

For immediate release

Press release

Swiss Federal Audit Office publishes its 2016 annual report

Bern, 10 May 2017 – The Finance Delegation of the Federal Assembly and the Federal Council have acknowledged the 2016 annual report of the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO). Last year, the SFAO published dozens of audits and evaluations. On six occasions it informed the Federal Council of serious deficiencies encountered in the Federal Administration and in the armament company RUAG.

The SFAO publishes half of its audit work. The SFAO published 47 audit reports in 2016, compared with 46 in 2015. It also gave access to a further three reports requested by journalists on the basis of the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA).

There were awkward issues for the SFAO in 2016. Was the Confederation's money used with care in the towers in the Swiss Pavilion in the universal exhibition in Milan? Why does the Swiss market for CO₂ emissions trading not encourage the companies most responsible for pollution to pollute less? Has the Direct Taxation Harmonisation Act been complied with? What can be said about the quality of the projections of the Federal Council dispatches submitted to Parliament? How are the federal IT projects coming along? Who understands TARMED invoices from doctors? These are just a few questions which marked the SFAO's work last year. The answers are to be found in the 2016 annual report.

As the custodian of federal finances since 1877, the SFAO fulfils its mission by auditing both the authorities and the beneficiaries of federal subsidies. Like the year before, the annual report mentions the six most significant recommendations which had still not been corrected by those audited by the agreed deadline. The SFAO has furthermore informed the Federal Council of six other cases linked to major shortcomings.

Swen illustrates the SFAO... and those audited

As in 2014 and 2015, the SFAO invited a cartoonist to illustrate freely the content of its annual report. Silvan Wegmann (Swen) follows in the footsteps of Max Spring and in those of the much missed Mix & Remix.

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The 2016 annual report is published in French, German, Italian and English on the SFAO website (www.efk.admin.ch).