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## Telecommunications Newsletter Switzerland

# Swiss Federal Council Includes Broadband Access in the Universal Services Obligation And Reduces the Maximum Price for National Telephone Calls in the Fixed Network. Public Tender for Universal Services Obligation is Expected for Autumn 2006.

The Swiss Federal Council has amended the Decree on Telecommunications Services ("DTS") to include also broadband access, permitting internet access at a minimum transmission rate of 600 / 100 kbit/s in the universal services. Furthermore, the DTS determines the maximum price limit for this service at Swiss Francs 69.00. This price includes a bundle consisting of a broadband connection, a voice channel, a telephone number and an entry in the public telephone directory.

A public tender for the universal services obligation is expected for autumn 2006.

The amended DTS also provides for one maximum price for national telephone calls within the fixed network in order to simplify the tariff structure following the market trend. The limit is 7.5 cents per minute.

These changes will enter into force on January 1, 2008.

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