

Thouvenin Rechtsanwälte
Klausstrasse 33
CH-8034 Zürich

Phone +41 44 421 45 45
Fax +41 44 421 45 00
E-mail info@thouvenin.com

www.thouvenin.com



Telecommunications Newsletter Switzerland

Swiss Council of States Favours Unlimited Bit-Stream Access

The focus of the pending revision of the Swiss Telecommunication Act is still on the unbundling of the local loop. In its yesterday's session, the Swiss Council of States maintained its position in the pending revision of the Swiss Telecommunication Law for an unlimited bit-stream access. The Swiss Council of States is convinced that such an opening of the local loop would be favourable for all regions and not only for the larger cities.

Last year, the Swiss National Council voted in favour of restricting bit-stream access for a period of only two years. The matter will be discussed again on March 20, 2006, in an effort to come to an acceptable compromise between the Swiss Council of States and the Swiss National Council.

It is obvious to industry experts that a two year opening is nothing but a sham. Within a period of two years it will not be possible to amortize the investments of the potential new entrants. Even more so because bit-stream access will be restricted to the local switch.

It is to be hoped that a solution will be found, in order not to jeopardize the revision of the Swiss Telecommunication Act.

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David Käzig
For further information, please contact:
David Käzig (d.kaenzig@thouvenin.com)