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## Telecommunication Newsletter Switzerland

### Swisscom Lowers Prices for the Twin Copper Pair

In March of this year, Swisscom, the former monopolist, has announced to lower its fees for the twin copper pair from CHF 31 to CHF 23.50. A year ago, the revised Swiss Telecommunication Act entered into force which required the dominant carrier amongst others to offer a full unbundling of the twin copper pair.

Upon promulgation of the revisions to the Swiss Telecommunication Act, Swisscom entered into negotiations with the alternative providers on the terms for the unbundling. It is one of the peculiarities of the Swiss regulatory environment that the terms and conditions of interconnection and unbundling services must first be negotiated between the parties. Only if and when no agreement can be found, can the alternative provider petition the Communication Commission to determine the terms and conditions. Dominant carriers are required to grant interconnection and unbundling at cost oriented prices ("LRIC").

Many of the alternative providers have petitioned the Communication Commission to determine the terms and conditions of the unbundling after the negotiations have failed with Swisscom. With this latest announcement to reduce the prices for the unbundling of the twin copper pair, Swisscom moves into the right direction, although the price charged is still above the average price charged in the European Union. The Communication Commission will have the final word.

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