



Media release

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Copyright infringements on the internet: existing legal framework is sufficient

The internet has fundamentally changed the use of music, film and computer games. For the time being, however, this will not have an adverse effect on cultural creativity. And the legislative framework provides measures to counter illegal uses of works, thus there is no need for further legislative action. So concluded the Federal Council in a report which was approved on Wednesday/Friday.

The report is in response to the postulate of 19 March 2010 presented by the Council of States. The Federal Council was mandated to compile a study of whether measures to counter copyright infringements are needed. Producers of products affected by this problem had complained of a decrease in income. The Council of States felt that this development could be a signal that a crisis might be on the way for Swiss cultural creation.

The report describes the current situation. For one thing, according to existing studies, up to one-third of over 15-year-olds in Switzerland download music, films and games without paying for them. For another, in spite of numerous media reports and public awareness campaigns, a majority of internet users still do not know which offers are legal and which are not.

The percentage of available income spent in this area by consumers remains constant. However, shifts can be seen within this budget. For example, money saved by consumers at exchange platforms is still being spent in the entertainment sector. However, that available amount is now being put towards concerts, going to the cinema and merchandising instead of music or film recordings.

This development is impacting the large foreign production companies most of all as they are being forced to adapt to changed consumer behaviour. The fear that this development could have an adverse effect on the national creation of culture remains unsubstantiated, however, because of the shifts outlined above. For these reasons, the Federal Council concluded that there is no need for legislative action.

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