



Newsletter

October 2020



Doha, October 2020

Dear Swiss citizens in Qatar,

I hope that you are doing fine despite the challenging circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic and Covid-19 measures worldwide.

Those of you who were lucky enough to travel to our home-country or elsewhere I am happy to welcome back to Qatar.

To fellow citizens who withstood the summer-heat on-site I would like to pay tribute for their perseverance.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome and present to you our new colleagues Mrs. Doris Zogg Bouchaoui and Mrs. Susanne Gutknecht Notter who have arrived with their families in Doha in July.

They replaced respectively Mr. Thomas Fischer who has been transferred to Hong Kong and Mrs. Martina Masat who took over her new assignment in Tunis.

Those of you who follow our Facebook-page have realized that no public or large private event could be organized by this embassy since March 2020 and no official delegation received. Unfortunately, neither the ever more popular European Jazz Festival in early November with participation from Switzerland nor the official Swiss National Day celebration will take place this year.

*However, it is the entire embassy team's wish to welcome you all back at the Swiss residence for our traditional **Santa Claus event in early December**, Covid-19 permitting. We shall keep you updated.*

*With my warm regards and best wishes
Stay safe!*

*Edgar Doerig
Ambassador*



Changes of transferable employees



At the end of July 2020, Mrs. Doris Zogg Bouchaoui was transferred from Cairo to Doha as new Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Operations & Consular Affairs.

She is accompanied by her husband and their son. Mrs. Zogg started her work at the Embassy at the beginning of August after having completed the then mandatory two weeks' quarantine. She is pleased to stay in Qatar and to support the Swiss Embassy as part of the team.



Arriving from Lyon, France, Mrs. Susanne Gutknecht Notter started her new posting in Doha on 26.07.2020 after two weeks of quarantine. She is Head of the Visa Section but also here to help our Swiss citizens with passports and registering changes of civil status or a new born baby.

She is accompanied by her husband Stephan Notter. Both are pleased to be in Doha and are also very much looking forward to the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Consular services

The Embassy of Switzerland is observing the COVID-19-rules of Qatar and is operating with a slightly reduced staff number. We are here for you during office hours from Sunday to Thursday and can be contacted preferably by e-mail to doha@eda.admin.ch. Please make an appointment, should you need to personally come to the Embassy.

Online desk for Swiss nationals residing abroad

The FDFA's [virtual counter](#) allows Swiss nationals who live abroad to manage their data online and to stay in touch with their consular representation more easily.



The online registration tool *Travel Admin App* (formerly known as “Itineris”) is supported by the Helpline of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and is available to all travelers to record their data of their short term trips abroad.

This information will help the FDFA to locate and contact our fellow citizens more rapidly if a serious crisis occurs abroad. Registered travelers will receive a warning SMS and/or e-mail if the security situation in a region suddenly deteriorates drastically. However, online registration is not an early warning system for natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, etc. Always follow the warnings and instructions of the local authorities in such situations.

All registered data will be treated confidentially and only used for the intended purpose. 30 days after return the travel data are automatically deleted.

For more information or registration, please visit <https://www.traveladmin.ch/home>.

Visa Services

COVID-19 has been hitting the headlines since March 2020 and restricts travel worldwide. Following the decision of the Federal Council in March 2020 not to issue Schengen visas anymore, the Visa Section and our external partner VFS Global suspended their services until further notice.

For so-called risk countries, the only possibility to obtain a Schengen visa is in a hardship case according to [SEM](#) (State Secretariat for Migration) regulations. Schengen visas and national visas (type D) are currently only being processed at the counter of the Embassy upon appointment and in clearly justified cases. For visa questions, please contact doha.gcc@eda.admin.ch.