

# Dossier

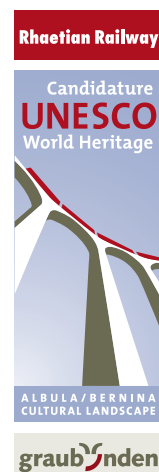
## Candidature UNESCO World Heritage

### Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Cultural Landscape

Switzerland / Italy

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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## Preface

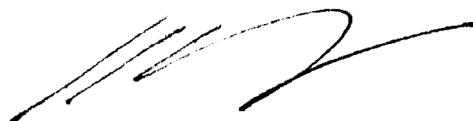
When the first passengers on the Albula Railway entered the Engadin a hundred years ago they must have been impressed by the bold engineering structures wrought in the wild mountain landscape. Certainly, no one regretted the exhausting and often perilous journey before the advent of the railway. When the Bernina line was opened, shortly afterwards, tourists from the lowlands could imagine being on one of those expeditions to the North Pole which were so in vogue at the time. They could travel comfortably through snow and ice in a kind of tram, past spectacular mountain scenery, only to disembark a little later in the Mediterranean atmosphere of Tirano, in Italy. Their journey combined the dream of the south with the sublime experience of the Alps.

At the same time, the Albula and Bernina lines were and continue to be an efficient means of public transport. The exceptional technical achievement of their construction can still be experienced because the structures have been preserved in their original state virtually everywhere, and even today the railway offers a full service, transporting both passengers and freight. As a technical system, it has adapted continuously to new developments and changing needs without losing its original character. The unique surrounding landscape interweaves varied evidence of an eventful past with exceptional natural phenomena in a small space. The region has achieved the remark-

able feat of avoiding collisions between tradition and progress, human action and nature, by accepting them respectfully and as a matter of course. So the railway structures merged with the landmarks of the landscape to form a coherent and emblematic image of the Alps.

The candidature of the Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina cultural landscape for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List is an expression of a profound commitment to the protection and careful development of the landscape with all its cultural variety. I find it particularly gratifying that this candidature could be prepared jointly with Italy as a trans-national project. Our two countries have always been closely linked. With the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage we have undertaken to carefully look after and preserve our exceptional cultural heritage. Projects like this show how these objectives can be reached when joint efforts are made on both sides of a border. In a time of globalisation, international cooperation is an important and successful instrument to preserve our mutual heritage. UNESCO has become the embodiment of this cooperation.

I am fully convinced of the quality of this candidature and thank the World Heritage Committee for its attentive appraisal.



Micheline Calmy-Rey

Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
President of the Swiss Confederation 2007

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