



# Press Release

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## **Federal Network Agency publishes annual statistics on intercepts**

In its Official Gazette the Federal Network Agency has today, in accordance with section 110(8) of the Telecommunications Act (TKG), published the annual statistics for 2007 of telecommunications intercepts carried out under the provisions of the law of criminal procedure. Accordingly, the courts ordered intercepts last year in 38,386 cases and extensions in 7,603 cases. The orders related to 39,200 mobile numbers and 5,078 landline (analogue and ISDN) numbers. The development of the number of intercepts in the period 1998 to 2007 is shown in the attached chart.

The chart shows continued growth in the number of intercepted mobile calls, which is generally attributable to the growing number of mobile subscribers. This applies particularly to the year 2007, in which a 13 percent increase in the number of mobile phones entailed a steeper rise in the number of intercepts as compared to the previous years. With respect to intercepts for landlines, a slight decline was recorded, as had been the case in 2006.

Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, communications may be intercepted only in cases of particularly serious crime. This requires a court order.

The legal obligation of telecommunications system operators to prepare annual statistics of the intercepts carried out, and the legal duty of the Federal Network Agency to publish these statistics ceased to apply on 1 January 2008. This task is now performed by the federal states, the Federal Public Prosecutor and the Federal Office of Justice under section 100b(5) and (6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The federal states and the Federal Public Prosecutor notify the Federal Office of Justice annually, by 30 June of the year following the year under review, of the interception measures carried out under the provisions of the law of criminal procedure within their area of responsibility. The Federal Office of Justice prepares a summary of the intercepts ordered throughout the country in the reference year and publishes it on its website.