

Avosetta group

National Report

1. Update to the secondary residences (cf. discussions in November 2012): The Federal Court has decided that the article in the constitution which limits the number of secondary residences to 20 % of all habitats in a city / village and which was adopted by the majority of the people and the cantons in march 2012 is (at least to some extent) directly applicable and this from the day of the votation.
2. Switzerland will probably ratify the Aarhus-Convention soon. However, there are still some people in the Parliament who are rather skeptical.
3. The Federal Office of Environment is confronted to the question under which conditions it may publish or communicate scientific data / results of scientific research on, e.g., the characteristics of a dangerous substance if this communication may allow to know production methods. In Swiss Law, this question raises rather complicated questions; however, also the Aarhus-Convention is of some importance in this context

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