



**OPEN INVITATION TO
THE 54th CONGRESS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE UK – FOSSUK 2019
17th – 19th of May 2019**

Dear Members, dear Swiss friends,

I am excited to announce that FOSSUK and the London based Swiss clubs “New Helvetic Society” and “Unione Ticinese” are hosting the **54th Congress of the Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK 2019)** in London from 17th to the 19th of May 2019.

The **FOSSUK Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held at the **Swiss Embassy** on Saturday, 18th May 2019. The AGM will commence at 2 pm, with registration opening at 1.30 pm. A focus of the meeting will be Brexit and the rights of Swiss citizens residing in the UK.

We are pleased to announce the presence of His Excellency Ambassador **Alexandre Fasel** alongside representatives of the Swiss Embassy and from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. They will present the latest update on Brexit. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, for example on the “Settled Status” application. We will also be welcoming the director of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA), **Ariane Rustichelli** and our UK Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

Afterwards the activities will continue with a cultural programme, which will commence at 4.30 pm. This will start with the introduction of the work of the UK-based Swiss artist, painter and writer, **Alexandra Lavizzari**. Following will be a drinks reception kindly offered by HE Ambassador Fasel and entertainment from singer **Elena Flury**.

In the evening of Friday 17th May participants are invited to gather in the iconic flagship store of **Victorinox** in New Bond Street. This event will feature **Neil Heritage**, a motivational speaker who will talk about his time in the army, losing both legs following a suicide bomb attack and his remarkable recovery. He has attempted to be the first person with his disability to summit the iconic Matterhorn in the Alps.

Throughout the evening participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a glass of Prosecco or Swiss Beer and taste some unique Swiss cheeses whilst admiring the exhibition of professional alpine photographer **Fiona Bunn**. This evening is organised by the “New Helvetic Society” and “Swiss Quality UK”.

The cultural programme will resume on the morning of Sunday 19th May. Participants will be treated to a walking tour of London with **Peter Barber**. Peter is a historian of the British Library and a former president of the “Unione Ticinese”. He will guide us through winding streets to discover the Swiss heritage and Swiss historical contributions to the capital.



Events at the Congress including the AGM will be open to all. However, all attending will need to register in order to be able to enter the Embassy. Booking information and all event details may be found on the **FOSSUK website**:

www.swiss-societies.co.uk/annual-general-meeting.

Agenda and documents for the AGM will be mailed to the Presidents of the member societies for distribution to their members.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

The President: Franz Muheim president@swiss-societies.co.uk

The Secretary: Ané-Mari Peter info@swiss-societies.co.uk

Whether you are able to join us for the entire weekend or only for a part of it, the Congress of the Swiss Societies UK (FOSSUK 2019) will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to meet other Swiss living in the UK. I am looking forward to see you all on 17th to 19th May 2019 in London.

Franz Muheim
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Muheim'.