

# AEROSUISSE Bulletin Spring 2020



## Dear readers

Swiss aviation is now living through its biggest crisis since World War II. After a year with record passenger figures at the national airports this is hard to believe. But as a globalized industry aviation is hit harder by the Coronavirus crisis than other industries. Just a few weeks ago, our work focussed on preventing the taxes for aviation planned in the CO2 law, now it is simply about saving the livelihood of Swiss aviation. Once the Corona crisis is over, Switzerland will once again need an excellent connection to the world for its economy and tourism – which can only be provided by an efficient aviation infrastructure.



In these very challenging times, we first and foremost wish that you and your social environment, as well as your enterprise, remain in good health.

*Thomas Hurter, president of AEROSUISSE*

## Editorial

- [Meeting with the Federal Council](#)
  - [Debate on CO2 law at an ulterior date](#)
  - [AEROSUISSE supports NKF \(new combat aircraft\) committee](#)
  - [Against the amendments to the Law on Foreign Nationals and Integration](#)
  - [COVID 19: State support for companies](#)
  - [New website in September](#)
  - [General assembly in Geneva postponed to 11 September](#)
  - [New members](#)
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### Meeting with the Federal Council

Already in mid-March AEROSUISSE arranged a meeting with the Federal Council and stated the importance of Switzerland's connection to the world through its airports and Swiss aviation. The repatriation flights for fellow countrymen stranded abroad show that these missions have only been possible through the deployment of Swiss airlines and Swiss business aviation – of which Rega (Swiss air-rescue service) is a member. The relevance of a highly efficient air freight system now also becomes apparent: only cargo flights maintain the supply chains and allow much needed medical products to be transported into the country. By means of two media releases, AEROSUISSE has informed the general population of the importance of Switzerland's constant connection to the world.

[press release 19.03.2020](#)

[press release 23.03.2020](#)

### Debate on CO2 law at an ulterior date

[17.071](#)

The debate on the CO2 law in the National Council was planned for the last week of the session – for 18/19 March. As the session was interrupted due to the Coronavirus in mid-March, the debate on the CO2 law will probably be taken up again in the next session. The impact of the Coronavirus will certainly also affect the debate. The Corona crisis has served as an eye-opener and clearly demonstrated how quickly the economy collapses without mobility.

### AEROSUISSE supports NKF (new combat aircraft) committee

Under the chairmanship of Councillor of States Thierry Burkhart from the canton of Aargau (FDP) a committee has been formed for the campaign for new combat aircraft (NKF) for the Swiss army. The committee is broadly supported by parliamentarians from the FDP (The Liberals), SVP (Swiss People's Party), CVP (Swiss Christian Democratic Party) and GLP (Green Liberal Party). The committee states the importance of being independent from combat aircraft suppliers. AEROSUISSE supports this campaign committee by being involved in the relevant work group.

### **Against the amendment to the Law on Foreign Nationals and Integration**

In a letter to the Federal Department of Justice and Police, AEROSUISSE demands the complete deletion of the amendments to the Law on Foreign Nationals and Integration regarding the implementation of the "action plan integrated border management". Passing on the costs of border management onto the airport operators, as well as restricting their autonomy regarding constructional and operational modifications is excessive and contradicts the aviation policy report of the Federal Council. AEROSUISSE notes that the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs lacks the required expertise to implement structural measures in a complex operation like an airport – and, concurrently, airport operators not having the possibility to intervene.

### **COVID-19: State support for companies**

As already announced on Friday 20 March 2020 by the Federal Council the following applies since 26 March 2020:

- Amount up to CHF 500'000 100% guaranteed by the government. The credit amount is simply and quickly granted. Bridging credits can only be applied for in the amount of 10% of a company's total annual turnover. The company must prove that the sales losses are caused by the Corona pandemic. The interest rate is 0%. The required form for a bridging credit is available on the following website: [www.covid19.easygov.swiss](http://www.covid19.easygov.swiss)
- Amounts between CHF 500'000 and CHF 20 are guaranteed to 85% by the government. This requires a thorough bank auditing since they must bear 15% of a credit default. The interest rate currently is 0.5%.
- For hardship cases larger bridging credits are available, but these have to be granted by the government.

- Supported companies may not pay any dividends, repay investments or finance other loans with the bridging credit.

This support package has cumulative effect with the adopted measures regarding the short-time work regimes and the COVID compensation for loss of earning to cover salary costs.

### **New website in September**

[www.aerosuisse.ch](http://www.aerosuisse.ch)

The new AEROSUISSE website has been launched – we aim for a simpler structure and user-friendliness. Due to a system update the website will only be online from September onwards. Special emphasis will be placed on aviation-related careers, a job portal is conceivable.

### **General assembly in Geneva postponed to 11 September**

Due to the effects of the coronavirus, this year's AEROSUISSE general assembly and the presentation of the AEROSUISSE Award have been postponed from Thursday, 28 May, to **Friday, 11 September 2020**. To commemorate the 100-year jubilee of Geneva airport the general assembly will be held at **Geneva airport**.

### **New members**

#### **Speedwings Business SA, Payerne**

[www.speedwings-payerne.ch](http://www.speedwings-payerne.ch)

Speedwings has been operating business jets for over 30 years. The company also operates the civilian part of Payerne airport, acts as handling agent and leases the big hangars.

#### **Protectas Aviation Security AG, Zurich airport**

[www.protctas.com](http://www.protctas.com)

Protectas Aviation Security AG covers a wide range of security and other services in air transport. The company relies on an international company network and many years' experience.

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