



## Press release

Date: 9 May 2012

---

# Switzerland Defers Signature of the ACTA Agreement

**Switzerland has, for the moment, deferred signature of the ACTA Agreement until enough elements are available to be able to assess how to proceed. This stated the Federal Council in a response to a letter from the National Council's Foreign Affairs Committee.**

The ACTA Agreement aims to facilitate the fight against large-scale and commercially-orientated counterfeiting and piracy at international level, and, in order to do so, wants to intensify international cooperation among Member States. Since negotiations were concluded, criticism of ACTA in various countries has strongly increased. The Federal Council takes these misgivings seriously as they concern basic freedoms and important rights.

For this reason, Switzerland will forgo signature for the moment. The Federal Council will once again take up the question of whether to sign when new bases for decision-making are available. For the Federal Council, possible bases could be the procedures in the five EU Member States who have deferred signature of ACTA, an expert opinion by the Court of Justice of the European Union mandated by the European Commission, or also the continuation of the ratification procedure within the EU.

**For enquiries:**

FDJP Information Service  
Tel. +41 31 322 18 18

**Responsible department:**

Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP)