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Dear members

AEROSUISSE can look back on a busy and successful year. The revision of the Aviation Act, which we have helped to shape, remains our most important dossier in 2026. We will work hard to ensure that this vision is successfully passed through the parliamentary deliberations.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank FOCA Director Christian Hegner. Over the past ten years, we have enjoyed a constructive and mutually respectful working relationship with

him. We wish him all the best for his future. We have had an initial meeting with his successor, Francine Zimmermann, and are confident that we will be able to continue our partnership with the FOCA under her leadership as well.

For me personally, taking over the chair of the [National Council's Transport Committee](#) marks the beginning of another exciting chapter in my parliamentary career. On behalf of the entire AEROSUISSE Executive Board, I would like to thank you for your cooperation and wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a good start to 2026.

*Thomas Hurter, National Councillor, and chairman of AEROSUISSE*



Partial revision of the Aviation Act approved by the Federal Council

On 12 November, the Federal Council adopted the [dispatch on the partial revision of the Aviation Act](#) for submission to Parliament. AEROSUISSE successfully campaigned for the current operating hours of Geneva and Zurich airports to be anchored in the Act. Given the growing pressure exerted by opponents of aviation on operating hours, this protection of existing rights is necessary. If operating hours at our national airports are further restricted, Switzerland's accessibility as a business and tourism location will deteriorate. Another important point in the revision is the legal anchoring of the principle of just culture. This ensures that persons who report safety-related incidents do not suffer any disadvantages. The partial revision of the Aviation Act will be discussed by the parliamentary transport committees in January before Parliament decides on it.

LUPO revision to start in January

[The 2016 Aviation Policy Report \(LUPO\)](#) will be revised. The FOCA will start work on this in January 2026. AEROSUISSE will submit proposals on measures to strengthen Switzerland's connectivity as a business location. AEROSUISSE's priority is for the Federal Council to commit to the status quo of operating hours at national airports in its aviation policy guidelines and to reduce government costs and fees for aviation in Switzerland. A safe, competitive Swiss aviation system is in the public interest.

Against further BVLOS-drone permits

AEROSUISSE supports the concerns expressed by the [Swiss Helicopter Association \(SHA\)](#) regarding the FOCA's permits for drone operations beyond the operator's visual line of sight (BVLOS). These permits endanger the flight safety of manned aviation in lower airspace. The FOCA's process for granting such permits has serious shortcomings. Until these shortcomings are remedied, no further BVLOS operations should be authorized by the FOCA.

Internships and AGM date 2026

Member companies offering internships for university graduates should please contact Peter Wild, President of the AEROSUISSE Commission for Education, Research, and Innovation (C-ERI).

[Link](#)

Please save the date for the 2026 Annual General Meeting: it will take place on **Thursday, 7 May, in the afternoon, at Payerne Airfield.**

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## **AEROSUISSE**

Umbrella organisation of the Swiss aerospace industry

Kapellenstrasse 14 / P.O. Box / 3001 Bern

[info@aerosuisse.ch](mailto:info@aerosuisse.ch)

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

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