No other picture elicits as many comments and is interpreted as widely by the media as the official photograph of the national government – and this is certainly not surprising with this year’s photograph: the term “dynamic” is used almost unanimously in every description.
Branch: Federal Council and Departments
The Federal Council

The Swiss Government consists of the seven members of the Federal Council who are elected by the United Federal Assembly for a four-year term. The President of the Swiss Confederation is elected for just one year and is regarded as Primus inter pares, or first among equals during that time. He or she chairs the sessions of the Federal Council and undertakes special ceremonial duties.

Role of the Federal Council

As the highest executive authority of the country, the Federal Council is primarily responsible for the activities of government. It must continuously

• assess the situation arising from developments in the State and society and from events at home and abroad;
• define the fundamental goals of State action and determine the resources needed to attain them;
• plan and co-ordinate government policy and ensure its implementation;
• represent the Confederation at home and abroad.

Furthermore, the Federal Council must regularly and systematically scrutinise the workings of the Federal Administration in order to ensure its efficiency as well as the legality and practicality of its activities.

The Federal Council also takes part in the legislative procedure by

• leading the preliminary proceedings of legislation;
• submitting federal acts and decrees to the Federal Assembly;
• enacting regulations in so far as the Federal Constitution or federal law empowers it to do so.
Finally, the Federal Council hears and determines matters of administrative law in so far as provision is made in federal legislation on administrative jurisdiction.

It drafts the budget and the State accounts and approves cantonal decrees in controversial cases as long as this is provided for in a federal decree requiring a compulsory referendum.

The Federal Council takes administrative action itself only in exceptional cases.

The Federal Council generally meets for one ordinary session each week and takes decisions on some 2000 to 2500 matters each year. In addition to the extraordinary sessions, which are convened at short notice as and when the need arises, a number of special meetings are also held each year, which are dedicated to the consideration of especially complex and important issues.

The sessions of the Federal Council are chaired by the President of the Confederation, or in his or her absence, by the Vice-President. They can last between one and ten hours.

The Departments and the Federal Chancellery prepare the agenda, but it is the Federal Council that takes the decisions as a collegial body. Each member of the Federal Council has one vote. The Federal Chancellor is entitled to propose motions and speak, but has no vote.

As a general rule, the Federal Council avoids taking votes as such; a majority position often already emerges from the opinions expressed during the discussions.

The "magic formula" and the collegial principle in effect turns the Federal Council into a small version of parliament with the main parties represented on a largely proportional basis. As a result, the collegial principle also serves the function today of enabling compromise solutions to be found on which majority agreement is possible.

The Magic Formula is the phrase used to describe the way in which the Federal Council has been constituted since 1959 when the seats allotted to parties represented in national government first corresponded roughly to their share of the vote: the SPS (26.3%), the FDP (23.7%) and the CVP (23.3%) each had two seats on the Federal Council, the SVP (11.6%) had one.

This situation continued unaltered for 44 years. However, the National Council elections of 19 October 2003 saw the SVP win 26.9% of the vote, thereby making it the strongest party in parliament. The CVP gained only 14% of the vote and was subsequently the weakest party. At the elections to the Federal Council on 10 December, parliament chose to elect two representatives from the SVP and only one from the CVP.
## Organisation of the Federal Administration

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2007 is a particularly important year for the Federal Chancellery: on the one hand due to the National Council elections on 21 October, on the other because of the legislative planning for the next four years. In both cases, the Federal Chancellery plays a leading role as staff office of the Federal Council. As is also the case in many other countries, the legislative period in Switzerland lasts four years. Consequently the strategic and planning work of our national government also follows this cycle.

One of the main tasks of the Federal Chancellery for the current year is to organise and shape legislative planning for the 2008–2011 period together with the seven government departments. The Federal Council’s annual goals are drawn from that, which in turn has a direct influence on the activities of the National Council and Council of States.

The second important task that the Federal Chancellery has to manage every four years is the organisation of the election of the 200 members of the National Council. While it is the 26 cantons that are responsible for conducting the elections, they have to be held in accordance with uniform criteria. In addition to these special tasks, the Federal Chancellery will also be pursuing its normal activities in 2007: it is responsible for preparing the weekly meetings of the Federal Council, the publication of legislative texts, compiling the pamphlet of explanatory remarks for popular votes, fostering the use the national languages and informing the public of measures and decisions taken by the Federal Council.

The Federal Council begins its weekly session at 9 am every Wednesday in the west wing of the Federal Palace. In the week prior to the session, the Section for Federal Council Affairs works to ensure that everything is ready to enable the Federal Council to make decisions on dozens of matters during the three- or four-hour session. This sometimes involves hundreds of files being passed between the departments and offices. As the Federal Council gathers the views of its members through a consultation process before taking decisions, the compilation and evaluation of these files is particularly important. The Federal Council is then in a position to debate any remaining differences of opinion.

The Legal Section has an important control and advisory function in the legislative process and advises the departments and offices. The section also screens all motions put to the Federal Council for their legal and formal accuracy. Federal acts and ordinances only enter into force following their official publication.

It is the task of the Official Publications Centre to ensure that the Federal Gazette, the Official Compilation, the Classified Compilation and the Journal of Administrative Practice are published swiftly and accurately in three languages. These publications contain the drafts that parliament debates in the course of its legislative work, and applicable law by which citizens and the authorities are required to act and on which the courts base their decisions. For jurists and for many private individuals these are indispensable as is evident from the some 500,000 online queries made each day.

The Central Language Services (German, French, Italian and Terminology sections) ensure, together with the Federal Office of Justice, that federal legislation and all other official government texts are produced in a style of language that is accessible to the public. Through their own translations and the revision of those carried out by the offices they play a part in ensuring that government communications reach all language communities at the same time and in the same manner. In a sense, the language services are the guardians of the federal state’s multilingualism. Demand for English translations of important government texts is also continually rising. The English Language Service strives to ensure the quality of texts produced in English and translates selected legislative texts.

One very important tool for communication and translation activities is the Termdat terminology database, a comprehensive electronic dictionary created with the cooperation of the language services of the European Commission and which contains specialist vocabulary and abbreviations from the fields of law and administration and countless other fields.

The next legislative period begins in the autumn of 2007, and the Planning and Strategy Section prepares together with the departments, the dispatch on legislative planning which contains the draft of the most important aims and measures of federal government policy for the period 2007–2011. The basis for this dispatch is provided in the report of the Forward Planning Staff entitled ‘Challenges 2007–2011’, which analyses trends and their significance for federal policy on behalf of the Federal Council and will be published mid-2007. Responsibility for the coordination of the Forward Planning Staff rests with the Planning and Strategy Section. It also advises the secretariat of the Conference of Secretaries-General, the highest coordination body in the Federal Administration.

The Political Rights Section ensures that the rights that Switzerland so values can be exercised smoothly. It advises initiative and referendum committees, verifies petition lists, formally examines popular initiatives, organises federal votes and elections to the National Council and monitors pilot of e-voting projects.

Providing support for coordination and management activities may not sound spectacular; however, such activities are just as important for the smooth running of the Federal Chancellery as making provisions in the event of a crisis or disaster.
The **Staff Office** ensures that the Federal Council is in a position to fulfil its duties even under difficult circumstances. The Staff Office is also responsible for dealing with correspondence from the public and for making sure that each matter receives the appropriate attention.

Switzerland often has to deal with and respond to a variety of crises (e.g. the floods of August 2005, the tsunami of December 2004, the SARS epidemic in March 2003). Such events can also present the Federal Administration with significant challenges. That is why it is important that members of the management teams in the offices, departments and the Federal Chancellery make sure they are prepared. Leading and responding under difficult circumstances and under extreme time pressures is something that can be taught.

The task of conducting training at high or strategic level falls to the **Strategic Leadership Training** (SLT) unit. Training consists of workshops or information events and exercises. For the planning, organisation and execution of these exercises, the SLT works with internal bodies and external partners (e.g. cantons, business and international organisations).

**Information and communication** has long been a vital leadership tool for the Federal Council. Headed by the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Council spokesman, the Federal Chancellery ensures, together with the relevant ministers and their staffs, that parliament, the media and the public are continually provided with transparent information following the meetings of the Federal Council. This is achieved via press conferences that can also be viewed live online, and via press releases which can be subscribed to at www.news.admin.ch or viewed at www.admin.ch. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor and his team are responsible for producing the pamphlet of explanatory remarks of the Federal Council in the run-up to federal popular votes.

The **Political Forum of the Confederation** based in the Käfigturm will be focusing its attention on the National Council elections in October 2007. This important political event will be marked with an exhibition, discussion rounds and presentations of the political parties, an election brochure and an election phone-in. Details can be found at www.kaefigturm.admin.ch.

The **Federal Parliamentary and Central Library** is an academic library open to members of parliament and the administration. It is linked electronically to a further 36 libraries and documentation centres in the Federal Administration through the *Alexandria* system.

**Information and Communications Sector**

Vice-Chancellor Sigg

**Internal Services Sector**

The primary tasks of **Internal Services** include human resources, finance and accounting, information technology, events management at the von-Wattenwyl-Haus and the Lohn country residence and the authentication of signatures for foreign authorities.

**Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner**

This appeals commission hears complaints against decisions of federal bodies (with the exception of the Federal Council) and cantonal decisions. It also rules on recommendations made by the Data Protection Commissioner on matters in the private sphere. Its rulings are referred on appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.
The power of law versus the law of power

International law governs the peaceful coexistence of States. It covers a range of areas such as human rights, environment, social affairs, the economy and business, the high seas and space. With increasing globalisation, it has gained in importance. Switzerland is actively involved in developing international law. This is in line with the overriding aim of Swiss foreign policy: to protect the country’s interests.

Compliance with international regulations is particularly important for small and medium-sized states, as it protects them from the power politics of the large states. The United Nations plays a key role in developing international law. Since its accession to the UN, Switzerland has been able to play a more active role than before in shaping the legal form of international relations. One of the more recent successes of Swiss diplomacy in international law matters is the recognition of a new emblem for the Red Cross Movement and the creation of the UN Human Rights Commission.

The FDFA also places particular emphasis on commitment to the peaceful settlement of conflicts and alleviation of poverty in the world, and this again serves to safeguard Switzerland’s own interests. If conflicts escalate into wars, our country as the depositary state of the Geneva Conventions, the most important framework for international humanitarian law (the law of armed conflict), has a particular responsibility in this regard.

Federal Constitution, Article 5, Paragraph 4:
The Confederation and the Cantons must respect international law.

The ban on violence enshrined in international law is not, however, observed to the same extent everywhere in the world: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in Geneva powerfully documents the victims’ suffering. The Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols lay the basis for international humanitarian law. They serve to protect people and civil objects in armed conflicts. The Geneva Conventions date back to the initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Red Cross Movement was founded by Henry Dunant from Geneva.
The FDFA is responsible for safeguarding Swiss interests abroad. Swiss foreign policy is built on the following five main objectives:

- peaceful coexistence of nations
- respect for human rights and promotion of democracy
- safeguarding of Swiss economic interests abroad
- alleviation of hardship and poverty in the world
- preservation of natural resources.

As the FDFA’s staff office, the General Secretariat supports the Head of Department in the management of the department and in preparing for the Federal Council meetings. It is responsible for public relations, and maintains contact with the staff offices of the other departments as well as with parliament. It ensures the supervision of embassies and consulates through the Inspectorate, and monitors financial management at the central office. It is also responsible for coordinating the Department’s IT communications and for ensuring equal opportunities within the FDFA.

The State Secretary and Political Director deputises for the Head of Department when necessary, at meetings of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the National Council and the Council of States, for example. He maintains regular contacts with his counterparts abroad and in Bern.

His main dossiers include cooperation with the UN, the continuing development of Switzerland’s relations with the EU and a wide variety of activities in the field of security and peace policy. The State Secretariat consists of the Directorate of Political Affairs, the Protocol Section and the Centre for Analysis and Prospective Studies.

As such, it is the central office that collects all the information needed to determine and protect Swiss foreign interests, identify potential areas of crisis and tension, assess Switzerland’s global opportunities, prepare actions, and conduct negotiations on security matters, international solidarity, the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

The Directorate of Political Affairs (DP/FDFA) is where Switzerland’s foreign policy is formulated, and it is responsible for all Switzerland’s missions abroad. As such, it is the central office that collects all the information needed to determine and protect Swiss foreign interests, identify potential areas of crisis and tension, assess Switzerland’s global opportunities, prepare actions, and conduct negotiations on security matters, international solidarity, the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

The Directorate has nine divisions responsible for the following areas:

- **Political Affairs Division I:** Europe, Council of Europe, OSCE
- **Political Affairs Division II:** Africa and the Middle East
- **Political Affairs Division III:** Asia-Pacific
- **Political Affairs Division IV:** The Americas; responsible for foreign interests (mandates as protecting power)
- **Political Affairs Division V:** United Nations, Swiss activities in international organisations, host-country policy, Francophonie
- **Political Affairs Division VI:** Peace policy and human security, human rights policy, humanitarian policy and international migration policy, field operations and Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peace-building
- **Political Affairs Division VII:** Coordination of sectoral policies: Economic and financial affairs; Environment, energy and transport; Culture, science and research
- **Centre for International Security Policy** (CISP): The CISP coordinates Swiss policy in international organisations dealing with security, disarmament and arms control. Together with the DDPS, it decides on Switzerland’s military commitment to peace support operations. It is responsible on behalf of FDFA for matters relating to the export of war material. As a joint office of the Directorate of Political Affairs and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, the Integration Office is also affiliated to the Directorate. It is responsible for relations with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
Presence Switzerland (PRS), which also comes under the DP/FDFA, orchestrates the world-wide promotion of an authentic and positive image of Switzerland, highlighting the attractions and diversity of the country.

Staff and budget: included in figures for the State Secretariat
Head: Michael Ambühl, State Secretary and Political Director
Deputy Political Director (geographical responsibility): Heidi Tagliavini
Deputy Political Director (responsible for specific issues): Anton Thalmann
www.eda.admin.ch

Swiss Diplomatic and Consular Missions abroad

The main task of the network of Swiss diplomatic and consular missions is to safeguard Swiss interests vis-à-vis other states and in international organisations. It includes embassies, general consulates, consulates, multilateral missions and co-operation offices, and offers a wide range of services to Swiss nationals and businesses abroad.

Staff: 2001
Revenue: –
Expenditure: 292 346 000.–
www.eda.admin.ch

Directorate of Corporate Management

The Directorate of Corporate Management (DCM) manages the department’s human and financial resources for the optimum implementation of Switzerland’s foreign policy goals. It oversees the network of Swiss missions abroad, ensures efficient consular services, and the security of missions abroad and of their staff. The DCM is also responsible for the department’s logistics, IT communications, management and controlling instruments. In addition, legislation, the application of law and legal advice for the department (with the exception of questions of international law) are included in its remit. The Swiss Government Travel Centre, which organises official international trips, is also part of this Directorate.

Staff: 306
Revenue: –
Expenditure: 117 118 000.–
Director: Martin Dahinden
www.eda.admin.ch

Directorate of International Law

International law is a key part of Swiss foreign policy because Switzerland recognises that a foreign policy based on international law is seen to be credible, reliable and firmly based on principles.

As the “legal conscience” of the FDFA and the Swiss government’s central office for questions of international law, the Directorate of International Law (DIL) ensures that Switzerland meets its international legal obligations both abroad and at home. To this end it is involved in the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of agreements based on international law. It is also responsible for ensuring that Swiss legal claims vis-à-vis foreign states and entities are enforced.

The Directorate of International Law’s activities are very wide-ranging and include neutrality, human rights and international humanitarian law, legal questions relating to cross-border cooperation, and Rhine and maritime navigation.

The Directorate has traditionally also been responsible for relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Staff: 41
Revenue: –
Expenditure: 6 388 000.–
Director: Paul Seger
www.eda.admin.ch

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is active in three specific areas:

- bilateral and multilateral development cooperation
- humanitarian aid including actions by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA)
- cooperation with Eastern Europe

The SDC is directly involved in various projects to support or co-finance programmes led by multilateral organisations, and participates in both Swiss and international aid programmes.

The aim of development cooperation is to combat poverty by following the principle of helping people to help themselves. In particular, the SDC promotes economic and national self-sufficiency, works to improve conditions of production, assists in dealing with environmental problems and helps to ensure better access to education and basic healthcare for the most underprivileged sectors of society.

The mission of the Confederation’s agency for humanitarian aid is to save lives and alleviate suffering. During armed conflicts and following natural disasters, it does this by providing help through the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit and supports its humanitarian partner organisations.

The SDC helps the countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to progress towards democracy and a market economy.

The SDC’s specialist units are grouped in the Thematic and Technical Resources Department. The focus here is on conflict prevention, good governance, social development, employment and income, natural resources and environment.

While humanitarian aid is sent to those places where it is most needed, bilateral development assistance is focused on 17 priority countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Technical cooperation with Eastern Europe centres on eleven countries in South-East Europe and the CIS. On a multilateral level, the SDC works with UN agencies, the World Bank and regional development banks.

Staff: 536
Revenue: –
Expenditure: 1 362 152 000.–
Director: Walter Fust
www.eda.admin.ch
Safeguarding the future

The Federal Department of Home Affairs is a real “everyday life” department. It deals with issues and dossiers that affect people’s lives on a daily basis – provision for retirement (Old Age and Survivors’ Insurance [AHV] and pension funds), medical, accident and invalidity insurance, food safety, substance abuse and AIDS prevention, research and education, culture, family policy, gender equality, equality for people with disabilities, efforts to combat racism, statistics, the national archives and, last but not least, weather forecasting.

There are also great challenges in the area of education and research. Knowledge is a key resource in our society and there is fierce competition between states in this area. It is in the area of education and research policy that the future prosperity of our society depends. In terms of social security one of the major challenges will be to guarantee the system’s long term financing.

We are becoming increasingly more mobile: most people do not live in their commune of origin, and fewer still live in the commune in which they were born. It is all the more important, therefore, that school systems and syllabuses are harmonised; moving from one place to another should not lead to learning difficulties or worse still having to repeat a school year. On the first day of school, however, no one thinks that far ahead; motherly support and a combination of curiosity, eagerness and anxiety are what accompany this step towards a new stage in life.
The General Secretariat is responsible for planning, coordination and controlling, and acts as coordinator in the decision-making process between the federal offices and the Head of Department. It coordinates resources and provides consultancy services for the entire department. Its Legal Service is also responsible for supervising charitable foundations. Also affiliated to the General Secretariat are the Federal Commission against Racism, the Federal Service for Combating Racism and the Office for the Equality of People with Disabilities.

**Staff:** 85  
**Expenditure:** 1 000 000.–  
**Revenue:** 34 200 000.–  
**Secretary-General:** Pascal Struppler  
www.edi.admin.ch

The office focuses on promoting equal opportunities at work, equal pay, work-life balance and the issue of violence against men and women.

The Documentation Centre and the Secretariat of the Federal Commission for Women’s Issues are also affiliated to the office.

**Staff:** 11  
**Expenditure:** 7 600 000.–  
**Director:** Patricia Schulz  
www.equality-office.ch

The FOC is active in the areas of cultural promotion and awareness, national heritage and the preservation of historic buildings and monuments. It looks after the Swiss Confederation’s art collections and manages the Swiss National Library and eleven museums including the Swiss National Museum. The FOC also safeguards interests relating to the preservation of local character and archaeology. The office supports film makers, artists and designers and promotes the interests of the various linguistic and cultural communities. The FOC also has central offices dealing with looted art and the transfer of cultural goods. The Article in the Federal Constitution on culture offers an opportunity to rethink federal policy and efforts to promote culture in cooperation with the cantons, communes and private organisations. Two of the main goals of the FOC are the Federal Council dispatch on the Culture Promotion Act and the revision of the Pro Helvetia Act, together with the dispatch on the reorganisation of the state museums. The drafts are due to be submitted to parliament this year.

**Staff:** 221  
**Expenditure:** 4 200 000.–  
**Revenue:** 194 000 000.–  
**Director:** Jean-Frédéric Jauslin  
www.bak.admin.ch

The Swiss National Library’s task is to collect, preserve, catalogue and make available all printed and electronic publications relating to Switzerland. In addition, the NL also houses a series of special collections, the most important being the Swiss Literary Archive and the Graphic Collection. The Dürrmatt Centre in Neuchâtel is also part of the NL. The NL is the only part of the FOC to be operated under a service agreement and global budget.

**Staff:** 117  
**Expenditure:** 31 700 000.–  
**Director:** Marie-Christine Doffey  
www.nl.ch

The Federal Archives are the Swiss Confederation’s service centre and centre of expertise for sustainable information management. They evaluate, safeguard, catalogue and make available to the public the Confederation’s documents. It would need a bookshelf 48 kilometres long to hold the entire inventory. It includes original documents such as the constitution, deeds, photos, films, recordings and data-bases. The archiving of such records is essential in a democratic constitutional state for continuity and transparency and enables citizens to exercise democratic control over government and administration activities. The main focus for the coming years will be to support the Federal Administration’s services by ensuring a smooth transition to the e-Archive and to provide continuous training in the workings of the archiving process.

**Staff:** 44  
**Expenditure:** 31 700 000.–  
**Director:** Andreas Kellerhals  
www.bar.admin.ch

Since 1881 the national weather service MeteoSwiss has provided detailed weather forecasts, issued the authorities and the general public with warnings of impending bad weather or storms, operated a full-scale meteorological network, and gathered and analysed climate data. With over 800 meteorological stations and four regional centres, the national weather service provides special forecasts for industry and the general public. Scientists at MeteoSwiss are also involved in national and international projects aimed at improving people’s understanding of weather and climate in Alpine regions. MeteoSwiss officially represents Switzerland at the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva. Reorganisation of the meteorological networks will be completed in 2007. With the latest generation weather stations MeteoSwiss will be in a position to continue providing its high-quality data and continue the wide range of forecasts.

**Staff:** 274  
**Expenditure:** 78 300 000.–  
**Director:** Daniel K. Keuerleber-Burk  
www.meteoschweiz.ch
The overriding aim of the FOPH is to promote and maintain the health of all people living in Switzerland. It seeks to increase awareness of health-related matters so that people can take responsibility for their own health. It also aims at a general improvement in people’s health through disease prevention and health protection campaigns and by curing illnesses and alleviating suffering caused by disease and accidents. The FOPH tackles issues such as epidemiology and infectious diseases, substance abuse and drug prevention, food safety, noise and radiation protection, assessment and monitoring of chemicals and toxic products, stem cell research and bioterrorism, and health and accident insurance. The main focus this year continues to be on social health insurance issues and the revision of the Health Insurance Act.

Staff: 383
Revenue: 23,700,000.–
Expenditure: 23,700,000.–
Director: Thomas Zeltner
www.bag.admin.ch

Federal Statistical Office

Statistics help to create transparency in relation to social and political issues. The FSO therefore publishes information on the situation and developments in Switzerland in many different areas. It provides the quantitatively important information needed to understand the present and to plan for the future. The Statistical Yearbook and the internet portal provide an overview of the available information and give links to more detailed statistics. The FSO provides its services according to the guidelines that its work is scientific, topical, user-friendly and complies with data protection regulations.

Staff: 509
Revenue: 900,000.–
Expenditure: 1,42,300,000.–
Director: Adeleid Bürgi-Schmelz
www.statistik.admin.ch

Federal Social Insurance Office

The FSIO ensures the reliability of this social insurance system within its areas of responsibility: old age and survivors’ insurance, invalidity insurance, supplementary benefits, occupational pension funds, income compensation for people on national service and for women on maternity leave as well as family allowances in the agricultural sector. It oversees the work of the executive bodies and is responsible for the regular adjustment of legislation to the changing social reality. To a certain extent it is itself the authority that implements the law. Currently, the FSIO is concentrating on the consolidation of old age and survivors’ insurance and invalidity insurance, and on structural reform in occupational pension funds and on the reorganisation of state pension funds. Spending by the Confederation on social welfare amounts to around CHF 14.1 billion, just over one quarter of the national budget.

Staff: 241
Revenue: 428,700,000.–
Expenditure: 11,350,000,000.–
Director: Yves Rossier
www.bsv.admin.ch

State Secretariat for Education and Research

The SER is the Confederation’s specialised agency for national and international issues relating to further and university education, research and space affairs. It drafts and implements decisions to ensure a coherent policy in the areas of science, research and universities. Its areas of responsibility are the following: coordination of Swiss university and research policy, promotion of cantonal universities, Swiss school-leaving certificates, grants, European education programmes, research promotion, international research organisations and programmes, supervision of international cooperation in the field of space policy, preparation and assessment of the implementation of the performance mandate in relation to the Federal Institutes of Technology.

Staff: 116
Revenue: 2,200,000.–
Expenditure: 1,708,000,000.–
Director: State Secretary Charles Kleiber
www.edu.admin.ch

Federal Institutes of Technology Group

The FIT Group is an interconnected system of technical universities and research institutes. The two FITs in Zurich and Lausanne, the Paul Scherrer Institute, the Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, the Federal Laboratory for Materials Testing and Research and the Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology all come under the management of the FIT Board, which is made up of leading figures from the fields of science, industry and politics. In close cooperation with the public, industry and universities at home and abroad, the 12,000-strong staff and some 20,000 students and post-graduates achieve excellent results at the highest scientific level. The main aims of the planning for 2004–2007 are the dynamic reform of university teaching methods and the pursuit of the leading edge in research.

Staff: 284
Revenue: 2,629,000,000.–
Expenditure: 2,544,000,000.–
President of the FIT Board: Alexander J.B. Zehnder
www.ethrat.ch

Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products

The protection of humans and animals requires that all therapeutic products are officially monitored. Swissmedic ensures that only high-quality, safe and effective medicines are made available. The full-scale testing of therapeutic products makes it possible to identify new risks at an early stage and ensure the swift implementation of relevant safety measures. Swissmedic is Switzerland’s certification and supervisory authority and is the hotline for information on therapeutic products.

Staff: 78
Revenue: 69,700,000.–
Expenditure: 63,900,000.–
Director: Jürg Schnetzer
www.swissmedic.ch
Towards a safer society

The Federal Department of Justice and Police has a wide range of responsibilities. It deals with social policy issues such as the co-existence of Swiss and foreign nationals, asylum matters, internal security and the fight against crime. Marital status and citizenship issues are also just as much a part of the FDJP’s brief as corporate governance, gaming supervision, or the drafting of codes and instruments for cooperation at international level between justice authorities and police.

In 2007, the FDJP is focusing on a number of ever present challenges such as improving various areas of business law (revision of company law, further development of patent legislation for new technologies), revision of legislation on the criminal procedure and civil procedure codes, various measures in the field of internal security, the fight against terrorism and organised crime, and policies on foreign nationals and asylum.

Federal Constitution, Article 57, Paragraph 1: The Confederation and the Cantons shall within the scope of their powers ensure the security of the country and the protection of the population.

Terror equals fear: in the last few years, there has been a massive increase, almost worldwide, in atrocities as well as in fear of these atrocities, because as time goes on, terrorists make less and less of a distinction between ‘guilty’ and ‘innocent’ people and increasingly aim at soft targets to inflict maximum damage.

Even though we all know that absolute security cannot be achieved, we still expect that everything humanly possible is done to prevent terror attacks in our country and to protect our freedom and our way of living.
The General Secretariat assists the Head of Department in fulfilling his tasks within the government and vis-à-vis the public. It initiates, plans and coordinates the department’s activities and prepares the material that forms the basis for decisions that have to be taken on government, parliamentary or departmental business. The General Secretariat supports the departmental offices in the planning and achievement of their objectives.

Operated as an administrative unit the IT Service Centre (ISC) develops and manages specific and security-related IT applications in the specific areas of police, justice and migration and, for example, investigation systems or civilian status registers.

Staff: 153, ISC: 129
Revenue GS: 100 000.–
Expenditure GS: 32 400 000.–
Revenue ISC: 39 600 000.–
Expenditure ISC: 37 300 000.–
Secretary-General: Walter Eberle
ISC Head: Christian Baumann
www.epid.admin.ch

The FOJ drafts bills relating to the main areas of law, including private law, criminal law, debt collection and bankruptcy, international private law and public and administrative law. The office also advises the other agencies of the Federal Administration on all legislative matters. It is responsible for the supervision of the commercial register, the register of births, marriages and deaths, the land registry and the enforcement of criminal penalties, and also keeps the register of criminal convictions in Switzerland. It provides building subsides for the costs incurred by the cantons for construction work in connection with the implementation of criminal penalties and measures. Operational costs subsidies for youth welfare service premises also help to ensure the quality of the educational work.

The Federal Office of Justice represents Switzerland at international level before the Strasbourg human rights bodies and in many other organisations and is the national agency dealing with international child abductions and adoptions. The office collaborates with foreign authorities in the areas of mutual assistance and extradition.

Staff: 215
Revenue: 12 000 000.–
Expenditure: 144 800 000.–
Director: Michael Leupold
www.bj.admin.ch

In the field of internal security, Fedpol serves as a centre for information, coordination and analysis for its cantonal and international partners. It has preventive tasks focusing on the protection of the state and on protective measures for people and properties considered to be at risk, and is also involved in prosecution, especially in the fight against organised crime.

Fedpol coordinates investigations, while also leading its own investigations in cases of drug trafficking (and its financing) and counterfeiting. In addition, it operates the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland. It also conducts its own investigations in cases of serious crime (organised crime, money laundering, corruption) under the supervision of the Attorney General.

Staff: 829
Revenue: 1 400 000.–
Expenditure: 214 600 000.–
Director: Jean-Luc Vez
www.fedpol.ch

The FOM is responsible for all matters relating to legislation on foreign nationals and asylum. The office regulates immigration into Switzerland and in the Swiss labour market. It also rules on which individuals are considered to be refugees and hence receive protection. Foreign nationals living here on a permanent basis should be well integrated, if necessary with state assistance. The office, in conjunction with the communes and the cantons, is responsible for naturalisation procedures.

The FOM also encourages the voluntary return of asylum seekers to their country of origin and assists in the repatriation of asylum seekers whose applications have been turned down and of foreign nationals who are residing illegally in Switzerland. The FOM maintains an international dialogue with countries of origin, transit countries and other host countries on all issues relating to migration.

In 2007 the office will focus on the implementation of the new Foreign Nationals Act and the revised Asylum Act, and work on the Federal Office for Migration and control of the integration measures set out in the report on integration.

Staff: 527
Revenue: 37 700 000.–
Expenditure: 36 900 000.–
Director: Eduard Gnesa
www.bfm.admin.ch

As the Confederation’s independent prosecuting authority, the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland, which forms part of the FDJP, is responsible for investigating and prosecuting offences directed against the Confederation or seriously affec-
ing its interests, such as espionage, abuse of office by federal employees, and crimes involving explosives or radioactive materi-

Staff: 257
Revenue: 13 700 000.–
Expenditure: 150 300 000.–
Director: Eduard Gnesa
www.bfm.admin.ch

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The Attorney General, the Deputy Attorneys Generals and the federal attorneys conduct federal criminal proceedings in close cooperation with the Federal Criminal Police and work under
the supervision of the Federal Criminal Court, where they also conduct the criminal proceedings brought by them and the federal examining magistrates.

Staff: 111  
Revenue: 1,100,000.–  
Expenditure: 33,400,000.–  
Attorney General: Valentin Roschacher  
www.ba.admin.ch

METAS is responsible for Switzerland’s national reference measuring, ensures that it is recognised internationally and passes on this measuring data with the requisite precision to research, business and the general public. It also ensures that any measuring can be carried out correctly and in accordance with regulations.

State-of-the-art measuring facilities in 118 laboratories free of external influences provide the necessary metrological services. One of these services is the operation of high-precision caesium atomic clocks which METAS uses to announce official Swiss time. The time signals are broadcast in the HBG long wave programme in Prangins and on the internet.

Staff: 149  
Revenue: 6,800,000.–  
Expenditure: 34,100,000.–  
Director: Wolfgang Schwitz  
www.metas.ch

The IIP advises the federal authorities on questions relating to intellectual property and represents Switzerland abroad in all associated matters. Anyone who wishes to file a patent application for an invention, register a trademark or file an industrial design must contact the IIP, which administers these industrial property rights. It also administers copyright although it does not keep a copyright register.

The Institute has access to more than 50 million patent documents from over 80 countries and is able to document over 460,000 trademarks registered in Switzerland. Its services also include technology and patent information, research on registered trademarks and intellectual property training programmes.

In terms of legislation, the focus in 2007 is on the preparation of the following submissions: the creation of a federal patent court, a professional code for patent attorneys and improved protection of “Switzerland” as a brand name.

Staff: 204  
Revenue: 45,800,000.–  
Expenditure: 40,900,000.–  
Director: Roland Grossenbacher  
www.ige.ch

The SICL is the centre of expertise for comparative law and all matters of foreign and international law for Switzerland.

The Institute’s library, with its unique collection of more than 300,000 books and documents in over 60 languages (online catalogue on www.isdc.ch/opac), is a repository of highly specialised and sometimes rare information for experts and specialists the world over. The Institute’s comprehensive European Documentation Centre provides access to the latest legal developments within the EU. The librarians, between them, work in as many as 49 languages.

As a legal consultancy centre, the SICL offers both legislators and lawyers specialist legal knowledge of the highest calibre in all legal systems. The SICL’s team of legal experts provide legal opinions and carry out comparative law studies for government authorities, international organisation and courts, lawyers, notaries and the general public in Switzerland and abroad. This work is of great use to legislators who can use it as a model and source of inspiration for legislative projects.

For teachers, scientists and students, the SICL is a place for conducting research and meeting people. Symposiums held all year round on current legal topics encourage exchanges of opinion between legal experts. Regular paper and electronic publications provide information on the latest legal developments.

The hallmarks of the SICL’s international reputation are neutrality, impartiality and professionalism.

Staff: 33  
Revenue: 2,300,000.–  
Expenditure: 7,200,000.–  
Director: Eleanor Cashin Ritaine  
www.isdc.ch

The FGB is the statutory supervisory authority responsible for monitoring compliance with casino regulations, and issues the directives required for the implementation of the Gaming Act. In cases of violation, the Board also acts as the prosecuting authority and may issue rulings. It also assesses and levies gaming tax.

Staff: 29  
Revenue: 5,000,000.–  
Expenditure: 8,000,000.–  
Director: Jean-Marie Jordan  
www.esbk.admin.ch
In the largest government department of the Federal Administration there are over 12,000 staff working to ensure the security and protection of, and promote physical activity among the Swiss population. In order to fulfill these tasks, the DDPS is divided into the four sectors of Defence, Civil Protection, Sport and Armasuisse.

In order to provide security, the armed forces, civil protection and civilian institutions work hand in hand. They protect and provide assistance at home and abroad. This includes guarding embassies, assisting in the event of natural disasters, protection duties during international conferences, supporting the Border Police and peace promotion activities, which form an important contribution to international security and consequently to Switzerland’s own security. The DDPS also keeps itself in readiness to respond at any time to changes in the security situation at home and abroad. For that it needs modern material. That is the responsibility of the DDPS’s procurement and technology centre, Armasuisse.

A further task of the DDPS is to encourage the Swiss population to keep active and thus promote better health. The Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO) in Magglingen deals with these programmes promotes sport at national level and is committed to tackling doping.

Some of this year’s greatest challenges include the continued development of the armed forces and civil protection, and ongoing preparations for EURO 2008, which will be hosted jointly by Switzerland and Austria.
The General Secretariat supports the Head of Department in the many tasks for which he is responsible. It controls, coordinates and monitors the efficient use of resources in the individual sectors. This involves not only personnel and finances, but also communications, and legal and environmental issues. The General Secretariat also looks after the three Geneva Centres: The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, The Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

The military justice system is independent of armed forces command and of the administration. The Armed Forces Attorney General ensures that the military justice institutions – the prosecuting authorities and the military courts – are able to fulfil their tasks. The AFAG is the highest prosecutor. In addition to the procedural rights allocated to him he supervises the proper conduct of criminal proceedings. Under the Geneva Conventions, he is also responsible for pursuing suspect war criminals regardless of nationality and the location of the crimes.

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Staff/budget: included in that of the GS
Military Attorney General: Brigadier Dieter Weber
www.oa.admin.ch

**DDPS Damage Centre**

The Centre settles claims for damage caused by members of the armed forces or by military or federal government vehicles. It therefore takes initial decisions with regard to claims made in respect of injuries to persons and animals, and damage to land and property. With the help of internal and external specialists, the Centre also undertakes work in public relations, in training and prevention as well as in counselling and research into the causes of accidents.

Staff/budget: included in that of the GS
Head Staff SecCom: Zsolt Madarasz
www.schadenzentrumvbs.ch

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Staff/budget: included in that of the GS
Head Staff SecCom: Zsolt Madarasz
www.schadenzentrumvbs.ch

**Staff of the Federal Council Security Committee SecCom Staff**

The SecCom Staff provides permanent leadership support on behalf of the Federal Council Security Committee (Heads of DDPS, FDJP and FDFA) and the Security Steering Committee, the SecCom advisory body. The SecCom Staff prepares situation assessments and scenarios for security policy decision makers on the basis of analyses and administration reports and assists in crisis management at federal level.

Staff/budget: included in that of the GS
Head Staff SecCom: Zsolt Madarasz

**Strategic Intelligence Service SIS**

Information and insights into the security policy environment in Switzerland form the basis for decision making by the political and military leadership. The earlier these risks and opportunities are identified, the sooner instruments can be put in place to safeguard our interests effectively. The SIS is the intelligence service that monitors developments in risks and opportunities for Switzerland abroad. The focus of the intelligence gathering and analysis activities of the SIS are political, economic, military and scientific/technical matters such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Staff/budget: included in that of the GS
Director: Dr. Hans Wegmüller
www.snd.admin.ch

**Directorate for Security Policy DSP**

The Directorate for Security Policy prepares strategies and reports on security policy, oversees missions at home and abroad from a security policy perspective, armed forces planning, defence procurement and the participation of the DDPS in the Partnership for Peace, coordinates the department’s international contacts and deals with arms control and disarmament policy.

Staff/budget: included in that of the GS
Director: Ambassador Raimund Kunz
www.dsp.admin.ch

**Defence**

There has been a shift in the threat assessment for Switzerland. That has been shown by the terrorist attacks on New York, Madrid and London. While the threat of a conventional war between two or more countries has not entirely disappeared in the western world, it has been superseded by that of terrorism. Security remains a product that is created with civilian resources, such as the police and border police. These resources are implemented in such a way as to be able to ensure security in regular situations. If an extraordinary situation arises and if the civilian forces are at the limits of their capacity, the armed forces are ready to assist at the request of the civilian authorities and take on certain tasks under their command. They assist the local civilian authorities in the event of natural disasters or support cantonal authorities where there are threats to internal security. In addition, the armed forces also contribute to international peace promotion efforts. They are prepared to respond to changes in the security policy situation and with a certain preparation time, to defend the country.

The Defence Sector, led by the Chief of the Armed Forces, creates the conditions that enable these tasks to be fulfilled. It consists of the Land and Air Forces, the Armed Forces Planning Staff and the Armed Forces Joint Staff, the Armed Forces College, the Armed Forces Logistics Organisation and the Armed Forces Command Support.
Organisation. The Armed Forces Planning Staff has to look ahead and be able to recognise future challenges with a military relevance. These form the basis for armed forces and arms procurement guidelines. The Armed Forces Joint Staff implements the strategic guidelines through specific operations and ensures the required level of readiness. The Armed Forces College is responsible for the basic and advanced training of Land Forces and Air Force militia officers and military professionals. The Armed Forces Command Support Organisation is a one-stop shop for all the necessary electronic support services.

The Commanders of the Land Forces and the Air Force bear overall responsibility for the Land Forces and the Air Force respectively. They ensure that personnel receive appropriate training and guarantee the readiness of ground and air force units.

Logistics is the backbone of the armed forces. It is a prerequisite for successful armed forces operations, whether in defence, disaster relief and internal security operations, or in international peace support missions. Logistics involves the shipping and return of supplies, maintenance, medical services, transport, and infrastructure.

Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP)

While Switzerland has long been spared from armed conflicts, the country has increasingly had to deal with environmental and natural disasters. Civil protection comes into play in the case of disasters and emergency situations as well as in the event of armed conflict. In order to cope with such incidents, it is able to provide crisis management, protection, rescue and assistance. Civil protection has no military character, but it is an integrated system designed to ensure coordination and cooperation between the five partner organisations, namely the police and fire services, the health service, technical operations and civil defence. In disaster and emergency situations, a joint management organisation can be set up.

Responsibility for civil protection rests mainly with the cantons. The federal government is responsible for measures relating to any armed conflict as well as for disasters and emergencies of national dimension. The Confederation is responsible for early warning systems, the protective infrastructure and the communications systems required by management staff.

The FOCP is basically in charge at a national level. It consists on the one hand of organisational units that deal with planning and coordination matters, training, and maintaining the civil protection infrastructure, and on the other of specialist agencies which provide both the authorities and the operational units with efficient support in their preparations and in the event of any incidents. These are the National Emergency Operations Centre, which processes some 400 incident and damage reports a year and the Spiez Laboratory, which has also developed into a useful partner to the UN.

Staff: 231
Revenue: CHF 9,400,000
Expenditure: CHF 13,600,000
Director: Willi Scholl
www.bevoelkerungsschutz.ch

Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO)

Sport is of major importance in society. The Federal Office of Sport promotes sport and its values for all age groups and at all levels and across all sections of society.

The FOSPO is organised in the domains of sport policy, the Swiss Federal Institute of Sports Magglingen, infrastructure and operations, services and the Sports Centre Tenero. It devises and develops national sport policy and sees itself as a platform for evaluating, developing and implementing goals and strategies for sport promotion. In the framework of the Swiss Sports School, the FOSPO provides for the necessary training, research and development. In Magglingen and Tenero it runs centres for education, training and courses.

The FOSPO coordinates the work in the preparation and running of the 2008 European football championships in Switzerland.

Staff: 42
Revenue: CHF 12,600,000
Expenditure: CHF 16,400,000
Director: Matthias Remund
www.baspo.ch

Armasuisse

There is probably scarcely a household in Switzerland in which an Armasuisse product is not to be found: a map or an atlas. These high quality products are produced by the Federal Office of Topography (Swisstopo), a division of Armasuisse.

However, its core activities involve the development, evaluation, procurement, disposal and sale of equipment and constructions. It primarily provides services for the armed forces and other clients within and outside the DDPS. In addition to Swisstopo, which also exercises overall supervision and responsibility for the official land survey, there is also the Federal Office for Command and Control, Telematics and Training Systems. This is responsible for the procurement and management of all these systems in the armed forces. The Federal Office for Weapons Systems, Vehicles and Equipment is responsible for the procurement and management of all airborne and ground systems as well as the vehicles and military equipment.

The Real Estate Sector is responsible for the efficient management of the 26,000 odd properties belonging to the DDPS. The Science and Technology Centre carries out technical examinations and assessments.

Staff: 964 (incl. Swisstopo)
Revenue: CHF 1,392,400,000
Expenditure: CHF 1,150,500,000
Head: Dr. Alfred Markwalder
www.armasuisse.ch
Financial policy by its very nature requires planning

Financial policy is concerned with the income and expenditure of the national budget. It exists to serve society’s requirements of the state and is the key to the success of other policy areas such as social services, education, transport, security, maintenance of our natural resources, and infrastructures. In order to be able to meet these goals sustainably, the Confederation must also ensure that public finances are in a healthy state. A responsible financial policy creates room to manoeuvre politically.

With an annual income and expenditure currently in excess of CHF 50 billion, it is vital to have a forward-looking planning. The Federal Finance Administration FFA therefore draws up a budget for the coming year. For the three following years it makes a financial plan which lists all fixed and expected expenditures. In this way it is possible to see in good time whether projects can be funded, whether they must be scrapped or whether new sources of finance need to be made accessible.

In its 2007 budget the FFA has radically restructured the accounting system. The structure of the accounts now follows the standard model used in the private sector with profit and loss accounts and balance sheets. This approach makes it easier to compare finances of the Confederation with those of other public bodies and the private sector. Federal financial policy will therefore be easier to understand and this will create confidence among the general public.

In the same way that a beverage company fills thousands and thousands of bottles of different sizes every day, the Federal Department of Finance makes sure that all beneficiaries receive the resources to which they are entitled in accordance with the Constitution and the law. Its work is considerably more complicated though because it has to tap not just one source, but countless sources and get them all flowing in order to carry out its task consistently and on a continual basis.
The General Secretariat acts as the central staff office for the head of department with the key sectors of Planning and Controlling, Communications and Resources. The main tasks of Planning and Controlling are the acquisition, preparation and evaluation of information relevant to the management of the department. It supervises the planning process and monitors and assesses the way in which items of business are dealt with in the offices (controlling/reporting). The code of FDF communication follows the following principles: information is mandatory, truthful, factual and undistorted. The Resources Sector, to which the FDF translation services belong, coordinates and manages the department’s financial, human resources and office space requirements as well as its IT needs.

The Federal Strategy Unit for Information Technology (FSUIT) is also affiliated to the General Secretariat. It has the task of preparing for decisions on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the Federal Administration, ensuring the quality of specifications, managing IT programmes and coordinating the protection of data and IT systems.

Staff: 106
Revenue: –
Expenditure: 62 600 000.–
Secretary-General: Peter Grütter
www.efd.admin.ch

The FFA is responsible for the budget and financial plans and for managing the accounts, assessing the spending plans of all departments and developing financial policy concepts such as the financial policy model, the new system of financial equalisation and allocation of tasks between the Confederation and the cantons. It supervises the Federal Budget Act and ensures that the Confederation can meet its payment obligations at all times. It is also involved in national and international finance and currency matters and upholds Switzerland’s interests in the context of its international relations. In addition, it is responsible for legislation on banking and monetary matters and on financial law. The Money Laundering Control Authority, Swissmint and the Central Compensation Office, which manages old age and survivors’ insurance and invalidity insurance for Swiss citizens living abroad, also come under the remit of the FFA.

Important FFA projects this year are the introduction of the new accounting model, implementing the new system of financial equalisation, work on new financial market supervision, work on resolving the problems of the federal pension fund and state-owned companies and the review of subsidies.

Staff: 215 including the Money Laundering Control Authority and excluding Swissmint (18) and the Central Compensation Office (571)
Revenue: 2 481 500 000.–
Expenditure: 4 285 800 000.–
Director: Peter Siegenthaler
www.efv.admin.ch

The FTA is responsible for collecting the bulk of federal revenues. It also ensures the uniform application of federal tax laws in the cantons, develops strategies and principles for tax legislation and negotiates double taxation conventions. In 2007, the FTA is focusing on the new system for the taxation of married couples and families and the simplified implementation of the VAT system. In addition, it is working on a total revision of value added tax.

Staff: 982
Revenue: 41 210 600 000.–
Expenditure: 7 505 000 000.– (including cantonal contributions to federal taxes)
Director: Urs Ursprung
www.estv.admin.ch

FOPER devises the principles and instruments of human resources management for the Confederation. It carries out the preparatory work for personnel-related matters that come before the Federal Council, advises the departments and their agencies in implementing personnel policies, provides a central training programme and maintains relations with social partners. It ensures that the Federal Administration has the appropriate human resources and instruments to face any future challenges.

Staff: 96
Revenue: 100 000.–
Expenditure: 194 500 000.–
Director: Juan Gut
www.epa.admin.ch
Federal Customs Administration FCA

Customs monitors the import, export and transit of goods. It collects customs duties, road traffic charges and taxes. Approximately CHF 20 billion a year flows through customs into the federal coffers. The Central Control Office for Precious Metals, which forms part of the Customs Administration, checks jewellery and watches for their authenticity. The Border Guard is the uniformed and armed part of the FCA and, in addition to customs, carries out policing duties at the border.

Staff: 4524
Revenue: 10 359 400 000.–
Expenditure: 1 224 600 000.–
Director: Rudolf Dietrich
www.zoll.admin.ch

Federal Office for Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunications FOITT

The FOITT provides services for the whole of the federal administration in the fields of telecommunications, IT training and operational security, and also has centres of expertise for the internet and SAP. In addition, it provides IT services for its own department, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, the Federal Department of Home Affairs, the Federal Department of Justice and Police and the Federal Chancellery.

In view of the changeover to management by performance accounting in the federal administration, the internal processes and organisation will be adapted and customer requirements given greater priority.

Staff: 985
Revenue: 325 500 000.–
Expenditure: 326 000 000.–
Director: Marius Redli
www.bit.admin.ch

Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL

The FOBL is responsible for property management and the central procurement of non-durable goods for the Federal Administration, as well as for dealing with data output, the production and distribution of federal publications and the production of security passes, most importantly the Swiss passport. The main focus in 2007 is the refurbishment of the Parliament Building, the construction of a new IT centre for the Federal Administration and the reconstruction of the underground stacks of the Swiss National Library.

Staff: 656
Revenue: 952 600 000.–
Expenditure: 868 900 000.–
Director: Gustave E. Marchand
www.bbl.admin.ch

Federal Office of Private Insurance FOPI

The FOPI supervises the commercial operations of private insurance companies (life insurance companies, bodily injury and physical damage insurers and reinsurers). It issues licences to operate a business, checks and approves life and health insurance products, controls the annual accounts, inspects companies and intervenes if there is abuse.

In addition to the Federal Office of Public Health supervision, the FOPI also monitors the recognised health insurance companies with regard to additional health insurance coverage. The FOPI is guided by a risk-based monitoring philosophy in this respect.

Staff: 79
Revenue: 25 700 000.–
Expenditure: 20 400 000.–
Director: Monica Mächler
www.bpv.admin.ch

Swiss Federal Banking Commission SFBC

The Swiss Federal Banking Commission supervises banks, securities dealers, investment funds and stock exchanges, as well as the disclosure of shareholding interests, public takeover bids and mortgage lenders. The costs, which amount to around CHF 30 million, are borne by the institutions under supervision.

The SFBC is an independent federal administrative authority that is affiliated to the FDF for administrative purposes.

Staff: 151
Revenue: 33 500 000.–
Expenditure: 36 200 000.–
Director: Daniel Zuberbühler
www.bpv.admin.ch

Swiss Federal Audit Office FAO

As the Confederation’s supreme audit institution, the FAO scrutinises accounting practices and verifies the proper and efficient use of resources by the Federal Administration and other public service institutions and subsidy recipients.

Staff: 88
Revenue: 1 000 000.–
Expenditure: 19 100 000.–
Director: Kurt Grütter
www.eav.admin.ch

Swiss Alcohol Board SAB

The SAB regulates the alcohol market (not including naturally fermented products) by means of taxes, controls, advertising restrictions and bans. Alcosuisse, the SAB’s profit centre is responsible for trade in ethanol (high grade alcohol). Carbon dioxide emissions in road traffic are reduced by 600,000 tonnes a year by mixing ethanol with fuels.

There are currently around 150 petrol stations that sell petrol with a 5 per cent ethanol content.

Staff: 151
Revenue: 278 470 000.–
Expenditure: 32 670 000.–
Director: Lucien Erard
www.eav.admin.ch

Federal Pension Fund PUBLICA

PUBLICA provides insurance cover to employees of the Federal Administration, the Parliamenta- ry Services, the Confederation’s administrative units, federal arbitration and appeals commissions, the federal courts and associated organisations.

PUBLICA’s main objective in 2007 is the preparation for the technical migration to a contribution-based pension plan.

Staff: 118
Revenue: 1 045 028 000.–
Expenditure: 2 123 813 000.–
Director: Werner Hertzog
www.publica.ch

www.efd.admin.ch

info@gs-efd.admin.ch
Maintaining Competitiveness

Switzerland is now considered to be a middle-ranking economic power. We are perceived by an increasing number of foreign companies as a location for work with a liberal labour market and an innovative business climate. Our companies are able to compete in the world market and we are ranked as one of the most competitive economies worldwide. The Federal Department of Economic Affairs’ main concern is for Switzerland to maintain and build on this position. With a staff of over two thousand, we create optimum conditions for employees, employers and entrepreneurs, for the business community and large multinationals, and for manufacturers and consumers.

The FDEA is responsible for making decisions on the economy, education and research and ensuring their implementation. Our policy aims to provide the best possible start in the world of work by offering people a good education and a high standard of vocational training in their chosen career. We aim to create an innovation-friendly climate so that businesses can hold their own in global competition and provide jobs. In this way we will be able to continue positioning Switzerland as an outward-looking place to live and as a liberal and business-friendly work and research location in the world market.

Federal Constitution, Article 96, Paragraph 1:
The Confederation shall legislate against the damaging effects in economic or social terms of cartels and other restraints of competition.

Suppliers offering similar products in a market can be tempted to form cartels: they collude to set common prices or divide markets among themselves. Their concentrated power is threatening to consumers who are left without any alternative, and they hamper economic development as they make it impossible to establish a free flow of supply and demand.

Cartels are generally formed by companies, but can also be formed by other organisations or even countries, as exemplified by OPEC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
The General Secretariat is the department’s staff and coordination office. It supports and advises the Head of Department in her daily work. Its brief also involves planning, coordinating and monitoring the department’s activities and it is responsible for overseeing the results and assessing the effects of its decisions. The General Secretariat provides services for the whole department in the areas of human resources, finances and logistics, accounting and translation. IT services are provided through its IT Service Centre.

Staff: 75, IT: 38
Revenue: 22 800 000.–
Expenditure: 75 000 000.–
Secretary-General: Walter Thurnherr
www.edv.admin.ch

Also affiliated to the General Secretariat are the Federal Consumer Affairs Bureau, the Central Office for Civilian Service, and the Federal Institute for Vocational Education.

Swiss consumers have access to over 22 million different products and services. The office takes account of the interests of consumers and of the economy as a whole. In order to publicise consumer concerns, it also promotes access to objective information.

Last year, almost two thousand Swiss men were approved for civilian service. These men were able to demonstrate credibly to the civilian service admission board that they would be unable to perform military service on the grounds of conscience. The Central Office for Civilian Service is responsible for processing these applications and for the subsequent hearings at its seven regional centres. It is also responsible for the recognition of the institutions in which the service is to be performed and provides advice to both the individuals and the institutions concerned.

The Federal Institute for Vocational Education (FIVE) has taken over the tasks that the Swiss Pedagogical Institute for Vocational Education carried out for over 30 years. On behalf of the Swiss Confederation, the FIVE ensures the basic and further training of those responsible for university-level vocational education and manages the research and development of vocational education. With locations in the French, German and Italian-speaking regions it is able to address the varying needs of the different regions.

SECO is the Swiss Confederation’s central office for all core issues of economic policy. Its stated aim is to promote sustainable economic growth by creating an appropriate regulatory and economic framework.

Employers and employees should be able to benefit from growth-oriented policies, the removal of barriers to trade, and the reduction of Switzerland’s relatively high prices. On the domestic front, SECO acts as an interface between business, social partners and government. It supports the regionally and structurally balanced development of the economy and ensures the protection of employees.

Through its labour market policy, it contributes to the prevention and tackling of unemployment and consequently to upholding social peace.

SECO also helps to ensure access to all markets for Swiss goods and services and investment. In terms of foreign trade policy, it is active in the formulation of efficient, fair and transparent rules for the world economy. Switzerland’s relations to the European Union and to the European Free Trade Association are coordinated by the Integration Office, a joint office of the FDFA and the FDEA. SECO is also involved in efforts to reduce poverty in the form of economic development cooperation.

Staff: 511
Revenue: 6 600 000.–
Expenditure: 724 900 000.–
Director: Jean-Daniel Gerber
www.seco.admin.ch

The universities of applied sciences pass on knowledge in such a way that it can be applied practically in business and society, thus complementing the courses offered by the universities. Through its innovation policies, the OPET ensures the transfer of know-how between science and business. That is the task of the Swiss Innovation Promotion Agency KTI/CTI, which finances and supports applied research and development, know-how and technology transfer between universities and companies.

Staff: 134
Revenue: 701 000.–
Expenditure: 976 800 000.–
Direktorin: Ursula Renold
www.btt.admin.ch

Switzerland has 106 457 hectares of farmland, 1 544 000 head of cattle in its pastures and employs 190 378 people in the agricultural sector. Each year, the federal government provides agriculture with financial support of around CHF 3.4 billion. The FOAG works to ensure that the country’s farmers produce high quality foodstuffs in a way that is both sustainable and market-oriented. Its aim is to have a multifunctional farming system that contributes towards meeting the food needs of the population and maintaining the basic necessities of life as well as towards the settlement of rural areas. It must also seek a socially acceptable balance between developments in domestic
policy and the need to respond to changing external factors. The FOAG deals with the development of rural areas and promotes agricultural research.

Staff: 1015
Revenue: 181 200 000.–
Expenditure: 3 616 300 000.–
Director: Manfred Bötsch
www.blw.admin.ch

Federal Veterinary Office
FVO

Millions of animals are raised on farms or kept as pets in Switzerland. From the humble goldfish to dogs, cows or chickens, they all bring happiness or provide valuable foods such as meat, milk or eggs. This is only possible with well cared for and healthy animals. The FVO actively combats animal disease and promotes the production of top-quality foods. It is also very active in the protection of animals and conservation of species. This is good for the animals but it also means that people in Switzerland can rely on having good food, with a very low risk of being infected with salmonella or other bacteria from animals. This high standard increases the sale of Swiss agricultural produce at home and abroad. The stated aim of the FVO is to ensure animal welfare and human health.

Staff: 104
Revenue: 3 400 000.–
Expenditure: 45 500 000.–
Director: Hans Wyss
www.bvet.admin.ch

Federal Office for National Economic Supply
FONES

Switzerland buys virtually 100 per cent of its raw materials, 80 per cent of its energy, around one-third of all its food, and a large proportion of essential therapeutic products from abroad. In cooperation with the private sector, FONES ensures that people in Switzerland have adequate supplies of vital commodities at all times. Basic supplies of food, energy supplies and therapeutic drugs are guaranteed by protecting imports, setting up compulsory reserves and making full use of domestic production. In addition, it is FONES’ task to ensure that there is transport for basic supplies, that sensitive industrial products are available and that IT infrastructures remain in operation. It also takes measures to ensure the equitable distribution of scarce commodities.

Staff: 31
Revenue: 100 000.–
Expenditure: 7 300 000.–
Delegate: Gisèle Girgis-Musy
www.bwl.admin.ch

Office of the Price Supervisor
FOH

Housing is a basic need. Generally speaking, people in Switzerland are well provided for in this regard although housing is very expensive for many people and households. As a result of the ageing population, changed family and household structures, the immigration of foreign cultural groups and new lifestyles and work formulas, adjustments have to be made when building and renovating residential accommo-

dation. The FOH, the central office for housing, works closely with property developers to ensure that sufficient reasonably priced housing is built, providing a basic stock of affordable accommodation that takes changing needs into account. The FOH also seeks to reconcile the interests of landlords and tenants in the area of tenancy law.

Staff: 49
Revenue: 21 000 000.–
Expenditure: 161 700 000.–
Director: Peter Gurtner
www.bwo.admin.ch

Competition Commission
ComCo

Agreements on the sale of books and therapeutic products, recommended retail prices, territorial restrictions: ComCo, which is responsible for matters relating to cartel legislation, works on behalf of consumers as well as businesses to ensure that there is fair competition. It is an independent body and concentrates its efforts on fighting cartel agreements, the compartmentalisation of the Swiss market, abuse of dominant positions and state limitations on competition. It is also responsible for implementing domestic market regulations and ensuring that businesses have unrestricted access to the market throughout the country.

Staff: 43
Revenue: 300 000.–
Expenditure: 9 200 000.–
Director: Rafael Corazza
www.weko.ch
Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications

DETec

Service public – Switzerland’s trademark
Post is delivered next day throughout the entire country, the trains are on time, power flows at the flick of a switch: The reliable provision of transport, energy and communications services is a trademark of Switzerland and a prerequisite for a high standard of living and a thriving economy.

It is precisely because these services are so important that the state ensures that these are available to all. At federal level this is the responsibility of DETEC. Over 1700 people are committed to what is known as “Service public”. At the same time, the department also seeks to preserve the environment and the country’s attractive natural landscapes.

Efficient infrastructure – a healthy natural environment: at DETEC, interests in exploiting or preserving our surroundings often clash. This has its advantages, as it allows these conflicts of objectives to be resolved under one roof. In doing so, the Department adheres to the principle of sustainability: our current needs must be met in a way that does not diminish the opportunities available to future generations.

What is meant by ‘service public’ in terms of postal services? This question is currently being examined by DETEC as part of a total revision of postal legislation. It must ensure that postal services function in towns just as in mountain valleys – and at a reasonable cost. The postal market is progressively being opened to enable private firms to offer services and bring a certain degree of competition.

Federal Constitution, Article 92, Paragraph 2:
The Confederation shall ensure the adequate, universal and reasonably priced provision of postal and telecommunications services in all regions of the country.

It is not uncommon for public services, such as the post office, to also provide a degree of individual service that goes beyond what is strictly required; something that is greatly valued especially for people who have little social contact – because they live alone and in remote areas, as in the case of this pensioner in the Jura region of Neuchâtel, or because they have difficulty getting around due to infirmity and old age.
DETEC’s federal offices are located in Ittigen and Biel. The office directors meet at the General Secretariat several times a year as it is not uncommon for several offices to have an interest in ongoing business at the same time. The meeting provides an opportunity to discuss these issues at the highest level.

The GS serves as the staff office for the Head of Department. It plans and coordinates all department activities including public relations. In addition, it also exercises the role of owner with regard to Swiss Post, SBB, Swisscom and Skyguide and supervises the implementation of the strategic aims set out by the Federal Council.

The Independent Complaints Authority for Radio and Television, the Public Transport Accident Investigation Office, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, the postal services regulation authority (PostReg), and the special tasks service for the communications sector are all affiliated to DETEC.

Staff: 116
Revenue: 15 000 000.–
Expenditure: 130 900 000.–
Secretary-General: Hans Werder
www.uvek.admin.ch

Federal Office of Transport

In spring 2006 the funicular railway between Lauterbrunnen and Mürren, which was over one hundred years old, was closed as it was no longer considered to be safe due to geological problems. It was replaced in the same year by a modern cableway. Who actually decides where cableways can be operated and what safety regulations have to be met? The FOT: it issues the necessary licences, approves construction plans and ultimately issues the operating licence.

The FOT is the agency responsible for public transport. From Intercity trains to trams, cable cars and even paddle steamers, Switzerland has a comprehensive and reliable transport network. The FOT makes sure that it remains that way, and that the network continues to be modernised and is operated safely despite pressure to cut costs. At present, the focus is on the construction of the New Rail Links through the Alps (NRLA), the new rail tunnels at the Lötschberg and at the Gotthard. They form the basis for Switzerland’s traffic transfer policy which aims to shift freight traffic away from the roads and onto the rails.

Staff: 253
Revenue: 6 100 000.–
Expenditure: 4 626 500 000.–
Director: Max Friedli
www.bav.admin.ch

Federal Office of Civil Aviation

“Only water allowed for passengers to the USA: No liquids allowed in hand luggage on flights to the USA”. Following the foiled terrorist attacks in London in which liquid explosive was meant to have been used, security regulations were tightened at short notice. In such situations the FOCA has its work cut out: it has to analyse possible measures and coordinate these with its foreign partners. Airports, airline companies and the public then have to be informed.

The FOCA supervises civil aviation in our country and places great emphasis on air safety. It is involved in the shaping of government guidelines in the rapidly evolving airline industry and in defining future airport infrastructure and path procedures to Zurich airport.

Staff: 224
Revenue: 7 118 000.–
Expenditure: 97 300 000.–
Director: Raymond Cron
www.aviation.admin.ch

Swiss Federal Office of Energy

Each year the SFOE publishes statistics on Swiss energy consumption for the previous year with new record figures to report each time. Just how long this trend can continue is questionable as fossil fuels are becoming ever more expensive and there is a risk of bottlenecks in energy supply. Do we need new nuclear power stations right away, do we buy in wind power from abroad or would it make more sense to save energy? The SFOE’s series of ‘Energy Outlook 2035’ reports is intended to encourage debate about the shape of our country’s future energy supply.

The SFOE is responsible for the secure, sufficient and environmentally sound provision of power in Switzerland. It is not only interested in ensuring that diverse forms of energy are available, but above all that improvements are made in terms of energy efficiency. This is where the SwissEnergy programme comes in. It has the aim of reducing energy consumption and promoting renewable energies.

Also affiliated to the SFOE is the Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate HSK. This independent agency also supervises storage facilities for radioactive waste.

Staff: 118 (SFOE) 92 (HSK)
Revenue: 44 200 000.–
Expenditure: 132 100 000.–
Director: Walter Steinmann
www.bfe.admin.ch / www.energie-schweiz.ch
Traffic on the roads: Lower drink drive limits, fewer deaths. Those were the headlines in the Sunday papers following the publication of road accident figures for 2005 showing a 20 per cent fall in accident-related deaths and an eight per cent fall in serious injuries compared to the previous year. This pleasing news is largely due to a reduction in the permitted blood alcohol content level and more frequent road checks. Other further measures have also played a successful part in improving road safety as part of FEDRO’s ‘Via sicura’ programme which aims to significantly reduce the number of road deaths by 2010.

FEDRO ensures that our roads run as smoothly as possible. It supervises the maintenance and operation of the national road network and oversees numerous large-scale projects until their completion.

Staff: 168
Revenue: 7 300 000.–
Expenditure: 2 801 700 000.–
Director: Rudolf Dieterle
www.astra.admin.ch

Listening to the radio in CD quality is not a thing of the future, but is already here in the form of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB). Radio and TV stations want to introduce this new technology, but require new radio frequencies in order to do so. Allocating these frequencies, however, is a highly complicated and politically delicate matter. In order to prevent interference between stations, frequency allocations have to be coordinated well beyond national boundaries. To that end, a large international conference was held in Geneva last year with over a hundred states represented. Switzerland had prepared the ground together with its neighbouring countries and was able to negotiate optimal conditions so that our country has sufficient capacity for a comprehensive introduction of digital broadcasting.

In addition to allocating frequencies for radio and television stations, it also ensures the fair distribution of licence fee revenues and sees that broadcasters do not contravene regulations, e.g. against product placement. Another of OFCOM’s important roles is to deal with questions of market opening in the field of telecommunications and mobile communications.

Staff: 268
Revenue: 60 500 000.–
Expenditure: 98 500 000.–
Director: Martin Dumermuth
www.bakom.admin.ch

We all want to live healthily and in safety. We also want to be able to enjoy nature with its varied landscapes, animal and plant life and that as naturally as possible. That we also expect a sound economy and that we should be able to travel wherever we want is given.

So what does all that have to do with environmental policy? A great deal. Particularly in Switzerland with its mountains, safety is closely tied in with nature. Just think of flooding, rock slides or avalanches. The FOEN helps to make sure that the cantons, communes and residents are prepared for these things – be it in the form of protective forests or maps indicating likely natural hazards. Health also has a lot to do with our environment: it is easier to breathe when there is less fine particle dust or ozone in the air. Less noise pollution is also better for our well-being. Varied and intact landscapes are not only beautiful, they are also important for tourism.

For a long time environmental policy was characterised by emergency measures to protect the environment. Nowadays it is understood in a broader sense and helps to make use of the environment – in such a way that our grandchildren will be able to do the same.

Staff: 276
Revenue: 7 299 000.–
Expenditure: 7 299 000.–
Director: Bruno Oberle
www.umwelt-schweiz.ch

Young people increasingly want to live in their own apartment and have their own car. The number of vehicles on Switzerland’s roads has risen to five million and never before have there been so many one-person households. More living space, more free-time activities, more traffic: our lifestyle demands ever more space, yet Switzerland remains just as small. Conflicts of interest in terms of spatial planning are inevitable. Responding to these problems is the main part of the ARE’s work. Its specialists collate statistics, analyses and forecasts in the fields of spatial and traffic development and advise the cantons when housing and traffic planning in built-up areas have to be reconciled, for example, or to counter urban sprawl. The ARE, together with other important federal, cantonal, municipal and communal actors, is currently in the process of developing new principles designed to adapt land use planning to future requirements.

Staff: 60
Revenue: –
Expenditure: 15 300 000.–
Director: Pierre-Alain Runlay
www.are.admin.ch
The members of the Federal Council since 1848

In chronological order with the relevant canton and party (the party names conform to the names currently used), the number of years in office and the years of birth and death.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parteien</th>
<th>Angaben</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Chaudet</td>
<td>SVP</td>
<td>*21.5.1897  †13.11.1958</td>
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<td>Roland von Steiger</td>
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