

# 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 Swiss Amcham, 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 provides 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 Swiss Amcham addresses all issues of concern to this sector for the long-term success of the Swiss economy.

## Organization

The Swiss Amcham is a private organization with nearly 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 Swiss Amcham 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. Swiss Amcham's governing body is the Board of Directors, elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Swiss Amcham is a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce, American Chambers in Europe (ACE), 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 Swiss Amcham will bring issues of general concern to the relevant authorities and help in structuring solutions acceptable to all. In this endeavour, the Swiss Amcham will work closely with other business associations.

## Media

Swiss Amcham is in intensive contact with Swiss and US media. Relevant appearances can be found on [www.amcham.ch/media](http://www.amcham.ch/media).

## Information

Bi-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](http://www.amcham.ch), Swiss Amcham offers a comprehensive choice of information on the activities of the Chamber and details on the issues pursued.

## Networking

The Swiss Amcham 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 Swiss Amcham 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 feature prominent personalities from business or public life.

Recent speakers:

- J. Erik Fyrwald, Chief Executive Officer, Syngenta
- Yves Serra, Chief Executive Officer, Georg Fischer
- François-Henri Bennahmias, Chief Executive Officer, Audemars Piguet
- Richard Ridinger, Former Chief Executive Officer, Lonza
- Dr. Flemming Ormskov, Chief Executive Officer, Shire
- Etienne Jornod, Chief Executive Officer, Vifor Pharma Group
- Christian Mumenthaler, Group CEO, Swiss Reinsurance
- Dr. Fabiola Gianotti, Director General, CERN
- Ethan Cramer-Flood, Associate Director, China and Asia Programs, China Center for Economics and Business
- Gert-Jan van den Akker, President & CEO, Cargill
- Olaf Swantee, Chief Executive Officer, Sunrise Communications

For more information: [www.amcham.ch](http://www.amcham.ch)