

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications

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COMMUNICATION FROM SWITZERLAND

Further Liberalization of the Swiss Telecommunications Market

The following communication is circulated at the request of Switzerland to members of the Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications.

1. Considering that telecommunications are characterized by very rapid technological development, globalization of the markets and liberalization on a world scale, the Swiss Government has examined various options in order to establish the political priorities which will make it possible to maintain and improve the level of competitiveness of the economy and telecommunications in Switzerland, and moreover in order not to be left behind when the information society becomes a reality in the next century.
2. The Swiss Government finds that the present Telecommunications Act does not afford sufficient freedom of action and is therefore in urgent need of amendment, with the aim of achieving the thorough liberalization of the market. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure the efficient and profitable long-term basic coverage of the national territory.
3. The Swiss Government has instructed the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Energy to submit, in 1995, a draft amendment of the Telecommunications Act which it can bring before Parliament. The aim of this draft is the liberalization of all the telecommunications and infrastructure services before 1 January 1998.