

# Annual Report 2023

## of the President

at the occasion of the 116<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly of Delegates  
23. March 2024 in Olten

### Introduction

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This is now my third annual report, and I realise that I have become familiar with the processes at PHOTOSUISSE. Of course, this is not to say that we want to stick to the status quo, but it does make the work a little easier. I realise that the photography environment in Switzerland is very constructive and I am pleased that I have been able to expand my personal network with many new acquaintances, of course also through my role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Committee for their trusting cooperation. The association cannot function without the active support of the entire Committee. It is therefore particularly pleasing to realise that we have been able to make progress as a team and that this is hopefully to the satisfaction and benefit of our members.

### Assembly of Delegates 2023

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Last year, our assembly of delegates took place at the Centre Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN) in Meyrin (GE). Many thanks to the Photoclub CERN and its President Andrea Musso for organising this event. A very interesting guided tour of CERN took place after the AD. As the number of visitors for the guided tour at CERN was limited, unfortunately not all those interested were able to attend last year's AD.

In addition to the standard agenda items, it was decided at the 2023 AD to see whether the organisation of a mobile phone competition could perhaps interest younger members in photography and thus also in PHOTOSUISSE. The AD instructed the Executive Committee to draw up a proposal on this for the next AD.

With regard to the competition regulations, it was decided that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to create images or parts thereof is not permitted. Art. 4 of the competition rules was amended accordingly. The ban on the use of AI is thus in line with the standard rules of FIAP competitions.

The original plan was to hold this year's AD in Zofingen at the invitation of AARSO Fotoclub Zofingen on the occasion of the club's anniversary. Unfortunately, it was not possible to find a suitable date on which the Fotoclub Zofingen could offer an interesting supporting programme and which was also early enough before the opening of the PHOTOSUISSE competition so that any changes decided at the AD could still be taken into account.

### Rallye Romand and Digicup

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As in the previous year, PHOTOSUISSE supported the Rallye Romand 2023, which took place on 13 May in Sion and was organised by Photoclub Déclit Saxon et Environs. Almost 50 photographers took part in this year's edition and submitted pictures on the five themes of "Fontaine", "Le temps qui passe", "Rouge et blanc", "A ras le sol" and "Libre". Registration for the rally and uploading the pictures was handled via our platform

"rallyeromand.ch". Théa Moser, Elisabeth Aemmer and Martin Zurmühle acted as judges. The winner of the rally was Raymond Marcelli (Société Genevoise de Photographie), followed by Benjamin Délèze (Photoclub Déclic Saxon) and Jacqueline Perregaux (Photoclub Gland). A big thank you to Photoclub Déclic Saxon for the excellent organisation of the event.

The Rallye Romand 2024 will take place on 8 June and will be organised by the Photoclub Fribourg in collaboration with PHOTOSUISSE.

Traditionally, the Digicup is a weekend event organised by one of our member clubs. As organising a weekend is very time-consuming, it is not easy to motivate a club to run this event. We therefore thought that it might be easier to organise the Digicup as a one-day event, similar to the Rallye Romand in German-speaking Switzerland. The organising club could then be supported by PHOTOSUISSE, as with the Rallye Romand. The Fotoklub Solothurn has agreed to organise the Digicup in this new form for the first time in autumn 2024.

The Rallye Romand infrastructure can be cloned and made available to the organising club for registration and uploading images for the competition. PHOTOSUISSE has reserved the domain "digicup.ch" for this purpose. Nicole Richli Meystre will take care of the coordination of the Rallye Romand and the Digicup with the respective clubs on behalf of PHOTOSUISSE. Theo Sommerhalder will support the organisation with the IT platform.

### **Competitions and photobook**

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For the first time it was this year possible to upload the files of the competition images directly to the image management system instead of sending them via file transfer or a USB stick. This worked very well and was used by most of the participants in the competition. This new option, which Theo Sommerhalder developed for us, also made it easier to handle the images and avoided errors such as incorrect image assignments, etc. As in previous years, the digital images were pre-evaluated by the judges in order to save time on the judging weekend.

The judging weekend for this year's colour and black and white competitions was held on the weekend of 9/10 September in Oftringen. The pictures were judged by Barbara Huwiler (CH), Susanna Brändli (CH), Thomas Stöckli (CH) and Michel Planson (FR), with three jurors taking turns to evaluate each category. Gian-Piero Pampuri (Photo Club Lugano) took part in the judging as an observer.

A total of 22 clubs and 13 individual members (1 more of each than in the previous year) took part in the competition, and more than 1600 photos/portfolios were submitted (compared to 1400 in the previous year). Heinrich Kessler (from AARSO Fotoclub Zofingen) finished the competition as the best all-round photographer and the AARSO Fotoclub Zofingen won the club classification. All the results of the competition can be viewed on our website and, as always, further details on the judging process can be found in the observer's report.

Once again this year, several members have been honoured with a long-term award at their request. Thomas Jäggli (Eisenbahner Fotoamateure), Walter Steinacher and Peter Jenni (Fotokub Dübendorf) and Walter Gaberthüel (individual member) were honoured with one star, Phil Davson (Foto Club Lugano) and Elisabeth Aemmer (Photo-Klub Belp) achieved two stars, Antonio Costanzo (AARSO Fotoklub Zofingen) was awarded three stars and Andreas Herrmann (Photoclub Gland) achieved the Artist award. Daniel Brändli (AARSO Fotoklub Zofingen) and Petra Angela Imhof (Fotoclub Münsingen) have achieved the awards for the levels 1 star, 2 stars, 3 stars and Artist with their application. Congratulations! The long-term awards will be published on our website in the "Hall of Fame".

As every year, the 2023 photo book was sent to members at the end of the year. As in previous years, the photo book was produced and printed by our printing partner ZT Medien in Zofingen.

### **Photo Münsingen & PHOTOSUISSE Award ceremony**

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As in the previous year, PHOTOSUISSE had its own stand at Photo Münsingen. We were now located in the Kultur Traube. Although the room is a little off the main area on the edge of the Photo Münsingen site, it

allowed us to display 12 printed images on walls in addition to the slide show with the best and award-winning images from the competition. We were also able to display information flyers and photo books and talk to visitors.

We also could hold the award ceremony for the winners of the PHOTOSUISSE 2022 and long-term competitions in the same room. Most of the invited award winners attended the ceremony on Saturday 20 May 2023 at 11 am and the subsequent aperitif. This is very pleasing and shows us that Photo Münsingen is a suitable event for the award ceremony. Although it was a little cramped in the hall and the quality of the projector was not ideal, we did not have to move to another location for this event as we did last year.

The award ceremony for the winners of the 2023 competition will again take place at Photo Münsingen. The winners will receive an invitation in good time. We have set the date for Saturday 11 May at 11 am.

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## FIAP

Martin Zurmühle unfortunately had to step down as FIAP liaison officer at the end of the year for personal reasons beyond his control. Until someone new is found, I will take on this role *ad interim*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin most sincerely for his commitment.

Several of our members also received FIAP awards in 2023. Miriam Bennouna and Reto Reber received an AFIAP award and Martin Zurmühle was honoured with an EFIAP/d3 award. Congratulations to our award winners on their well-deserved honours!

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## Visiting photo clubs

The PHOTOSUISSE Committee did not visit any photo clubs last year. However, we would like to continue to offer this service to interested clubs. Previous visits to various clubs have enabled us to present our activities, explain the competition process and answer questions from our members, which is of great interest to both sides.

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## Committee news

With the resignation of Martin Zurmühle as FIAP liaison officer person, the PHOTOSUISSE Committee only consists of six members since the beginning of the year instead of the seven members stipulated in the statutes. We are therefore looking for a new Committee member to coordinate our activities with FIAP.

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## Expositions and other activities

In 2023, we were also able to visit various photo exhibitions organised by our member clubs or individual members. We are happy to advertise these activities on our website on demand.

At the request of the Austrian Association of Photography (ÖVF), we wrote a short article about PHOTOSUISSE for the ÖVF Journal, which was published in the January 2023 issue.

FIAP also asked if we could report on PHOTOSUISSE's activities for the FIAP Newsletter. The newsletter was published last November. In the article, we reported on the PHOTOSUISSE competition and the Rallye Romand of 2023 and printed some of the winning images.

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## Outlook

It is still in our interest to keep the number of our members and participation in the photo competition stable. To this end, it may be useful to visit our member clubs, or those who are newly interested in PHOTOSUISSE, to answer questions and be open to suggestions. The PHOTOSUISSE competition and the resulting photo book



remain our most important annual event. In addition, we are trying to strengthen the exchange between photo clubs through the Rallye Romand and a new edition of the Digicup.

Photo Münsingen is also on our agenda again in 2024. We hope to be highly visible there, engage in dialogue with many photographers and efficiently expand our network.

Arzier - Le Muids, 28.01.2024

Andreas Herrmann, President