

## **Susanne Giger and Marie-Hélène Hancock appointed to the Foundation for the Pontifical Vatican Swiss Guard; Martin Dubach becomes Treasurer**

**Zurich, Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020** ... The Foundation for the Pontifical Swiss Vatican Guard announced today the appointment of Susanne Giger and Marie-Hélène Hancock to the board of the Foundation as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Both are communications specialists, with in-depth experience in numerous sectors within all language regions in Switzerland, as well as on an international level.

The board also appointed Martin Dubach, who is from the canton of Zug and has been a member since 2018, as Treasurer. He will be able to draw on his lengthy experience in banking, making him the ideal candidate for the position. He will replace Maurice Zufferey, the vice-president of the board, who had taken up the position *ad interim*.

With these appointments, the Foundation will be strengthening its communications resources and increasing its public and media relations capacity. Susanne Giger is an experienced business moderator, board member and media trainer with some seventeen years of prior experience as a journalist with the German-language Swiss public radio and TV. Marie-Hélène Hancock is a senior partner at one of Switzerland's leading communications consultancies, Hirzel.Neef.Schmid.Counselors, advising corporate clients, individuals and institutions from various sectors on their communications strategy. Together, they will support the Foundation and the Guard in all media-related matters as well as in communications with the patrons of the Foundation and in fundraising.

*The president of the Foundation, former Federal Councilor Ruth Metzler-Arnold, explained that: « Public relations are a part of the Foundation's core mandate, as well the smooth exchange of information between the Foundation and the friends and patrons of the Swiss Vatican Guard, so I am very pleased that two experienced and recognized personalities have joined us. I look forward to working more closely with them both in the context of our Management Committee. »*

*Susanne Giger underlined that: « The Swiss Guard embodies values such as reliability, commitment and loyalty. It combines tradition with a modern approach. I am very much looking forward to contributing to making this fascinating and exceptional story tangible. »*

*Marie-Hélène Hancock added that: « The Foundation for the Swiss Guard is an exceptional, indeed a unique institution. I am very honoured to help in increasing its visibility in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, because it represents a calling card for the whole of Switzerland. »*

**The Foundation** was set up in 2000 in Fribourg (Switzerland) with the objective of ensuring the sustainability of the Swiss Guard in the Vatican. The Foundation supports the Guard and its members financially, materially and socially. For instance, it promotes education and training, in preparation where relevant to a return to working life after completing guard service (e.g. security and surveillance specialist with Swiss Federal Certificate of Competence – VSSU). It also supports the Guard in its public relations and recruiting, and contributes to improving and modernizing its working methods, equipment and infrastructure. To help achieve these goals, the board of the Foundation is made up of personalities from the Church, science, politics, business and the military.

For further information, please contact:

Susanne Giger (D) [susanne@susannegiger.ch](mailto:susanne@susannegiger.ch) +41 79 221 20 15

Marie-Hélène Hancock (F and E) [marie-helene.hancock@konsulenten.ch](mailto:marie-helene.hancock@konsulenten.ch) +41 79 204 21 22

Secretariat (Astrid Seiler): [seiler@schweizergardestiftung.ch](mailto:seiler@schweizergardestiftung.ch) +41 78 245 15 80

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