

The Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce in Brief

Goals

The Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce plays a vital and active role in assisting Swiss companies in the United States and U.S. companies in Switzerland to expand their business. The SwissAmcham, among other things, promotes and facilitates better business relations between the U.S. and Switzerland; provides essential information about doing business in these markets; brings business leaders together to facilitate contacts and provide platforms for networking in both countries; represents the mutual interests of members and takes action to further their interests; promotes both countries as advantageous places to do business; and fosters good corporate citizenship to benefit the communities in which members do business.

As the largest association of multinational companies in Switzerland (Swiss and foreign, large and small), the SwissAmcham addresses all issues of concern to this sector for the long-term success of the Swiss economy.

Organization

The SwissAmcham is a private organization with 2,000 members representing 1,600 internationally active companies. 25% of the members are located in the USA (with organizations in Boston, New York, Atlanta, Charlotte, Miami, San Francisco and Los Angeles) and 75% distributed throughout Switzerland. The SwissAmcham covers all areas of the private sector and does not accept any subsidies from any government entity. The numerous Chapters and Committees contribute substantially to the Chamber's activities and programs. SwissAmcham's governing body is the Board of Directors, elected at the Annual General Meeting.

SwissAmcham is a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Amchams in Europe, and SWISSCHAM, the Association of Swiss Foreign Trade Chambers.

Membership

Open to companies and their employees upon written application.

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

Issue Selection

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

Media

SwissAmcham is in intensive contact with Swiss and US media. Most relevant appearances can be found on www.amcham.ch/media.

Information

Monthly News (Business News) inform members on economic facts and developments of particular interest to businesses engaged in Swiss-American relations.

Under www.amcham.ch, SwissAmcham offers a comprehensive choice of information on the activities of the Chamber and details on the issues pursued.

Networking

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

Regular and ongoing contacts with Swiss and U.S. government agencies and embassies of both countries ensure a direct link into the relevant governments.

Lobbying

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

Chamber Functions

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

Recent speakers:

- Christoph Franz, Chairman, F. Hoffmann-La Roche
- Alexandre Zeller, Chairman, SIX Group
- Heinz Karrer, President, economiesuisse
- Brice Koch, CEO, OC Oerlikon
- Serge Dal Busco, State Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva in charge of the Department of Finance
- Prof. Robert C. Merton, School of Management Distinguished Professor of Finance at the MIT Sloan School of Management, University Professor Emeritus at Harvard University and Resident Scientist at Dimensional Holdings
- Robert Stack, Deputy Assistant Secretary (International Tax Affairs), U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Suzanne LeVine, Ambassador of the United States of America to Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- Hubert Weber, EVP & President Mondelez Europe
- Dr. Christoph Loos, CEO, Hilti Aktiengesellschaft
- Philippe Hildebrand, Vice Chairman, BlackRock
- Pamela Hamamoto, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the UN, U.S. Mission Geneva

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