

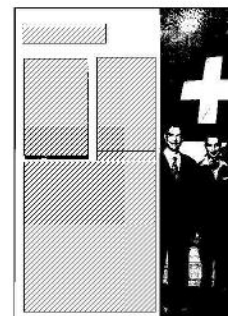
Aviation Special



awareness of the benefits of this
key carrier to the public.

Just a few days ago, Zurich Airport hosted a noteworthy premiere in aviation history – the first Swiss Aviation Congress. The President of the Confederation of Switzerland, Moritz Leuenberger, and many other prominent speakers underscored the significance of aviation for our country to an audience comprising high profile representatives from politics, administrations, business, science and culture.

Air traffic is unquestionably of outstanding politico-economic significance for a small and open economy like Switzerland. Hence, despite the unpleasant aspects of air transport, it is critical to increase



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Aviation is not a goal in itself, but rather an important instrument to enhance the attraction of a location. Nevertheless, aviation alone has become a significant economic factor for Switzerland – not only through its airports, air traffic control, and airlines, but also through segments like business aviation, aircraft manufacturers, airplane maintenance companies and general aviation. The aviation industry accounts for 176,000 jobs and in one form or another it adds value amounting to CHF 26 billion – which equates to roughly six percent of the national GDP.

If the aviation industry in Switzerland is to continue functioning in the national interest, it must be able to prevail against the intensifying competition with comparable means. A competitive framework is undoubtedly one of the prerequisites for this. Hence, I am extremely pleased to note that the government is placing great importance on this aviation issue by introducing necessary legislative amendments.

Although one realized long ago that it is important for Switzerland to have good connections to the international network, the merit of this aspect has grown markedly since. Even as far back as 1944, General Henri Guisan and the members of the Federal Council, Enrico Celio and Karl Kobelt, appealed to the public with their famous quote, “A nation that does not fly will be left behind.”

This special contains articles by successful companies on key sectors of Swiss civil aviation. I am sure you will enjoy this insight into the fascinating world of aviation.



Paul Kurrus
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