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New interception decree not as onerous as feared

The Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology has published the much-anticipated decree on the lawful interception of telecommunications. Telecommunications providers must comply with the new law by June 1 2002.

During the drafting stage, internet service providers and much of the public objected to the scope of the law being so broad as to include the lawful interception of email. They won; the decree only applies to the interception of telephone and fax communications.

Telecommunications providers of such services must install technical devices enabling the surveillance and recording of communications by the June 1 deadline, at an estimated cost of €7.3 million per provider. In addition, by January 1 2005 telecommunications providers will have to install technology that satisfies the criteria of the European Telecommunications Standardization Institute.

For discussion of the lead-up to the act's publication, see [Decree on telecoms interception imminent](#).

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