

Newsletter, March 2024

Dear members,

I hope you have had a good start to the New Year. For my part, the mental strain caused by my trial has finally given way to immense relief, after six difficult years. My definitive acquittal on all counts has become a reality. It's a victory for all of us!

As my trial is finally over and I've been asked from all sides to speak about it and organise a meeting at which I present my case from my point of view and answer questions, I've decided to do so at our next Café Goodbye, which will take place on Sunday 24 March 2024. Our Café Goodbye is held every three months on Sunday mornings in the Heimatmuseum in Reinach Baselland from 10 a.m. to noon. You can find the invitation and detailed information under the following link: <https://www.cafegoodbye.ch/>

Thanks to Mr. Wolfgang Weigand, my mentor and role model for our Café Goodbye, the Winterthur Café Goodbye has resumed its activities after the Covid break. I'm delighted for all the people who live near Winterthur, and I am recommending a visit to the Café Goodbye in Winterthur highly. I go there myself, because the subjects covered are particularly interesting, and on 23 June I'll be presenting the following topic in Winterthur myself: "Living with loneliness, a *reflection on unwanted life situations*", because it's not all that unusual for loneliness to be a persistent reason for wishing to die. We need to change that.

I'd like to come back to the legal situation of assisted suicide in Switzerland: Dr Pierre Beck, whom I've already mentioned several times, will have to show up for the second time in front of the Federal Court in Lausanne on 13 March 2024. Unfortunately, the Public Prosecutor has not accepted the confirmation of his acquittal by the Cantonal Court and has referred the case back to the Federal Court for the second time, which was not the case when I was acquitted, luckily for me. I will be accompanying him personally to Lausanne on 13.3. and I am convinced that his trial will also finally end in a definitive acquittal. If any of you would also like to attend the proceedings, please note that you must register in advance with the Federal Court.

I would also like to thank all our members who have paid their subscriptions for the current year. We have drawn your attention to the fact that currencies have lost their value against the Swiss Franc, and we have asked you to take this into account when making transfers. CHF 50 is currently equivalent to 55 euros and 62 dollars. Some members have made up the difference and I would like to thank them for their support, loyalty and understanding. I would ask you not to pay your membership fee for 2025 until January 2025, at which time you should take account of the current exchange rate and transfer costs.

In October 2024, we are organising a Round Table on the theme of "Dying peacefully at home - for many people, this wish is not a reality. Why is this so? *Finding your way between suicide by fasting, assisted suicide and palliative medicine*". The date and venue have not yet been set, but we will let you know at a later date.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish you all wonderful days and moments of shared pleasure, despite the difficulties of life.

Erika Preisig,

Family Doctor and President  
of the lifecircle association