dwindling in importance, while emotions play an ever-increasing role. In politics, 2016 revealed that this is also true in democratic societies. A man successfully ran for president of the USA who denies man-made climate change despite the convictions of 99% of the climate scientists around the globe. In England, the Pro-Brexit faction was able to win a referendum despite all economic institutions’ declarations that leaving the EU would do great damage to the country.

This trend is of great importance to the insurance sector, as their customers usually are much better informed than they were only a few years ago, due to wide-spread digitalisation. Emotions therefore play an increasingly large role in decision-making. In brief: Assistance, transparency and trustworthiness are the key to success!

### Swiss insurers are well on their way

Despite a demanding environment, the Swiss private insurers remained on a growth trajectory and proved their ability to perform. The insurance industry represents a significant part of the financial sector with a major contribution to Switzerland’s economic performance and prosperity. Life insurance was grappling with ever-increasing regulation, low interest rates and high capital adequacy requirements. Premiums declined by 6% as compared to the previous year. However, the demand for insurance solutions in group life insurance persists. In the occupational pensions segment, life insurers offer unique guarantees. For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the ability to transfer the risks inherent in occupational pensions is particularly important. For life insurers, the challenging market conditions mean that it’s not easy to keep offering attractive life insurance solutions as the decline of single premiums has shown. Individual, single-premium life insurance solutions have slumped by almost 30%. Lacking a guaranteed interest, they are no longer attractive.

The 2016 claims experience corresponds to the previous years’ average. Claims relating to natural perils showed a favourable trend despite increasing weather damages. In motor-vehicle insurance, continuous pressure on premiums did not dent the positive trend carried over from last year. Pricing pressure was also prevalent in fire, natural disaster and property damage insurance. However, personal insurance and legal expenses insurance performed well. We can therefore state that the Swiss private insurers continue on a robust and efficient path.

“All insurance is based  
on trust and on facts.”



Urs Berger, SIA Chairman

Lucius Dürr, CEO of the SIA until the end of 2016

### Dotcom bubbles and pension debates

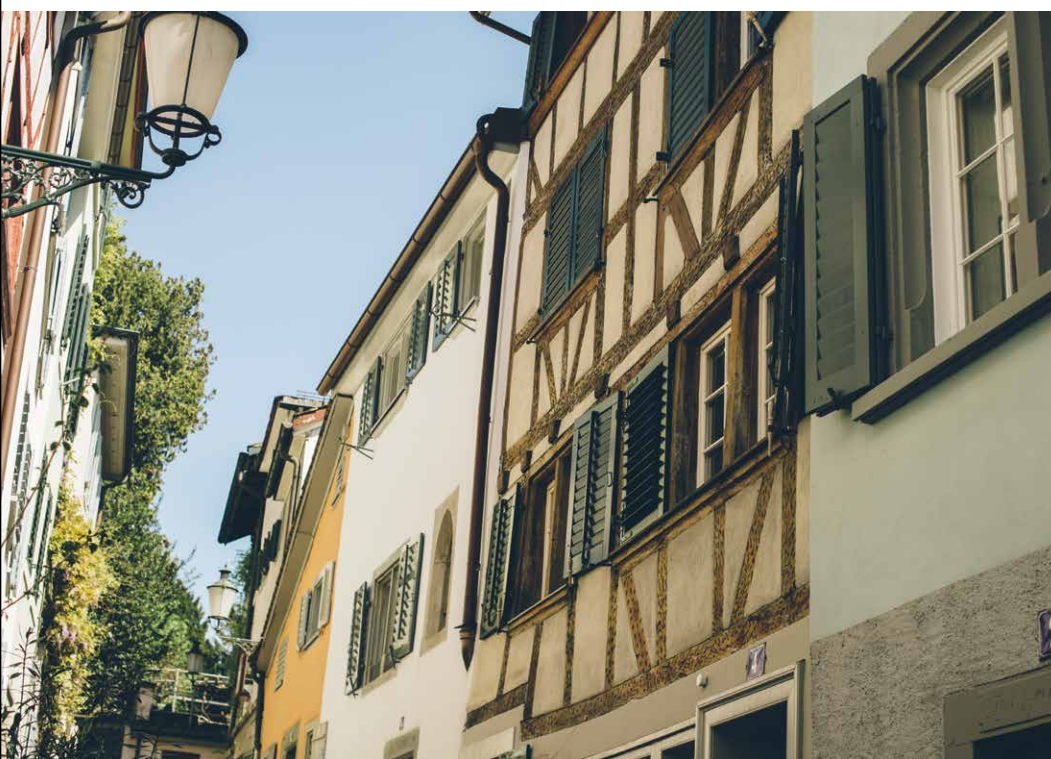
On the cusp of 2017, the SIA top management saw some changes. CEO Lucius Dürr stepped down after 15 years at the helm of our association and was succeeded by Thomas Helbling. Lucius Dürr and I have enjoyed an intense cooperation, especially during my chairmanship over the last 5.5 years. His accession to office in 2002 was marked by the burst of the dotcom bubble and the ensuing economic crisis. Life insurers suffered major losses that sparked the first pension theft debate about the adequate level of the minimum interest rate. This was one of the first topics that kept both Lucius Dürr and myself on our toes. Public emotion ran high, just as it did eight years later prior to the vote on lowering the conversion rate for occupational pensions. Our persistent efforts to maintain a dialogue and our consistent position managed to halt the barrage of allegations against us. The 2002 economic crisis also led to the development of the Swiss Solvency Test SST which assesses the capitalisation of insurance companies.

Lucius Dürr both witnessed and set a number of milestones for our association: In 2012, he was among the founders of the Global Federation of Insurance Associations (GFIA), assisted in the introduction of Cicero and supported the admission of health and re-insurers to the SIA. A skilled negotiator, he distinguished himself by taking an all-encompassing interest in further developing our association. The SIA therefore was able to strengthen its presence and its influence on the national and international level. I would like to thank Lucius Dürr for his deep commitment and his constructive and frank attitude. Just one last aside: In 1971, “rebellious” was declared to be the first international word of the year ever.

Kind regards

Urs Berger  
SIA Chairman





## Political priorities

*Old-age insurance is facing major challenges with climate change in the lead. The SIA campaigns in a dedicated, committed and proactive fashion for a strong insurance industry.*

## Pension System 2020: Electorate to decide in September 2017.

The Swiss old-age insurance system is facing massive challenges. Increasing life expectancy means that pensions from the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Scheme (AHV/First Pillar) and the occupational pensions system (pension funds/Second Pillar) are being paid out for longer. In the state pension scheme ("AHV"), the number of contributors is decreasing, while the number of pensioners is rising. The occupational pension system meanwhile is grappling with declining investment returns. Without corrections, the deficits in the AHV scheme will soon soar, while the occupational pensions system is experiencing a redistribution of wealth from workers to pensioners in a way that was not intended by its founders. A reform that focuses strictly on old-age insurance while safeguarding the current level of benefits and maintaining the weighting of the two pillars is therefore urgently called for.

### Deliberations in parliament

The Federal Council had submitted the "pension system 2020" reform to parliament in November 2014 where it was treated in the 2015 autumn session of the Council of States and in the 2016 autumn session of the National Council. The National Council deliberated immediately after the vote of 25 September 2016 which had rejected the popular initiative "AHVplus: for a strong AHV".

The Council of States and the National Council both agreed on setting the official retirement age at 65 for both men and women, on a more flexible approach to later retirement (between ages 62 and 70) and on lowering the conversion rate for occupational pensions from 6.8% to 6.0%. They mainly disagreed on how to compensate for the lower conversion rate and on raising value-added tax (VAT). The Council of States linked the compensation for the lower conversion rate to an increase in state pensions ("AHV") and decided to raise VAT by 1.0 percentage points. The National Council, however, was in favour of compensating for the lower conversion rate exclusively in the Second Pillar and of increasing VAT by a mere 0.6 percentage points. In its opinion, any further VAT increases should be limited to an intervention mechanism for the AHV system and therefore be combined with an increase of the official retirement age to over 65 years.

### Negotiating consensus

The debate to establish a consensus between the Council of States and the National Council in their winter session 2016 and in the first week of the spring session of 2017, respectively, was marked by tactical considerations and did not result in any major breakthroughs. The Council of States insisted on increasing newly-granted AHV pensions by 70 Swiss francs, while the National Council stuck to limiting the scope of any compensation for the lower conversion rate to the Second Pillar.

The second round of the consensus negotiations and the conciliation conference took place during the remainder of the spring session 2017. After the National Council had relented in all other points including the remaining proposals on group life insurance, both chambers decided in the last week of the spring session to agree with the motion of the conciliation committee and increase newly-granted AHV pensions by 70 Swiss francs per month while raising VAT by 0.6 percentage points.

### Proposals on group life insurance

During the parliamentary debates, the SIA concentrated on the proposals on group life insurance. These proposals are rooted in unjustified criticisms of collective pension funds in general and life insurers in particular. They are not conducive to the reform's objectives while compromising the freedom of choice for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their employees.

**"The proposed amendments in group life insurance are not conducive to any reform."**

A higher minimum surplus distribution quota (art. 37 para 4 and 4bis VAG/LSA) would mean a further guarantee benefiting the insured persons, and a higher risk of loss for the insurer. The insurer's capital requirements would rise, and the chances to provide and pay a decent return on risk capital would fall. This measure would force insurers into a more defensive investment strategy, leading to lower investment returns. The insured persons would therefore effectively receive "a larger slice of a smaller cake".

Setting risk premiums according to collective criteria (art. 65 para 2bis BVG/LPP) would make it impossible for pension institutions to determine risk premiums according to the risk profile (proportion of women/men, age structure, sector of industry) of a given company. In group life institutions (not just at life insurers), SMEs with lower risks would have to subsidise the higher risks of other SMEs. This would introduce an undesirable new solidarity effect.

There is no need to set additional parameters for allocating surpluses to the insured persons (art. 37 para 3bis VAG/LSA). The current regulations in group life insurance (art. 37 VAG/LAS and art. 141 to 153 AVO/OS) are sufficient. They set out the procedure and the practices pertaining to the annual operating accounts for occupational pension plans run by insurance companies. A fair and equitable allocation of surpluses is guaranteed by the current Insurance Oversight Ordinance (AVO/OS) inasmuch as art. 117 para 2 AVO/OS prohibits any substantive, unjustifiable differences in treatment of the insured persons. Moreover, art. 153 para 1 AVO/OS calls for allocation in accordance with generally recognised actuarial methods.

Limiting risk premiums to 200% of expected losses (Art. 38 para. 2 VAG/LSA) is superfluous. The Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) already examines and approves risk premiums with regard to the solvency of the insurers and the potential abuse of insured persons. Since this limitation would apply to life insurers but not to autonomous or semi-autonomous pension funds, it would not be tenable in terms of competition law, either.

Both the Council of States and the National Council rejected the higher minimum surplus distribution from the beginning of their deliberations. The National Council found against setting risk premiums according to collective criteria in its 2016 autumn session, while the Council of States followed suit in its 2016 winter session. The regulations pertaining to the allocation of surpluses and the limits on risk premia, however, are still part of the reform – much to the SIA's regret.

The life insurance companies insure over 180,000 SMEs with roughly 1.1 million employees in the full-insurance system, offering comprehensive security with guarantees, and also provide risk coverage for some 70,000 SMEs with over 700,000 employees. The current regulations for group life insurance have been tried and tested. This carefully balanced system permits the life insurers to fulfil their particular task: safeguarding the risk balancing process and the proper functioning of the solidarity community.



## Health insurance: Focus on flexibility and proportionate supervision

In health insurance, the SIA is committed to promoting a liberal, socially responsible market and competition regime. The SIA focuses in particular on private supplementary insurance. In social health insurance, it works with *santésuisse* and *curafutura*. In the year under review, the SIA addressed the following topics:

### Safeguarding flexibility in supplementary health insurance

At the federal level, no major reforms were set on the political agenda in 2016. However, various cantons launched projects that might have a negative impact on supplementary health insurance, such as a potential levy on supplementary health insurance benefits in the canton of Zurich and the cantonal initiatives to implement a mandatory dental care insurance in French-speaking Switzerland and in Ticino.

In addition, the health insurers represented by the SIA have worked on fundamental questions in the field of public health. In this context, the association investigated and researched various aspects of competition in terms of price and quality, which led to the identification of key action areas. The health insurers focused on the setting and leveling of prices for medical services covered by supplementary health insurance.

Furthermore, health and accident insurers have worked closely together to analyse key trends and developments likely to impact both businesses. Here again, an analysis led to the identification of key issues which were then prioritised: progress in medical technology, demographics, prevention and regulatory issues. These issues will be recurrent themes on the agenda of both the SIA and the health insurers among its members.

“Various newly-launched cantonal programmes might have a negative impact on supplementary health insurance.”

### Moderate supervision required

As in previous years, the SIA finds that the supervision by FINMA and the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) imposes increasing demands on the health insurers. The FOPH is in charge of supervising social health insurance and is calling for yet more data to be provided. FINMA is the supervisory body for supplementary health insurance. In order to protect insured persons from potentially abusive tariffs, it continues to exercise a preventative tariff control.

The SIA continues to try and maintain regular contact with both supervisory bodies. The fact that the SIA and FINMA have come to an understanding about setting up joint working groups to analyse specific issues and draft potential solutions shows that these efforts are bearing fruit. Moreover, the Swiss health insurers have cooperated intensively on the VAG/LSA revision to ensure that their concerns will be reflected in the draft revision. In this context, too, the SIA is trying to establish contacts with FINMA in view of finding a joint solution.

## Accident insurance, accident prevention

In the year under review, the SIA focused on accident insurance on the consultation process for the Accident Insurance Ordinance (UVV/OLAA). The revised Federal Act on Accident Insurance (UVG/LAA) and the corresponding ordinance entered into force in January 2017. The SIA head office was part of a working group mandated to prepare the consultation process. The documentation was submitted to the Federal Office for Public Health (FOPH) by the end of June 2016, after it had been coordinated with the Commission for Medical Tariffs UVG/LAA (Medizinaltarif-Kommission UVG, MTK), the Association for Securing Sustainable Pensions and Suva. The SIA agreed to the majority of the proposed UVV/OLAA amendments as set out in the consultation documentation. A major change in the revised UVG/LAA concerns “physical injuries equated with accidents” (unfallähnliche Körperschäden, UKS). According to art. 6 para 2 UVG/LAA, benefits have to be paid in the case of physical injuries that do not correspond to the definition of an accident, if they cannot be attributed to degeneration or disease. Accident insurers and courts alike will have their work cut out, trying to delimit these injuries from disease-related events.

Another SIA working group revises the German/French “Wegleitung zur obligatorischen Unfallversicherung” (Mandatory Accident Insurance – A Practical Guide) dating from 2004. The new version will be available in an electronic and a hardcopy format by the end of 2017.

### Preventing leisure accidents and non-occupational accidents

The distinction between work and leisure is increasingly blurred. (Mobile) telephones are omnipresent, people text around the clock, they check mails, read papers or write presentations anywhere and at any time. The pressure mounts: People are trying to achieve ever more in far less time. They must be reachable and ready for action at any time of the day or night. Digitalisation and globalisation are the consequences of technological progress. Progress can be taxing for companies and employees alike and rarely leaves no traces. Many employees are unable to relax even when they are supposedly off work. This “permanent alertness” has negative impacts on their health, their performance at work and the frequency of non-occupational accidents. For these reasons, the SIA has launched a long-term campaign to prevent accidents with the headline “ausschalten – auftanken” (power down – recharge your batteries) aimed at raising awareness of the link between non-occupational accidents and strains at work. Adequate downtime helps to prevent accidents and boosts performance at work. [www.ausschalten-auftanken.ch](http://www.ausschalten-auftanken.ch)

Preventing road accidents: Driving while distracted – a joint campaign of the SIA and the Touring Club Schweiz. The SIA had been mandated by the Fund for Traffic Safety to carry out a multi-annual campaign to prevent people from driving while distracted and, consequently, reduce the number of road accidents. Distracted drivers cause some 13,000 accidents per year. Too many drivers are convinced of their multitasking abilities: They try to conduct phone calls, write text messages or use a navigation system while driving. Therefore, they lose control over their vehicle and endanger themselves as well as other road users.

[www.augen-auf-die-strasse.ch](http://www.augen-auf-die-strasse.ch)

[www.garde-les-yeux-sur-la-route.ch](http://www.garde-les-yeux-sur-la-route.ch)

“People are trying to achieve ever more in far less time.”



# Revised Accicent Insurance Act requalifies physical injuries

Until the end of 2016, art. 9 para. 2 of the Swiss Accident Insurance Ordinance provided coverage for the following eight physical injuries: bone fractures, dislocation of joints, tears to the meniscus, tears to muscles, pulled muscles, tears to tendons, lesions of ligaments, injuries to the eardrum(s). Such coverage was assured even if there had been no unusual external influence, unless the damage “was clearly attributable to disease or degeneration.” Under that legislation, an external influence was indispensable to equate a physical injury with an accident, but there was no need for it to be unusual. This criterion repeatedly led to difficulties in determining whether an actual injury involved accident or health insurance, causing uncertainty among the insured persons. Therefore, the legislator has created a new regulation (art. 6 para. 2 Federal Accident Insurance Act [UVG/LAA]) which entered into force on 1 January 2017. According to this regulation, accident insurers have to accept claims pertaining to one of the eight injuries listed above, if they cannot be attributed mainly to degeneration or disease. The legislator therefore operates under the statutory presumption that these eight physical injuries are to be equated with accidents, thereby creating a liability of the accident insurer’s. The insurer can overturn this presumption and obtain a release from its liability by proving that the physical injury can be “attributed mainly to degeneration or disease.”

Attention to medical assessments therefore must be renewed, leading to extended obligations for the medical profession. Physicians are obliged to furnish clear data that make it possible to determine whether one of the diagnoses listed above is due to an accident or “mainly” due to a disease or degeneration.

As tears to the meniscus are among the most controversial physical injuries, a detailed complementary report on knee injuries has evolved. This report contains mandatory questions about relevant patient-specific characteristics, the damage mechanism and the damage pattern which need to be answered by the attending physician.

In a second step, the consulting physicians or the insurance experts will transfer these answers to a nine-part specific trauma check for knees. These nine parts have been allocated parameters in accordance with the complementary report that make it possible to express the extent of the relevant injury as a score.

It has been shown that the scores correlate well with a causal attribution to accidents or degeneration and that the results tend to be quite similar across various assessments.

The two forms therefore should make it possible to assess the coverage or refusal of coverage in case of tears to the meniscus or lesions of ligaments in the context of accident and/or health insurance.

### Courses

Three-day seminars on “Mental handicaps and reintegration” in Zurich and Basel from January to April.

### Seminar and congress management

Block 11: Mandates for expert opinions as part of the elective course on insurance medicine at the Institute of Higher Vocational Education in Insurance VBBV, Zurich, 13 January 2016 and 23 November 2016

Training module “Insurance and expert opinions I”, Diploma of Advanced Studies in Neuropsychology DASNP, Zurich University, Zurich, 21 May 2016

SIA congress on civil law for accident and liability insurance specialists, Solothurn, 06/07 June 2016

Forum “Risk assessments in personal insurance”, Zurich, 10 November 2016

SIA medical conference, Olten, 24 November 2016

### Presentations and lectures

Impact of the Federal Supreme Court judgement BGE 141 V 281 on insurance medicine, “Current legislative trends”, Mobiliar, Bern, 27 January 2016

“Switzerland’s policy and an insurance perspective on aging” in the context of the following study tour: “The Singapore Healthcare Story”, Professional training by the European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine, Singapore, 27 September 2016

# Climate issues: The insurance industry takes a stand

At the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris the delegates passed a climate treaty intended to limit global warming to significantly less than 2°C. Environmental risks are on the increase and having a significant impact on the insurance industry. According to both climatologists and insurance specialists, global warming will cause more frequent extreme events with insured losses continuing to increase all over the world. A far-reaching climate policy and the active commitment to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions including decarbonisation are indispensable if climate change is to be limited in the long term. Activities to prevent climate change and/or adapt to it are also necessary to successfully manage this phenomenon and its consequences.

In order to coordinate the activities within the insurance industry, the Climate and Energy working group has drafted a position paper in 2016 stating that the Swiss insurance industry should support the ambitious climate policy goals set out in the Paris treaty. Knowledge is to be brought into the discussion in order to mitigate climate change and make the necessary adaptations. The decarbonisation of the industrial and the energy sector is to be supported. The insurance industry commits to reducing CO2 consumption along the entire value chain by 50% as compared to 1990. Reduction is to be achieved by 2030.

In the opinion of the Swiss insurance industry, the economy’s efforts to increase energy efficiency and the efficient use of resources as well as to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and other limited natural resources will have a direct positive impact its competitiveness. Engaging early in these efforts maximises any economy’s chances to benefit from the necessary adaptations.

“The Swiss insurance system / economic and legal foundations and ethical aspects of pain management” in the context of the MAS “Inter-professional Pain Management”: CAS Schmerz Basic, ZHAW Winterthur, 11 October 2016

“Insurance medicine and liability”, Master course for medical officers, Winterthur, 13 October 2016

“Physiological impacts on accident risks and recovery” in the context of the 16th Swiss Congress for Occupational Safety STAS 2016 on “Safe and healthy workplaces for all ages”, KKL Luzern, 26 October 2016

“Workshop on ICF and somatic assessment”, 6th Professional training course for SIM experts and interested parties, Olten, 27 October 2016

Elective studies in medicine: Health economics and healthcare research, autumn term 2016, Module 6 Insurers and insurance medicine, Zurich University, 15 November 2016

### Publications

June and December 2016, Medinfo 1 + 2

June 2016, Versicherungen und medizinisches Gutachterwesen in der Schweiz in Ludolph · Schürmann · Gaidzik – Kursbuch der ärztlichen Begutachtung – 42. Erg.-Lfg. 6/16

December 2016  
Neue Herausforderungen für die Ärzteschaft durch die UVG-Revision 201  
Knieschmerzen – Unfall oder Erkrankung?  
Luzi Dubs, Bruno Soltermann, Lorenzo Manfredini  
Schweizerische Ärztezeitung 16;97(49–50):1741–1745  
Manfredini, Schweizerische Ärztezeitung 16;97(49–50):1741–1745, December 2016



## Surface runoffs – a major risk

The term “surface runoffs” refers to water that fails to seep into the earth during a precipitation event but flows off freely according to the topography of the ground. Grooves and troughs then collect this water, generating potentially massive flow depths and velocities. Surface runoffs constitute a major hazard potential with expert opinions linking roughly half of all flood damage to such runoffs.

Through adequate planning of land use and/or structural measures when building, and provided that their geographical extent and intensity are known, these effects can be counteracted.

Existing natural hazard maps only show the flood exposure linked to permanent water bodies such as lakes, rivers

and streams. The Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, the Intercantonal Union of Reinsurers (IRV/UIR), the SIA and the Bernese Buildings Insurers (GVB) have mandated a company to elaborate a detailed digital elevation model which can be used to simulate surface runoff events, their path and their flow depth. The cantons are closely involved in the project, and the first tests seem to have delivered reliable results.

Such results will also be of use to the insurance industry. The new surface runoff hazard map covering the entire area of Switzerland should be available by spring 2018. It represents a new Swiss milestone in combating natural hazards. On an international level, the project also has been met with great interest.

## Sustainable and infrastructure investments increasingly important

In 2016 sustainable investments and the private insurers’ involvement in infrastructure investments became increasingly important. The implementation of the Paris climate agreement creates significant demand for investments in renewable resources and technologies and/or in the replacement of existing infrastructure facilities. Time and again, the Federal Council and the Federal Administration have called upon the private insurance industry to get involved.

The SIA is committed to a sustainable risk and investment policy within the insurance industry and therefore engages in various networks and projects. The current dearth of suitable investment choices makes for additional interest in infrastructure investments. However, the Swiss Solvency Test and the regulations on tied assets still place considerable restrictions on such investments. The SIA works to ensure a more investment-friendly environment.

## Compliance training

The most recent training event on antitrust legislation having been held some years ago, the SIA compliance officer was called upon to lead a refresher course on antitrust law and association work. The courses consisted of a theoretical introduction to antitrust law, a presentation of the German-language guidelines on the topic, general advice on how to behave in meetings and an analysis of certain situations through “dilemma games.” The compliance officer was assisted by the “Compliance Pool General Antitrust Law”

and by the Audit, Tax and Advisory service company KPMG. The courses’ target group consisted of the chairmen of the various SIA bodies.

The overall response rate to this offer was outstanding with over 85% of all bodies sending a representative to the training course.

## New assessment chart for analysing risks associated with the use of nanomaterials

In the opinion of the SIA’s Expert Commission on liability insurance, nanotechnology continues to constitute one of the most significant latent long-term risks, albeit that its impact cannot be quantified as yet. Several years ago, the SIA started participating in various national and international bodies that ensure the technical and regulatory monitoring of so-called engineered nanoparticles.

The working group on nanoprocesses consisting of experts from XL Catlin, Swiss Re, Zurich and the SIA, is in charge of evolving an assessment tool for nano risks. From May 2017 onwards, SIA members will have internal access

to the assessment chart for nano risks. This tool focuses on six nanomaterials that are considered especially dangerous. Scientific studies enable users to determine the risk of hazardous impacts on human beings and on the environment. The assessment is based on the NAICS industry codes with the lifecycle of nanomaterials being taken into account. Assessment results form part of the assessment grid for the use by underwriters. The tool facilitates the setting of enterprise-specific underwriting policies and guidelines in connection with nanomaterials.

## eCalls to become mandatory in 2018

The European Parliament in Strasbourg has decided that all new passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles have to be equipped with an automatic emergency call system (“eCall”) as of April 2018. Even though Switzerland is not part of the European Union, it will have to follow suit, as cars are being imported into Switzerland under the EU registration regulations.

The SIA is in favour of a mandatory emergency call system, however, it also has pointed out the economic risks faced by consumers. The association therefore calls for two specific guarantees:

- Consumers must have freedom of choice in allowing access to their data (fair competition).
- An open, standardised platform with corresponding interfaces for vehicles.

For privacy reasons, the mandatory eCall system should only monitor vehicles in case of accidents and emergencies by triggering an automatic call to the emergency number 112. It should also be possible (for passengers and/or witnesses) to make an eCall by simply pressing a button. The cantons are responsible for upgrading the infrastructure of their emergency call centres. Their efforts will be coordinated by the Federal Roads Office (ASTRA/OFROU).

## “No trouble onsite”

In 2015/16, the working group Technical Insurance has written four German-language flyers intended to prevent damage on construction sites.

- “Wasser! Kein Ärger auf der Baustelle” on water damage
- “Diebstahl! Kein Ärger auf der Baustelle” on theft
- “Baugrubeneinsturz! Kein Ärger auf der Baustelle” on the collapse of building pits
- “Witterungseinflüsse! Kein Ärger auf der Baustelle” on weather effects

Under the lead “Kein Ärger auf der Baustelle” (no trouble onsite) these flyers highlighted inadvertencies that are easily avoided, but may lead to major problems when repeated. The working group Technical Insurance wanted to raise consciousness among principals, architects, construction managers, building firms and craftsmen.

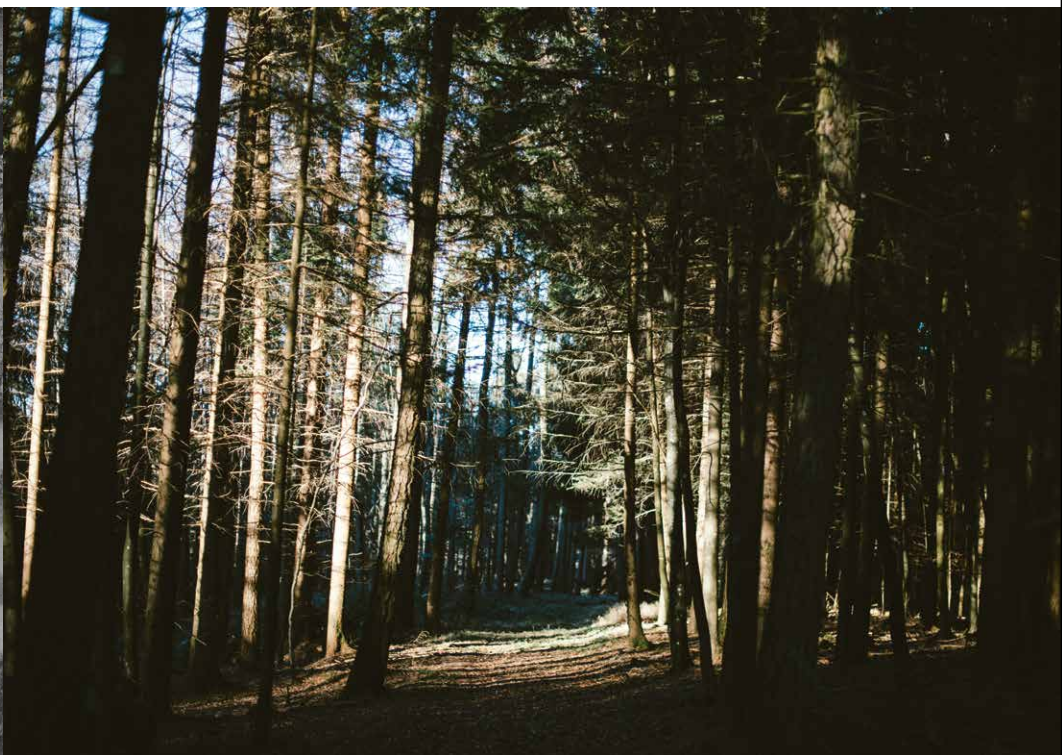




### **Nothing happens without insurance.**

The insurance industry is a main pillar of the economy. In the event of loss or damage, the insurance companies provide services that do not simply protect individuals from hardship or businesses from ruin, but also help create added value. Insurance companies are major taxpayers, they build homes and issue mortgages. The insurance industry offers attractive jobs and innovative vocational training opportunities.





*In politics, light and shadow are both part of daily life:  
Insurance companies are one of the pillars of the entire  
economy even at times of market tension.  
The SIA strives for clarity, transparency and education.*

## From the Asbestos Round Table to the compensation fund for asbestos victims

On 19 December 2016 Federal Councillor Alain Berset and Urs Berger, the Chairman of the SIA, announced that the Asbestos Round Table had successfully concluded its work. All participants acknowledged and agreed that a compensation fund would make sense if it were to provide a solution for all asbestos victims, including persons without claims, under the Accidents Insurance Act (UVG/LAA). In cooperation with all social partners, the Round Table managed to define such a solution and set compensation levels in its final report. This does not mean that the work is finished, but the social partners have reached consensus about an adequate solution for asbestos victims.

The findings of the Round Table were used by a working group to found a compensation fund. The corresponding foundation (“Stiftung Entschädigungsfonds für Asbestopfer EFA”) is supposed to be operational by mid-2017.

The draft compensation regulations provide for financial support for all victims of a malignant asbestos-related tumour in the abdomen or pleura (mesothelioma) – whether it be a recognised occupational disease or not. Benefits are also provided for persons insured under the UVG/LAA, in order to ensure equal treatment for all patients.

## The statute of limitations in connection to the EFA/FIVA foundation

By revising liability law, the Federal Council wished to give better protection to victims of damage that does not become evident for a very long period. The government proposed to increase the limitation period to 30 years in case of personal injuries. The SIA on the other hand advocated for a uniform limitation period not exceeding 20 years.

The draft was always meant to solve the asbestos problem by means of the statute of limitation. The SIA does not think that a longer limitation period would grant asbestos victims any adequate protection. The Committee for Legal Affairs of the Council of States now proposes to replace the 30-year limitation period with transitional provisions for asbestos victims. These would altogether abolish the statute of limitation in asbestos-related cases. The SIA is not in favour of this model either.

To draw benefits from the fund, claimants have to renounce their claims under civil law. Pending cases shall also be settled out of court. The duration of the fund ends in 2025; by this date it will have needed at most 100 million Swiss francs. The initial capital of 6 Million Swiss francs has been secured, and an additional 30 million Swiss francs have been pledged conditionally. An asbestos-neutral statute of limitations is one of the main prerequisites for attracting potential sponsors.

### Care service for asbestos victims

Medically, victims of asbestos-related diseases receive very good care. From the standpoint of mental health, though, these persons and their families often lack adequate support. The future “care service” is intended to bridge this gap. The regional Lung Leagues are currently working on pilot projects in German- and French-speaking Switzerland. The fund is supposed to finance these projects at least in part.

Longer or even infinite limitation periods are not per se a guarantee that compensation will be awarded eventually. However, they certainly create legal uncertainty. Compensation will only be awarded if there is evident liability. Producing evidence more than 20 years after an event is expensive and may not lead to success. Granting protection through long limitation periods is therefore illusory. Victims of long-term damages must be helped in some other, more straightforward way, which means that the compensation fund for asbestos victims (see above) is the right way forward.

The SIA works to ensure the introduction of an internationally adequate 20-year limitation period for personal injuries and to abolish any transitional provisions. In exchange, the association supports the compensation fund for asbestos victims (EFA/FIVA).

## FINMA circular: second revision package

The revised Insurance Oversight Ordinance (AVO/OS) came into force on 1 July 2015, triggering amendments of numerous circulars issued by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA. An extensive revision package (with ten circulars having been revised and two circulars newly drafted) underwent consultation in summer 2015. All of these circulars came into force on 1 January 2016. At the time of the 2015 consultation, it was already known that there would be a second revision package in 2016.

The corresponding consultation process was initiated by FINMA on 31 May 2016. It concerned one new draft plus three totally revised circulars. The SIA reacted by drafting four statements of position which were submitted to FINMA in a timely fashion by 12 July 2016. The German and French wording can be found on the SIA web page under [www.svv.ch/de/politik-und-recht/vernehmlassungen](http://www.svv.ch/de/politik-und-recht/vernehmlassungen) or [www.svv.ch/fr/politique-et-juridique/consultations](http://www.svv.ch/fr/politique-et-juridique/consultations)

The second revision package contained far fewer circulars than the first; however, it addressed topics of extraordinary importance, including business plans for insurance companies, corporate governance, the Swiss Solvency Test and the responsible actuary.

The one newly drafted FINMA circular “Business plans – insurers” substantiates the legal requirements that specify how to apply for a license and how to submit an approvable business plan. Although the circular is new, it draws from various existing guidelines and explanations. In its position statement, the SIA made numerous comments and proposals for rewording, in general, of details.

The totally revised version of the circular “Corporate governance – insurers” defines corporate governance principles for the organisation, management and control of insurance companies. Risk management and the Internal Control Systems (ICS) have also been (re-)defined. Furthermore, the circular contains provisions on the composition and organisation of the board of directors, the number of members and their independence. The revised version now contains various rules and regulations that entail additional obligations for the insurers supervised by FINMA. In the view of the SIA, these various standards often lack an adequate legal basis. The implementation of the circular will entail additional corporate governance efforts.

The totally revised FINMA circular “SST” makes various fundamental changes. The SIA is of the opinion that these changes clearly exceed the requirements made by the partial AVO/OS revision and also massively impact the supervisory practice with regard to the SST. The SIA namely opposed the implementation of a stringent run-off principle – unfortunately without success. Implementation has been carried out before any quantitative and qualitative analysis had been undertaken. The models currently in existence cannot be used to analyse the impact of the SST circular as it involves fundamental changes of the current practice. The circular also refrains from any clear statement of the criteria henceforth used by FINMA to examine and grant or refuse internal models.

The publication of the new circular and the three revised versions had been deferred by FINMA until 15 December 2016. A fortnight later, on 1 January 2017, they were already in force. In its German-language consultation report, FINMA remarked that “on the whole, participants’ reactions were positive.” However, the supervisor has refrained from paying heed to most of the SIA’s concerns and proposals.



# Gender Equality Act: Let's keep bureaucracy at bay

Spring 2016 saw the consultation on the revision of the Swiss Federal Act on Gender Equality (Gender Equality Act, GEA). The draft requires enterprises to carry out four-yearly salary studies based on a recognised method, following which proper application of the method is to be verified externally. Moreover, the supervisory instances would be required make a report on the analysis and provide the management of the controlled company with a copy.

The Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police's (FDJP) explanatory report dated 12 October 2016 lists 51 of a total of 112 participants in the consultation as favourable to the Federal Council's draft proposal, among whom are 10 cantons, 2 political parties, the Swiss Commercial Employees Association (Kfmv Schweiz), many women's committees and various labour organisations. For many of those in favour, the draft does not go far enough. They ask for sanctions in cases of salary discrimination and for a stronger involvement of the social partners. A total of 57 participants opposed the draft altogether: 13 cantons, 4 political parties,

and 40 industry associations/employer organisations. All opponents do not see a pressing need for state regulation in this context.

The SIA has clearly distanced itself from the draft and worked in this sense with the Swiss Employers Confederation. For years, various SIA members have compiled salary structure statistics without any evidence of gender-based salary discrimination. One company even went as far as to participate in the login pilot test of the Federal Administration in order to prove this point. The proposal would add another useless regulation to the Swiss economic framework. The corresponding administrative effort and costs would certainly not be beneficial to the Swiss economy. Any responsible company will have taken corrective action against gender-specific salary discrimination a long time ago.

What specific conclusions will be drawn from the consultation results by the FDJP and the Federal Council remains to be seen.

# Mortgage lending: FINMA recognises state-of-the-art procedure

At the demand of the SIA's investment committee, FINMA reviewed its recognition practise for fiduciary-managed registered mortgage deeds in autumn 2016. The supervisory authority agreed to adapt it.

For some time, SIX Swiss Exchange has been offering various electronic services in connection with mortgage loans and real estate transactions, such as access to land register data, and transaction settlement and fiduciary management services for registered mortgage deeds. However, not all of these services were available to insurance companies. Such fiduciary-managed deeds were not allowed as part of the tied assets.

In autumn 2016, FINMA approved a request by the SIA: SIX reacted by adapting its processes and contractual bases for the fiduciary and electronic management of registered mortgage deeds to the insurance companies' needs. From 2017 onward, insurers now may treat the value of such deeds as tied assets.

# Changes in the international tax area

## Automatic Exchange of Information (AEI)

Switzerland will start to automatically exchange information (for 2017) in 2018. The corresponding laws (Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance, MCAA, AEI Law and AEI Ordinance) entered into force on 1 January 2017.

A constructive dialogue with the State Secretariat for International Financial Affairs (SIF) – in the phase preceding the ordinance consultation process – obviated the need for any amendments.

Intensified cooperation with the Swiss Federal Tax Administration (FTA) on the AEI Guidance led to a draft publication in 2016 and to the publication of the final version in January 2017.

## Country-by-Country Reporting (CBCR)

The new country-by-country reports to be exchanged will show where in the world multinational companies earn their revenues and how much tax they pay in those and other countries. In addition, the reports will list their main economic activities. Every year, CBCRs will be sent automatically to the Tax Authorities of those countries in which said companies have business units, if the recipient countries have signed the relevant treaty.

In the 2016 consultation process, the SIA stated its position regarding MCAA and the MCAA Act. If the MCAA and its Act enter into force in 2017, companies will have to create their first CBCRs for the fiscal year 2018. The FTA will transmit these reports in 2020. Companies may choose to prepare and submit CBCRs for prior years which will then also be transmitted.

# Changes in the national tax area

## Third series of corporate tax reforms (CTR III)

The Swiss special tax regimes need to be abolished; otherwise, the consequences for Switzerland will be dire and lead to isolation in various areas. Switzerland would become considerably less attractive as a location and numerous employment opportunities would be lost.

Following the abolition of the special tax regimes, the intention of the CTR III compensation measures was to prevent the exodus of mobile international companies and ensure that the remaining Swiss companies and private taxpayers in Switzerland would not be called upon to compensate for tax revenue losses. The benefits for the insurance industry would most probably be few, if any. Nevertheless, they have been expressly supported in the SIA's contribution to the consultation process.

## Withholding tax

Most corporate bonds are held by institutional investors. In order to avoid being charged with Swiss withholding taxes, these investors tend to prefer investments in foreign capital markets. Swiss corporations issue bonds and money market instruments through Non-Swiss structures, generating value and creating jobs abroad. As a result, the Swiss capital markets are weakened and Swiss companies have to bear additional expenses, costs and disadvantages compared to their international peers. Legal uncertainty is mounting. Rules and regulations impede companies from using foreign capital markets. The introduction of the paying agency system was intended as a countermeasure against these handicaps. However, the result of the consultation process on the withholding tax reform was negative, and the reform has been postponed.

On the other hand, the withholding tax exemption for bank capital instruments has been broadened and extended as of 1 January 2018. Banks and insurers alike are subject to a strict solvency regime with corresponding regulatory capital adequacy requirements. The SIA has been working in favour of a withholding tax exemption in respect of capital instruments issued by insurers.

In 2016 the Federal Council created an expert panel on withholding tax reform. The SIA is part of this panel. However, the panel currently is in suspension until the vote on the popular initiative “Yes to the protection of privacy” has been held.

This is the background to the consultation procedure on the proposed amendment to the withholding tax Ordinance which could be implemented in the short term. Intra-group funding is a typical activity of a group’s foreign subsidiaries and is endangered by the new BEPS regulations. Swiss corporations are expected to shift additional tasks to their Non-Swiss subsidiaries and also relocate attractive jobs and functions, not to mention their headquarters, abroad. The proposed amendment is effective as of 1 April 2017; it represents an improvement as far as the intra-group funding of Swiss corporations is concerned.

However, the SIA herewith intends to state unambiguously that the withholding tax reform cannot be achieved by merely amending the Withholding Tax Ordinance. The reform itself must be advanced quickly. Moreover, the SIA is convinced that Switzerland’s current problems cannot be solved by a mere change from a debtor principle to a paying agency principle. Abolishing the withholding tax on bonds and money market instruments would be far more practical, pragmatic, easier and cost-effective. In the aftermath of the AEI and FATCA, the security function of the Swiss withholding tax has become all but obsolete as far as Non-Swiss investors are concerned. As far as Swiss investors are concerned, the security purpose has to be presented in the right light and linked to the negative consequences of the withholding tax, the loss of Switzerland’s appeal as a company location and the weakness of the Swiss capital markets.

**Tax issues 2016 – consultations and statements of position**

Consultation on the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports and the Federal Act on the International Automatic Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports of Multinationals, 12 July 2016

Consultation on the AEI Ordinance, 9 September 2016

Consultation on changes to the Withholding Tax Ordinance (group financing), 23 December 2016

Statement of position – circular no. 24, 28 June 2016

Statement of position – Finance Department of the Canton of Zurich, 28 June 2016

Statement of position – OECD BEPS Action 4 – approaches to address BEPPS involving interest in the banking and insurance sectors, 8 September 2016  
Statement of position – circular no. 24, 16 September 2016

Statements of position – withholding tax reform

Statements of position – change of the FATCA model

Statements of position – AEI

Statements of position – partial revision of the VAT Act (15.025)

Statements of position – parliamentary initiative “The gradual abolition of stamp duty will create jobs” (09.503)

Statements of position – revision of the withholding tax on earned income (14.093)

Circular – withholding taxes

Circular – fact sheet insurers, Canton of Zurich

# Financial Services Act: Not applicable to the insurance industry

In 2016, the Council of States, in its role as premier legislative body, debated the Financial Services Act (FIDLEG/LSFin) and the Financial Institutions Act (FINIG/LEFin): Following its hearings on 25 January and 16 February 2016, the Council of States’ advisory body (Economic Affairs and Taxation Committee, WAK-S) examined the draft in detail and, in its sessions on the 13th and 14th of October 2016, ruled as follows on the insurance industry:

“1. The scope of article 2 FIDLEG/LSFin does not apply to insurers. If the insurance industry is to be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the FIDLEG/LSFin, Insurance Supervision Act (VAG) is to be amended accordingly; these adjustments shall be part of the current revision of the VAG (new insurance reorganisation law etc.) which the Federal Council is expected to submit to parliament in 2017 or 2018. Herewith, the commission grants the insurance industry’s wish for regulations to be incorporated into the insurance-specific acts and avoid additional legal interfaces instead of drafting yet another law.”

## Revision of the Federal Act on Insurance Contracts

The formal consultation on the revised wording of the Federal Act on Insurance Contracts (VVG/LCA) lasted from 6 July to 27 October 2016. The SIA’s position paper was submitted on 27 October 2016 (cf. [www.svv.ch](http://www.svv.ch)). The association is in favour of a revision in line with the parliament’s mandate as a response to legitimate concerns of the insured parties (right of cancellation, right of termination, limitation period). Going well beyond the parliamentary referral decision, the draft (VE-VVG) dated 6 July 2016 practically amounts to a total revision of the Act,

- calling into question about three quarters of the existing text. In its current version, the VVG/LCA counts 104 articles, while the revised draft contains some 80 changes (these also include systematic changes which intervene in substantive law).
- Numerous wordings of the draft either do not correspond to the referral decision (such as mandatory liability provisions after contract expiration, a prohibition against modifying general conditions of insurance, a direct right

The Council of States followed the commission’s reasoning, a vast majority of representatives therefore agreed to this proposal on 14 December 2016 and exempted the insurance industry from the scope of the FIDLEG/LSFin. Potential new regulations shall be discussed in the context of the future VAG revision.

The SIA welcomes this decision by the Council of States. The association is convinced that any points not yet regulated should definitely be covered through the existing industry-specific laws (VAG/VV). The SIA will actively follow the 2017 FIDLEG/LSFin debate in the national council.

to claim in liability insurance or a prohibition against cancelling supplementary health insurance contracts) or are in opposition to this decision (which calls for a lean partial revision without any changes to the wordings of the partial revision 2006/2007).

The SIA pronounces itself in favour of implementing the exact specifications as set out in the parliamentary referral decision. The association opposes any changes that would amount to a virtual total revision of the Act. In its referral decision, the Swiss parliament has set out clear instructions for a lean partial revision: “The (additional) partial revision of the VVG/LCA shall be limited to essential modifications on the basis of existing legislation.”

The corresponding message of the Federal Council remains to be seen. It should be published in summer 2017.



## Cicero: Successful campaign launch

“Cicero goes public”: The time has come to raise the public profile of Cicero – the insurance industry’s label for competent advice – namely among (future) policyholders. The parliamentary debate about the draft Financial Services Act (FIDLEG/LSFin) is an ideal trigger for launching the next Cicero campaign. In April 2016, the SIA board adopted the draft for a nationwide trilingual campaign over the next three years that intends to rapidly increase public knowledge and position Cicero as a label that guarantees competent insurance advice. Ideally, customers will actively look out for the Cicero label and ask for advisors to be certified. The campaign is based on three pillars:

- Cicero TV spot and publicity video clip to be used for online communication.
- Adaptation of the Cicero website and implementation of an advisory check
- ComToolbox as a service for industry organisations

The campaign was launched on 7 November 2016. The spot ran for four weeks on various channels in all three linguistic regions of Switzerland. At the same time, the video was shown on the usual channels and networks such as YouTube or comparis. 77% of the target group have seen the spot. On average, they called it up some 7.1 times. On YouTube, the video received over 300,000 clicks (all three languages together). Moreover, the trust and interest of Cicero members has demonstrably increased. Insurance advisors want to be found via the advisory checklist on [www.cicero.ch](http://www.cicero.ch)

Cicero will contribute to strengthening the customers’ trust in insurance advice. The second airing of the Cicero TV spot is planned for mid-2017; it will be accompanied by a web campaign.

## “Insurance – interesting to young professionals”

In 2016, the SIA Education Unit focused on the lack of young professionals in insurance. Several studies on demographic change have shown that the insurance industry will face a decided lack of future professionals from 2018/19 onwards. Various industries are currently deploying ever more substantial recruitment campaigns. The immediate action required to attract future professionals is obvious: The insurance industry must be positioned attractively; the corresponding measures need to be developed. In the past, general image campaigns did little to achieve this objective due to the competitive environment. The SIA unit came to the conclusion that the SIA needs a holistic strategy in order to bundle its actions and achieve a sustainable effect.

The SIA’s measures are based on the catchy meme that the insurance industry is “home to 100 professions” and therefore presents an extraordinary choice of apprenticeships and professional trainings. Measures are targeted to students, collegiate and academics as well as parents, teachers and Career Information Centres.

The SIA board has agreed to the concept and mandated the Education Unit to proactively address the issue and work towards attracting sought-after future insurance professionals. The first step consists of adding a list of apprenticeship positions to the existing platform startsmart.tv and link it to the apprenticeship portals.

## International developments: Consumer protection, supervisory issues and trade barriers

Numerous major international insurance groups as well as some 90% of the Swiss reinsurers are members of the SIA. Therefore, international developments have a significant impact on the association’s activities. On the international level, the SIA actively represents their interests in Insurance Europe and in the Global Federation of Insurance Associations GFIA. Working groups set up by the Federal government and contacts with international institutions such as the OECD, G20 etc. are another means of exerting some influence.

In 2016, consumer protection turned out to be at the very top of the agenda. The provisions for the implementation of the EU regulation on key information documents for packaged retail and insurance-based investment products (PRIIPs) turned out to be uncompliant with the law as well as overly detailed. Intense lobbying by Insurance Europe led the European parliament to refuse the EU Commission’s revision proposals. Insurance Europe also intensively worked on the wording of the Insurance Distribution Directive (IDD) in order to avoid emerging overregulation. Generally, Insurance Europe favours consumer protection that takes the real wishes and needs of the consumers into account, as the association stated at its annual general meeting 2016. This means transparency, easily understandable language, demand-oriented products and competent advice. Excessive regulation and the corresponding additional costs are not in favour with the consumers.

Furthermore, the representatives of the insurance industry devoted their energies to insurance supervision and especially to solvency regimes. On the European level, the main issue consisted of the implementation of the Solvency II regulations that came into force in 2016. Fears of an uneven implementation in the various EU member states were great – and turned out not to be unjustified. Competition is thus distorted, putting countries such as Switzerland with its more stringent SST standards at a disadvantage. International capital standards also triggered numerous debates in 2016. Positions turned out to be so diverse as to render implementation by January 2019 impossible. The chasm is especially great between Europe and the US. It is the conviction of Insurance Europe as well as the SIA, that international capital standards should by no means exceed the requirements made by Solvency II and the SST.

Isolationism and egotism were the main characteristics of 2016 politics, especially in economics. Consequently, insurance markets were sealed off in various countries. The GFIA therefore chose to try and prevent this from happening by lobbying at the G20 and/or the WTO. It also tried to minimise existing barriers and influence free trade agreements. The UK’s Pro-Brexit vote made a special impact on economic policies. London’s importance as a major financial centre means that Brexit will mark the insurance industry in the EU as well as in Switzerland. Any legal uncertainties caused by Brexit must be resolved as quickly as possible.

Both Insurance Europe and the GFIA also maintained their societal and socio-political roles in the year under review. Special consideration was given to climate protection. Within its abilities, the insurance industry intends to support the decisions of the Paris Climate Change Conference, namely in the area of investment. Both the “aging society” and the correlated search for adequate old-age provisions and the efforts to further “financial inclusion” and offer access to insurance for all individuals and enterprises alike, were further topics of importance to the insurance industry.

## Public Affairs: goal-oriented representation of interests

By representing the interests of the insurance industry in a proactive and goal-oriented fashion, the SIA ensures that the economic framework is maintained and extended. It focuses on early and continuous cooperation with the Federal Government inasmuch as draft legislation is concerned. Here, the SIA works with representatives at all levels including the heads of the various departments. In addition, coordinating the individual dossiers with our partners in business and politics remains a key SIA activity. In 2016, leadership meetings with all political parties were conducted by the SIA chairman and served to strengthen the highest level political contacts made during the year. The consistent statements of the industry and the commitment of the SIA Board members to engage with Bern have been recognised and appreciated.

### Multifaceted regional presence

The SIA has revised the topics for its two annual parliamentary meetings in the summer and winter sessions by choosing a future-oriented topic and treating it as parallel to the current political issues. In 2016 the SIA chose digitisation in the global sense of the term as its topic. The conference cycle in French-speaking Switzerland – a quarterly training session for SIA members with Cicero accreditation – was also dedicated to this topic.

Two SIA events in French- and Italian-speaking Switzerland focused on cyber risks. In Lausanne, some 70 insurers, all habitués of the SIA conference cycle, were invited to reflect on “insuring the virtual part of our lives.” They were asked to reflect as well on concrete questions such as the insurability of cyber risks and the role of cyber insurance in the context of cyber-crimes. In Lugano, members of the local chamber of commerce dedicated themselves to the hows and whys of defence against cyber-attacks.

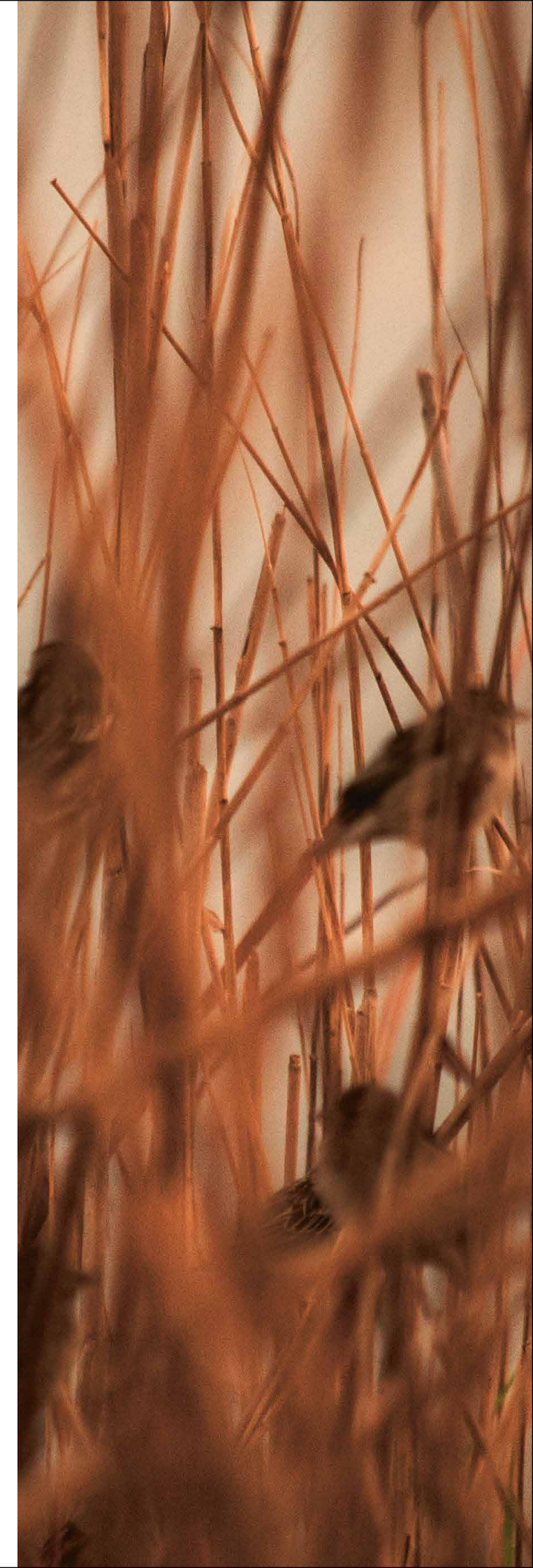
Consequently, the agenda for the parliamentary meeting during the summer session focused on the 4th industrial revolution, i. e. digitisation. Many members of parliament had chosen to attend and discuss the potential offered by digitisation to the insurance industry and the expectations of the public – primarily in health-care – as to solidarity and new technologies. The impressive number of cyber-attacks and the correlated costs highlight the vulnerability of large parts of the economy, including the insurance industry. For the latter, this might also be a new market, but the question of insurability has not been resolved as yet.

In autumn, the forum in French-speaking Switzerland addressed the importance of the digital value chain and the role of the insurers. Creating a digital value chain means that data volumes and, consequently, storage capacity will be boosted. This begs the question of how this data will be used and whether it's necessary and desirable to extend the existing privacy regulations beyond the merely personal sphere. The ensuing discussions concentrated on the downside of digital interconnection, a major risk for which most companies take out insurance as a means of protection. A worldwide study by Swiss Re shows that 56% of the population (Switzerland: 55%) are willing to take out insurance against cyber risks.

To mark the end of the year, the SIA organised its second parliamentary meeting under the title “Data, the gold of the future.” Data protection regulations in Europe and in Switzerland were among the central topics of the meeting. The European Union and the Council of Europe have assumed leadership in this area. Switzerland is obliged to adapt to a certain number of their standards in order to maintain equivalence and avoid disadvantaging its economy and its trade relationships with the countries of Europe. The issue inevitably emerges in the Swiss political agenda, and it soon became clear to all participants that the EU is trending in a certain direction. The SIA is of the opinion that Switzerland must safeguard its flexibility and make good use of it. Switzerland has to maintain a legal framework that does not block entrepreneurial innovation and activity.

### The SIA in Ticino

The SIA has intensified its activities in French- and Italian-speaking Switzerland with especial success in Ticino. A working group composed of SIA members has defined the main needs of the insurance industry in Italian-speaking Switzerland. Positioning the industry as an economic, financial and social actor is a priority, as are recruiting and promoting young talent and supporting the insurance professions. The annual “Long Night of Careers” motivated four insurers under the aegis of the SIA to cooperate and give young people insight into the insurance industry. As to the positioning of our industry, discussions with the economic actors and the Governing Council of the Canton Ticino have clearly shown that the SIA is in need of an official local representation. At the end of 2016 the decision was made to create a Ticino section of the SIA which represents the interests of the local insurance industry and serves as the SIA voice for Italian-speaking Switzerland.







## The Swiss Insurance Association

*The SIA contributes to informed political opinion by actively proposing practical solutions. It is a fair and reliable partner and a committed member of various Swiss and international associations and organisations.*



# The Swiss Insurance Association (SIA) in brief

The Swiss Insurance Association SIA is the umbrella organisation that represents the private insurance industry. The SIA's membership consists of over 80 small and large, national and international primary insurers and reinsurers with over 50,000 employees in Switzerland. SIA member companies account for over 90% of private insurance premiums generated in the Swiss market.

## Commitment to an economically viable framework

Swiss private insurers are of vital economic importance. They assume and cover companies' and private individuals' financial risks. The SIA is committed to ensuring an economically viable framework for these activities. It works to maintain and promote a liberal and socially acceptable market and competitive system. The association is mainly active in the following areas:

- social security (occupational pensions, life insurance, medical insurance, accident insurance)
- insurance law and supervision
- competition and regulation
- economic and fiscal policy
- climate and environment protection
- health promotion activities
- education and training

The SIA promotes trust and confidence in the insurance industry by pursuing an active communications policy. It creates value for its members by transferring know-how, arranging joint events and exchanging industry-specific information. It also provides comprehensive, targeted training modules for beginners and advanced professionals and strives for loss prevention through a variety of measures.

## National and international representation of industry interests

The SIA forms political opinion by actively proposing practical solutions based on jointly prepared positions that enjoy broad support. In doing so, it aims to help shape and set realistic parameters and to standardise and simplify the laws and standards that make private insurance solutions possible.

The SIA is viewed as a fair and reliable partner by policymakers, authorities, associations, the media and the general public alike. It plays an active part in national and international political and private committees and organisations. The SIA sets great store by the regular exchange of views and information and, if expedient, the creation of alliances with all its partners.

The SIA is a member of national and international associations and organisations. Representing the Swiss insurance industry and promoting the interests of its members, the SIA maintains an active dialogue with, among others, *economiesuisse*, the Swiss Employers' Association and the European insurance and reinsurance federation (Insurance Europe).

## Balanced combination of voluntary bodies and head office

The SIA's activities are carried out via a balanced combination of voluntary bodies and a professional, full-time head office. Representatives of the member companies sit on its committees and permanent commissions, providing the benefit of their expertise and managerial and practical experience, and deciding on relevant issues. It is this active commitment that enables the association to work efficiently and professionally in furtherance of the entire insurance industry.

The head office acts as a centre of excellence and hub to ensure the smooth functioning of the association. It maintains an early warning system for upcoming issues, launches activities and fosters contact and relations. The association's representation to external parties is performed jointly by the voluntary bodies and the head office. The SIA is financed by contributions from its member companies.

## The Swiss Insurance Association has 78 members (as of 1 January 2017)

### Life insurance companies

**Allianz Suisse Lebensversicherungs-Gesellschaft AG**  
Richtiplatz 1  
8304 Wallisellen  
www.allianz-suisse.ch

**Aspecta Assurance International AG**  
Austrasse 14  
9495 FL-Triesen  
www.aspecta.li

**AXA Leben AG**  
General-Guisan-Strasse 40  
8401 Winterthur  
www.axa.ch

**Basler Leben AG**  
Aeschengraben 21  
4002 Basel  
www.baloise.ch

**CCAP Caisse Cantonale d'Assurance Populaire**  
Rue de la Balance 4  
2001 Neuchâtel  
www.ccap.ch

**Elips Life AG**  
Thurgauerstrasse 54  
8050 Zurich  
www.elipslife.com

**Generali Personenversicherungen AG**  
Soodmattenstrasse 10  
8134 Adliswil  
www.generali.ch

**Groupe Mutuel Vie SA**  
Rue des Cèdres 5  
1920 Martigny  
www.groupe-mutuel.ch

**Helvetia Schweizerische Lebensversicherungsgesellschaft AG**  
St. Alban-Anlage 26  
4002 Basel  
www.helvetia.ch

**Império Assurances**  
Niederlassung Lausanne  
Avenue du Léman 23  
1005 Lausanne  
www.imperio.ch

**PAX Schweizerische Lebensversicherungs-Gesellschaft AG**  
Aeschenplatz 13  
4002 Basel  
www.pax.ch

**Rentes Genevoises**  
Place du Molard 11  
1211 Genève 3  
www.rentesgenevoises.ch

**Retraites Populaires**  
Rue Caroline 9  
1001 Lausanne  
www.retraitespopulaires.ch

**Schweizerische Mobiliar Lebensversicherungs-Gesellschaft AG**  
Chemin de la Redoute 54  
1260 Nyon  
www.mobiliar.ch

**Skandia Leben AG**  
Birmensdorferstrasse 108  
8036 Zurich  
www.skandia.ch

**Swiss Life AG**  
General-Guisan-Quai 40  
8022 Zurich  
www.swisslife.ch

**Vaudoise Vie, Compagnie d'Assurances SA**  
Place de Milan  
1001 Lausanne  
www.vaudoise.ch

**Versicherung der Schweizer Ärzte Genossenschaft**  
Länggassstrasse 8  
3000 Bern 9  
www.va-genossenschaft.ch

**Zürich Lebensversicherungsgesellschaft AG**  
Hagenholzstrasse 60  
8050 Zurich  
www.zurich.ch

### Health insurers

**Agrisano Versicherungen AG**  
Laurstrasse 10  
5201 Brugg  
www.agrisano.ch

**Assura SA**  
Avenue C.-F. Ramuz 70  
1009 Pully  
www.assura.ch

**CSS Versicherung AG**  
Tribtschenstrasse 21  
6002 Luzern  
www.css.ch

**Groupe Mutuel Assurances SA**  
Rue des Cèdres 5  
1920 Martigny  
www.groupe-mutuel.ch

**Helsana Versicherungen AG**  
Zürichstrasse 130  
8600 Dübendorf  
www.helsana.ch

**KPT Versicherungen AG**  
Tellstrasse 18  
3014 Bern  
www.kpt.ch

**Sanitas Privatversicherungen AG**  
Jägergasse 3  
8021 Zurich  
www.sanitas.com

**Swica Krankenversicherung AG**  
Römerstrasse 38  
8401 Winterthur  
www.swica.ch

### Property and casualty insurance companies

**ACE Limited**  
Zweigniederlassung Zurich  
Bären-gasse 32  
8001 Zurich  
www.aceeurope.ch

**AIG Europe Limited**  
Zweigniederlassung Opfikon  
Sägereistrasse 29  
8152 Glattbrugg  
www.aig.com

**Allianz Suisse Versicherungs-Gesellschaft AG**  
Richtiplatz 1  
8304 Wallisellen  
www.allianz-suisse.ch

**Appenzeller Versicherungen Genossenschaft**  
Eggerstandenstrasse 2a  
9050 Appenzell  
www.appvers.ch

**Aspen Insurance**  
Zweigniederlassung Zurich  
Sihlstrasse 38  
8001 Zurich  
www.aspen-insurance.com

**Assista Protection Juridique SA**  
Chemin de Blandonnet 4  
1214 Vernier  
www.assista.ch

**AXA Versicherungen AG**  
General-Guisan-Strasse 40  
8401 Winterthur  
www.axa.ch

**Basler Versicherung AG**  
Aeschengraben 21  
4002 Basel  
www.baloise.ch

**CAP Rechtsschutz-Versicherungsgesellschaft AG**  
P.O. Box  
8010 Zurich  
www.cap.ch

**Cardif Versicherung**  
Zweigniederlassung Zurich  
Bleicherweg 66  
8027 Zurich  
www.cardif.ch

**Chubb Insurance Company of Europe SE**  
Zweigniederlassung Zurich  
Zollikerstrasse 141  
8034 Zurich  
www.chubb.com

**Chubb Versicherungen (Schweiz) AG**  
Bären-gasse 32  
8001 Zurich  
www.chubb.ch

**Coop Rechtsschutz AG**  
Entfelderstrasse 2  
5001 Aarau  
www.cooprecht.ch



**DAS Rechtsschutz (Schweiz)**  
Route de Pallatex 7a  
1163 Etoy  
www.das.ch

**Emmental Versicherung**  
Emmentalstrasse 23  
3510 Konolfingen  
www.emmental-versicherung.ch

**Epona Tierversicherung**  
Av. de Béthusy 54  
1000 Lausanne 12  
www.epona.ch

**Ergo Versicherung AG**  
Zweigniederlassung 14  
8008 Zurich  
www.ergo-industrial.ch

**Europäische Reiseversicherungs AG**  
Margarethenstrasse 38  
4002 Basel  
www.erv.ch

**Firstcaution SA**  
Avenue Edouard-Rod 4  
1260 Nyon  
www.firstcaution.ch

**Fortuna Rechtsschutz-Versicherungs-Gesellschaft AG**  
Soodmattenstrasse 2  
8134 Adliswil  
www.general.ch

**Generali Assurances Générales SA**  
Avenue Perdtemps 23  
1260 Nyon 1  
www.general.ch

**Genworth Financial**  
Bändliweg 20  
8064 Zurich  
www.genworth.com

**GVB Privatversicherungen AG**  
Papiermühlestrasse 130  
3063 Ittingen  
www.gvb.ch

**HDI-Gerling Industrie Versicherung AG**  
Niederlassung Zurich  
Dufourstrasse 46  
8008 Zurich  
www.hdi-gerling.ch

**Helvetia Schweizerische Versicherungsgesellschaft AG**  
Dufourstrasse 40  
9001 St. Gallen  
www.helvetia.ch

**HOTELA Assurances SA**  
Rue de la Gare 18  
1820 Montreux  
www.hotela.ch

**Liberty Speciality Markets**  
Zweigniederlassung Zurich  
Lintheschergasse 23  
8001 Zurich  
www.libertyspecialitymarkets.com

**Branchen Versicherung Schweiz**  
Sihlquai 255  
8031 Zurich  
www.branchenversicherung.ch

**Orion Rechtsschutz-Versicherung AG**  
Aeschenvorstadt 50  
4051 Basel  
www.orion.ch

**Protekta Rechtsschutz-Versicherung AG**  
Monbijoustrasse 68  
3001 Bern  
www.protekta.ch

**Schweizerische Hagel-Versicherungs-Gesellschaft, Genossenschaft**  
Seilergraben 61  
8021 Zurich  
www.hagel.ch

**Schweizerische Mobiliar Versicherungsgesellschaft AG**  
Bundesgasse 35  
3001 Bern  
www.mobiliar.ch

**smile.direct versicherungen**  
Hertistrasse 25  
8304 Wallisellen  
www.smile-direct.ch

**TSM Compagnie d'Assurances**  
Rue Jaquet-Droz 41  
2301 La Chaux-de-Fonds  
www.tsm.ch

**Uniqa Assurances SA**  
Rue des Eaux-Vives 94  
1211 Genève 6  
www.uniqa.ch

**Vaudoise Générale, Compagnie d'Assurances SA**  
Place de Milan  
1001 Lausanne  
www.vaudoise.ch

**XL Insurance Switzerland Ltd**  
Limmatstrasse 250  
8031 Zurich  
www.xlinsurance.com

**Zürich Versicherungs-Gesellschaft AG**  
Hagenholzstrasse 60  
8050 Zurich  
www.zurich.com

Reinsurance companies

**Amlin AG**  
Kirchenweg 5  
8008 Zurich  
www.amlinre.ch

**Aspen Re**  
Sihlstrasse 38  
8001 Zurich  
www.aspen-re.com

**AXIS Re Europe**  
Brandschenkestrasse 90  
8002 Zurich  
www.axiscapital.com

**Catlin Re Switzerland Ltd**  
Feldeggstrasse 4  
8008 Zurich  
www.catlin.com

**DR Swiss Deutsche Rückversicherung Schweiz AG**  
Schweizergasse 21  
Am Löwenplatz  
8001 Zurich  
www.drswiss.ch

**Echo Rückversicherungs-AG**  
Brandschenkestrasse 18-20  
8001 Zurich  
www.echore.com

**New Reinsurance Company Ltd**  
Zollikerstrasse 226–228  
8008 Zurich  
www.newre.com

**PartnerRe Zurich Branch**  
Bellerivestrasse 36  
8034 Zurich  
www.partnerre.com

**Swiss Re**  
Mythenquai 50/60  
8022 Zurich  
www.swissre.com

**Scor Switzerland AG**  
General-Guisan-Quai 26  
8022 Zurich  
www.scor.com

**SIGNAL IDUNA Reinsurance Ltd**  
Bundesplatz 1  
6300 Zug  
www.sire.ch

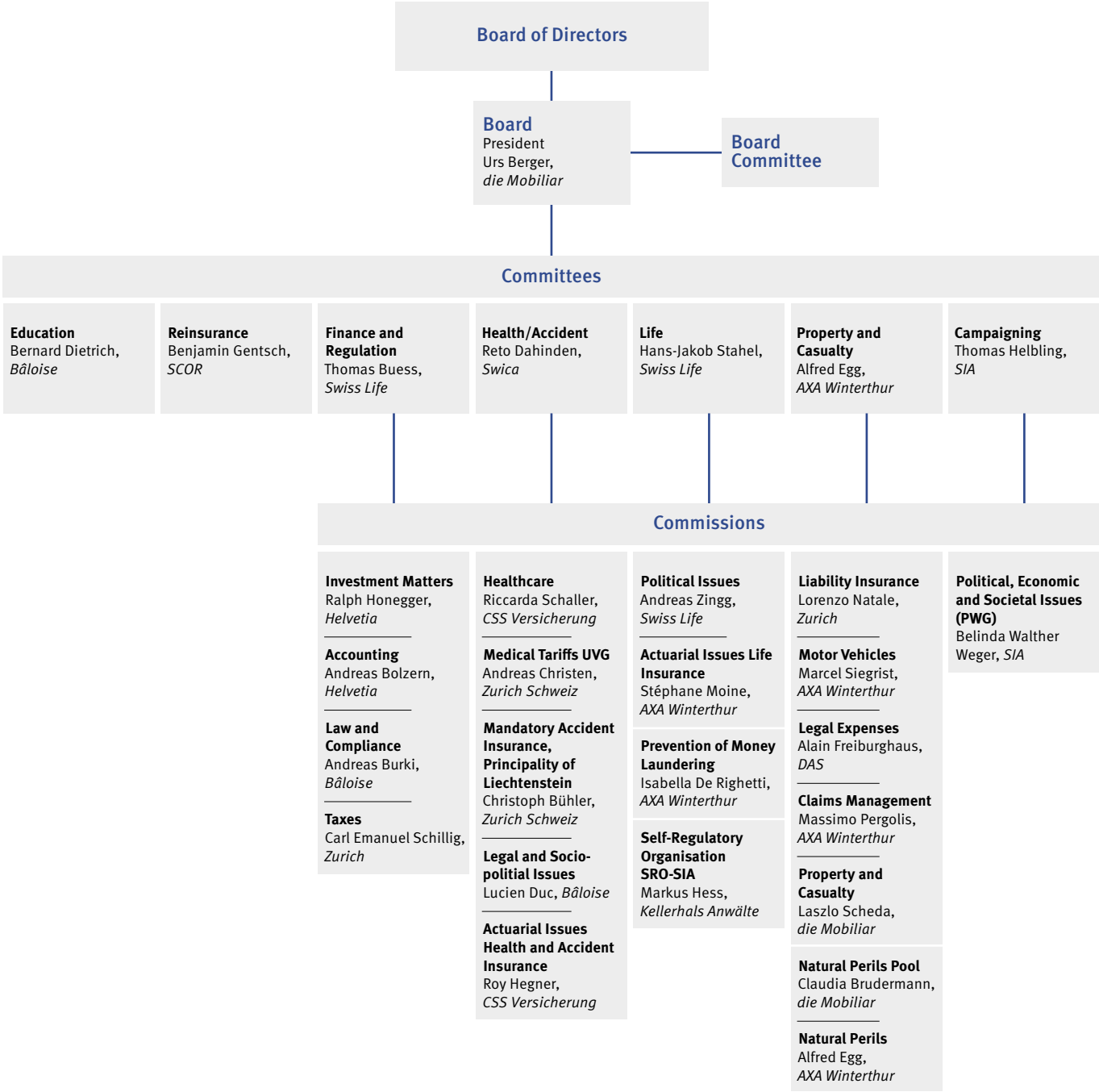
**Tokio Millennium Re AG**  
Beethovenstrasse 33  
8002 Zurich  
www.tokiomillennium.com

**TransRe Zurich Ltd**  
Sihlstrasse 38  
8001 Zurich  
www.transre.com



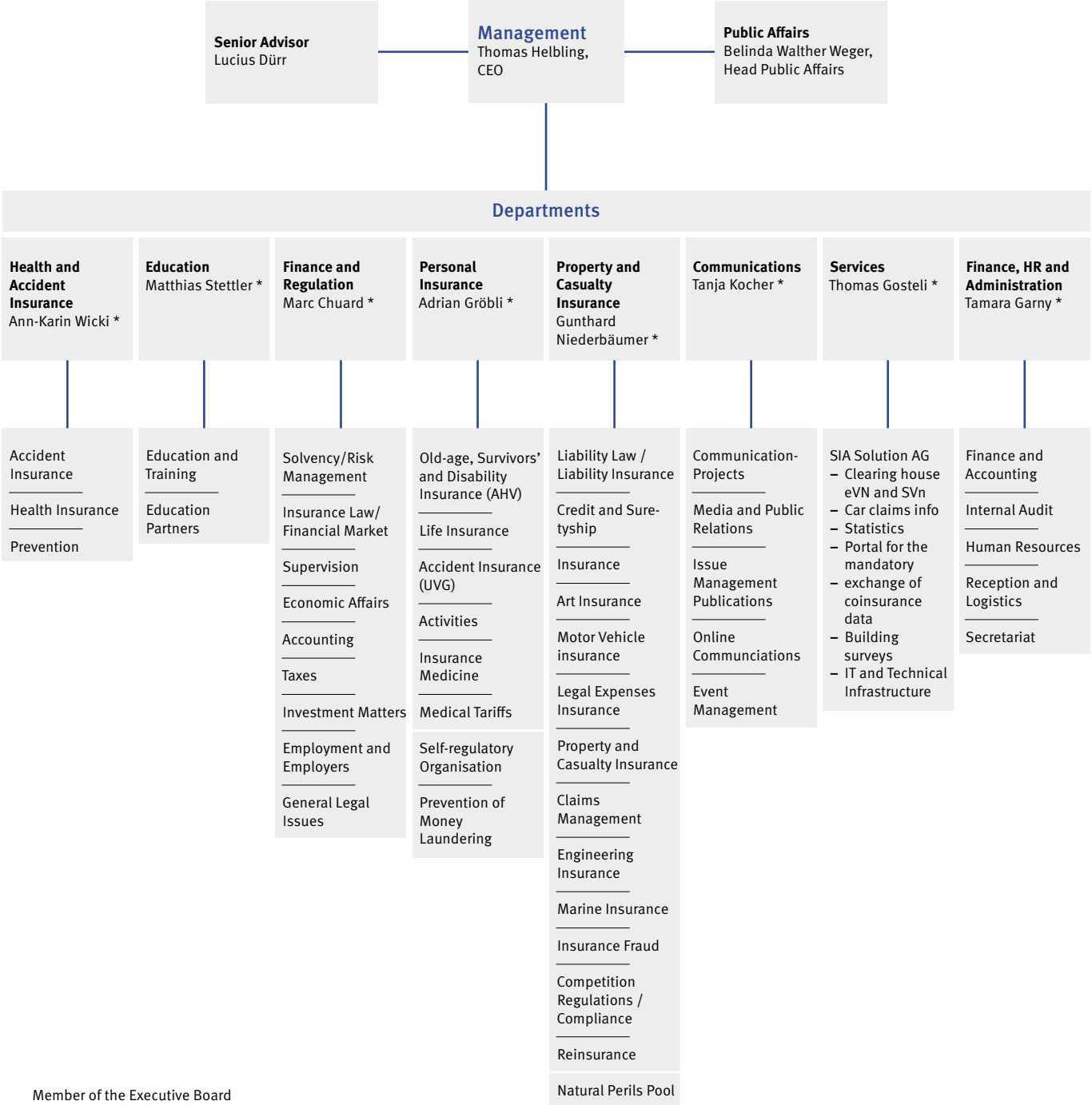


SIA committees and commissions



Details on the current SIA board can be found at [www.svv.ch](http://www.svv.ch)  
Last update 1 January 2017

Head Office



Member of the Executive Board  
The names, positions, portraits and email addresses of all SIA employees can be found at [www.svv.ch](http://www.svv.ch)  
Last update 1 January 2017



# The Swiss Insurance Association cultivates numerous national and international contacts

## Memberships

**Dachverband der Urheber- und Nachbarrechtsnutzer (DUN)**, umbrella association for the users of copyrights and related rights, [www.dun.ch](http://www.dun.ch)

**Eidgenössische Kommission für Konsumentenfragen (EKK)**, Federal Consumer Affairs Commission

**economiesuisse**, umbrella organisation representing the Swiss economy, [www.economiesuisse.ch](http://www.economiesuisse.ch)

**European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL)**, [www.ectil.org](http://www.ectil.org)

**European conference of the national institutes for professional insurance education (EIET)**, [www.eiet.org](http://www.eiet.org)

**European Financial Certification Organisation (eficert)**, [www.eficert.eu](http://www.eficert.eu)

**Forum Gesundheit Luzern**, sponsoring association of the nationwide exchange and opinion-forming platform on trends and perspectives in healthcare, [www.trendtage-gesundheit.ch](http://www.trendtage-gesundheit.ch)

**Global Federation of Insurance Associations (GFIA)**, [www.gfiainsurance.org](http://www.gfiainsurance.org)

**Insurance Europe**, European insurance and reinsurance federation, [www.insuranceeurope.eu](http://www.insuranceeurope.eu)

**International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI)**, [www.iumi.com](http://www.iumi.com)

**Winterthur Institute of Health Economics**, [www.wig.zhaw.ch](http://www.wig.zhaw.ch)

**Safety in Adventures**, foundation to improve the safety of commercially offered outdoor and adventure activities, [www.safetyinadventures.ch](http://www.safetyinadventures.ch)

**International Fiscal Association Switzerland**, [www.ifa-switzerland.ch](http://www.ifa-switzerland.ch)

**Schweizerischer Arbeitgeberverband**, umbrella organisation for employment issues, [www.arbeitgeber.ch](http://www.arbeitgeber.ch)

**Schweizerischer Gewerbeverband sgV, Swiss trade association**, [www.sgv-usam.ch](http://www.sgv-usam.ch)

**Schweizerischer Verkehrssicherheitsrat**, Swiss traffic safety council, umbrella organisation for road traffic safety, [www.vsr.ch](http://www.vsr.ch)

**Swiss Sustainable Finance**, Platform for sustainable finance, [www.sustainablefinance.ch](http://www.sustainablefinance.ch)

**SGHVR, Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Haftpflicht- und Versicherungsrecht**, Swiss association for torts and insurance law, [www.sghvr.ch](http://www.sghvr.ch)

**Vorsorgeforum**, association for the dissemination of knowledge on occupational pensions in Switzerland, [www.vorsorgeforum.ch](http://www.vorsorgeforum.ch)

## Representative offices

**Academy of Swiss Insurance Medicine (asim)**, University Hospital of Basel, [www.asim.unibas.ch](http://www.asim.unibas.ch), SIA education partner.

**avenir Suisse**, think tank for economic and social issues, [www.avenirsuisse.ch](http://www.avenirsuisse.ch). The SIA contributes to studies on Switzerland as a financial center.

**Swiss Competence Center for Accident Prevention (bfu)**, [www.bfu.ch](http://www.bfu.ch). The SIA is represented on the Council Board.

**Federal Office for Public Health FOPH**, [www.bag.admin.ch](http://www.bag.admin.ch), contact group BAG-health insurers, representing the health insurers among the SIA members.

**Compasso**, Professional integration Information portal for employers, [www.compasso.ch](http://www.compasso.ch), the SIA is represented on the board, the think tank and the advisory board.

**curafutura**, [www.curafutura.ch](http://www.curafutura.ch)

**economiesuisse**, umbrella organisation of the Swiss economy, [www.economiesuisse.ch](http://www.economiesuisse.ch). The SIA is represented in the following bodies:

- Managing Board
- Directors' Committee
- Stock corporation law working group
- Swiss-EU relations working group
- Financial Market Regulation Working Group
- Health working group
- Internet working group
- Economic affairs working group
- Value added tax working group
- Business tax working group
- Public relations association working group
- Commercial law working group
- World Trade Organization working group
- Company law panel of experts
- Consumer policy panel of experts
- Finance and Taxation Committee
- Energy and Environment Committee
- Legal Affairs Committee
- Competition Committee
- Document Retention Task Force

**Eidgenössische Kommission für die berufliche Vorsorge**, Swiss federal occupational benefit plan commission

**Federal Commission for Accident Insurance Statistics**, [www.unfallstatistik.ch](http://www.unfallstatistik.ch)

**Eidgenössische Kommission für Wirtschaftspolitik**, Swiss federal committee for economic policy Federal Coordination Commission for Occupational Safety FCOS, [www.ekas.admin.ch](http://www.ekas.admin.ch)

**“Future of the financial centre advisory board” (Brunetti group of experts)**, think tank that ensures regular exchanges on financial market strategy issues between all the main parties.

**FMH Verbindung der Schweizer Ärztinnen und Ärzte**, professional association of the Swiss medical community and umbrella organisation of cantonal and specialist physicians' societies, [www.fmh.ch](http://www.fmh.ch). The SIA is represented on the scientific advisory board of the FMH panel of experts.

**Fonds für Verkehrssicherheit FVS**, fund for traffic safety, [www.fvs.ch](http://www.fvs.ch). The SIA is represented in the panel of experts and the administrative committee.

**Institute of Insurance Economics of St Gallen University (IVW)**, [www.ivw.unisg.ch](http://www.ivw.unisg.ch). The SIA is a member of the IVW's funding entity.

**Insurance Europe**, European insurance and reinsurance federation, [www.insuranceeurope.eu](http://www.insuranceeurope.eu). The SIA is represented in the following bodies:

- Executive Committee
- General Assembly
- Economics & Finance Committee
- Conduct of Business Committee
- General Insurance Committee
- Personal Insurance Committee
- Public Affairs & Communications Committee

**Konferenz der Berufs- und höheren Fachprüfungen**, conference on examinations for the federal PET diploma and the advanced federal PET diploma “Dualstark”, [www.dualstark.ch](http://www.dualstark.ch)

**Medizinaltarif-Kommission UVG (MTK)**, [www.mtk-ctm.ch](http://www.mtk-ctm.ch), association that regulates all matters of principle in mandatory accident insurance arising from medical law and the pricing of medical insurance.

**Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, Insurance and Private Pensions Committee, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org). The SIA is represented in the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee.

**Safety in Adventures**, foundation to improve the safety of commercially offered outdoor and adventure activities, [www.safetyinadventures.ch](http://www.safetyinadventures.ch). The SIA is represented on the Council Board.

**santésuisse**, [www.santesuisse.ch](http://www.santesuisse.ch).

**SGK Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Konjunkturforschung**, [www.kof.ethz.ch/en/about-us/](http://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/about-us/) official-bodies/sgk-society/, supporting association of the Swiss Institute for Business Cycle Research of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich. The SIA is represented in the SGK.

**Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Traumatologie und Versicherungsmedizin**, Swiss society for traumatology and insurance medicine, [www.sgtv.org](http://www.sgtv.org). The SIA is represented on the society's Managing Board.

**Swiss National Bank**, [www.snb.ch](http://www.snb.ch). – The SIA is represented in the panel of experts concerning the balance of payments.

**Schweizerischer Arbeitgeberverband**, umbrella association of Swiss employers, [www.arbeitgeber.ch](http://www.arbeitgeber.ch). The SIA is represented on the following bodies:

- Managing Board
- Social policy working group
- Professional Training working group

**Schweizerisches Sicherheitsinstitut**, Swiss institute of safety and security, [www.swissi.ch](http://www.swissi.ch). The SIA is represented on the Managing Board.

**Gesundheitsförderung Schweiz**, Health Promotion Switzerland, [www.gesundheitsfoerderung.ch](http://www.gesundheitsfoerderung.ch). The SIA is represented on the Council Board.

**SIM Swiss Insurance Medicine**, Swiss community of interests for insurance medicine, [www.swiss-insurance-medicine.ch](http://www.swiss-insurance-medicine.ch). The SIA is represented on the Managing Board.

**HAVE/REAS Verein Haftung und Versicherung**, liability and insurance association, [www.have.ch](http://www.have.ch). The SIA is represented on the Editorial Committee.

## Cooperation partners

**Berufsbildungsverband der Versicherungswirtschaft (VBV)**, association for professional insurance education, [www.vbv.ch](http://www.vbv.ch), SIA education partner.

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**, [www.bafu.admin.ch](http://www.bafu.admin.ch), cooperative projects, Public Private Partnership (PPP).

**Empa Materials Science and Technology**, a research institute of the ETH Domain, [www.empa.ch](http://www.empa.ch), cooperation on nanotechnology issues.

**Institute of Insurance Economics of St Gallen University (IVW)**, [www.ivw.unisg.ch](http://www.ivw.unisg.ch), SIA education partner.

**Interkantonaler Rückversicherungsverband**, intercantonal reinsurance association, [www.irv.ch](http://www.irv.ch), cooperation on specific issues (fire protection, earthquakes).

**International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)**, [www.iaisweb.org](http://www.iaisweb.org). The SIA has observer status in the IAIS.

**Kaufmännischer Verband Schweiz (kfmv Schweiz)**, Swiss commercial employees association, social partner of the insurance industry, [www.kfmv.ch](http://www.kfmv.ch), employee representative for “Agreements on working conditions”.

**Ombudsman of private insurance and of suva**, [www.versicherungsom-budsman.ch](http://www.versicherungsom-budsman.ch), ombud office founded and funded by the SIA, which is also represented on the Council Board.

**Ombudsstelle Krankenversicherung**, Swiss health insurance ombud office, [www.om-kv.ch/](http://www.om-kv.ch/)

**scienceindustries**, Swiss business association for the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotech industries, [www.scienceindustries.ch](http://www.scienceindustries.ch), cooperation on nanotechnology issues.

**Schweizerischer Pensionskassenverband ASIP**, Swiss pension fund association, [www.asip.ch](http://www.asip.ch), contacts at various levels.

**Schweizerischer Verband der Versicherungs-Generalagenten (SVVG)**, Swiss association of general Insurance Agents, [www.svvg-fsaga.ch](http://www.svvg-fsaga.ch), SIA partner.

**Swissmem**, association of the Swiss electrical and mechanical engineering industries and associated technology-oriented sectors, [www.swissmem.ch](http://www.swissmem.ch), cooperation on nanotechnology issues.

**Vereinigung Kantonalen Feuerversicherungen**, intercantonal fire insurance association, [www.vkf.ch](http://www.vkf.ch), cooperation in specific matters (fire protection, earthquakes).

**Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)**, Centre for Risk & Insurance, [www.zri.zhaw.ch](http://www.zri.zhaw.ch), SIA education partner.

## Other partners

**Art Loss Register**, database of lost and stolen art, antiques and collectables, [www.artloss.com](http://www.artloss.com).

**Ausgleichskasse “Versicherung”**, social insurance compensation fund for the insurance industry. [www.ak81.ch](http://www.ak81.ch). The SIA appoints the Board of Directors and the delegates.

**Swiss Natural Perils Pool**, pooling of private insurance companies for better equalising the risk associated with natural disasters and the elements, [www.svv.ch/es-pool](http://www.svv.ch/es-pool)

**Familienausgleichskasse “Versicherung”**, family allowances compensation fund for the insurance industry, [www.ak81.ch](http://www.ak81.ch)

**Fonds zur Sicherung künftiger Renten**, fund to safeguard future annuities.

**IBM Research – Zurich Laboratory, Nanotechnology Center**, [www.zurich.ibm.com/nanocenter](http://www.zurich.ibm.com/nanocenter)

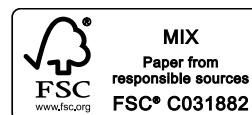
**Interessengemeinschaft Gebäudesicherheit**, community of interests in building safety and security

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Tel. +41 44 208 28 28  
Fax +41 44 208 28 00  
[info@svv.ch](mailto:info@svv.ch)  
[www.svv.ch](http://www.svv.ch)

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ASA | SVV

Swiss Insurance Association SIA  
Conrad-Ferdinand-Meyer-Strasse 14  
P.O. Box  
CH-8022 Zurich

Tel. +41 44 208 28 28  
Fax +41 44 208 28 00  
[info@svv.ch](mailto:info@svv.ch)  
[www.svv.ch](http://www.svv.ch)