

Welcome



Situated at the heart of Europe, Switzerland is an important junction between the north and the south. We consider this not only a privilege for our country, but also a responsibility.

The tunnel currently under construction through the Gotthard massif - which at 57 kms will be the world's longest tunnel - makes this very clear. It epitomises Switzerland's long-standing tradition as a go-between, a role that is closely linked to our foreign policy. Thus one of our current focal points in foreign affairs is the promotion and preservation of security and peace, whereby we co-operate closely with the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Ensuring peace is inseparably linked to the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In this field, too, we work together with the international community, the OSCE and the European Council. Consequently, the global challenge to reduce social

inequality - a cause of many conflicts - is also a major concern of Swiss foreign policy. Switzerland provides development co-operation in the form of humanitarian and financial assistance to the world's poorer countries.

Finally, the protection of the environment and natural resources is an important subject which reaches beyond our country's borders. These core themes of our foreign policy illustrate the values that shape our country and its policies. This edition of «The Pearls of Switzerland» offers you the opportunity to share in the values and visions that are dear to us.

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