

The Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce in Brief

Goals

The Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce plays a vital and active role in assisting Swiss companies in the United States and U.S. companies in Switzerland to expand their business. The Chamber, among other things, promotes and facilitates better business relations between the U.S. and Switzerland; provides essential information about doing business in these markets; brings business leaders together to facilitate contacts and provide platforms for networking in both countries; represents the mutual interests of members and takes action to further their interests; facilitates the mobility of member firms and their employees in both countries; promotes both countries as advantageous places to do business; and fosters good corporate citizenship to benefit the communities in which members do business. As the largest association of multinational companies in Switzerland (Swiss and foreign, large and small) the Chamber will address all issues of concern to this very important sector of the Swiss economy.

Organization

The Chamber is a private organization with 2,500 members representing 1,800 internationally active companies. One third of the members are located in the USA (with organizations in Boston, New York, Atlanta, Raleigh, Miami, San Francisco and Los Angeles) and two thirds distributed throughout Switzerland. The Chamber covers all areas of the private sector and does not accept any subsidies from any government entity. The numerous Chapters and Committees contribute substantially to the Chamber's activities and programs. The Chamber's governing body is the Board of Directors, elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Chamber is a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C., the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce, and *SWISSCHAM*, the Association of Swiss Foreign Trade Chambers.

Membership

Open to companies and their employees upon written application.

Individual membership only available to individuals employed by firms already members of the Chamber.

Issue Selection

After intensive discussion within the relevant Chapters and Committees, the Chamber will take issues of general concern to the relevant authorities and help in structuring solutions acceptable to all. In this endeavour, the Chamber will work closely with other business associations.

Information

Monthly News (Business news and eNews) inform members on economic facts and developments of particular interest to businesses engaged in Swiss-American relations. On a weekly basis, members are informed on key economic policy matters from Washington, D.C.

Networking

The Chamber supports a large network of firms and business people, thereby offering an extensive range of contact possibilities. Regional Chapters in major metropolitan areas in the USA further enhance communication between the Swiss-American business communities in Switzerland and in the USA.

Regular and ongoing contacts with Swiss and U.S. Government agencies and both Embassies.

Lobbying

The Chamber has two areas of focus: First, identify and address all barriers to free movement of goods, services, people and investments between Switzerland and the USA. Second, as an equally important goal, reduce all barriers and annoyances for multinational companies in Switzerland (large and small, Swiss and foreign), thus strengthening the position of Switzerland in the international context.

Translations of Swiss Laws / Special Publications

English translations of Swiss laws, regulations, and ordinances relating to business.

Recent publications:

- Swiss Civil Code I + II, revised 2008
- Swiss Contract Law, revised 2008
- Swiss Penal Code, revised 2008

Chamber Functions

Specialized briefings, panel discussions and seminars. Luncheons and other functions featuring prominent personalities from business or public life.

Recent speakers:

- Joseph S. Blatter, President, FIFA
- Wolfgang Mayrhuber, Chairman & CEO, Deutsche Lufthansa AG
- Ton Büchner, CEO, Sulzer
- Dennis Jönsson, CEO, Tetra Pak International
- Christoph Brand, CEO, Sunrise
- Michael Mack, CEO, Syngenta
- Philipp Hildebrand, Vice-President, SNB
- Urs Ziswiler, CH Ambassador to the USA
- Anne M. Mulcahy, Chairman & CEO, Xerox Corporation
- Andreas Meyer, CEO, Swiss Federal Railways
- Samuel J. Palmisano, Chairman, President & CEO, IBM
- Dr. Jürg Witmer, Chairman, Givaudan Suisse SA
- Peter Brabeck, CEO, Nestlé SA
- Markus Spillmann, Editor in Chief, NZZ Neue Zürcher Zeitung
- Brady Dougan, CEO, Credit Suisse Group

For more information: www.amcham.ch and www.sacc.net