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Bundesplatz 1 and Kaiserhaus: SNB buildings to undergo renovation and alteration work

Temporary relocation of public counter

On 8 April 2014, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) announced that the head office at Bundesplatz 1 in Berne would be undergoing extensive renovation and alteration due to maintenance work required on the building as well as changes in usage needs. The SNB's Bank Council has now approved the construction project and the City of Berne's planning authority has granted the necessary permit. Construction work is therefore due to begin in February 2015.

The building will be vacated for this purpose. For about three years, the staff concerned will move to commercial premises which have been rented for a temporary period in Berne. From 5 January 2015, the bank counter accessible to the public will be transferred to Bank EEK AG, Amthausgasse 14 / Marktgasse 19, Berne, just two minutes' walk from the current location, where it will remain for the three-year period. The counter will be open from Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m.

Renovation of the SNB building at Amthausgasse 22–26 and a section of the adjacent premises on Marktgasse 37–41 (known together as the Kaiserhaus) is part of the overall renovation and alteration project. In addition, design and urban development measures will be implemented to upgrade the Kaiserhaus arcade, with its shops and restaurants (Kaiserhauspassage).

Implementation of the construction project at Bundesplatz 1 is being carried out in coordination with the forthcoming renovation of the north wing of the Federal Palace (Bundeshaus), which forms an integral building complex with the SNB office in Berne. Given that both premises – Bundesplatz 1 and the Kaiserhaus – are located within the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Old City of Berne, the SNB has been working closely with the city's historic buildings and monuments commission on the construction project.

