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**Federal Act  
on the Compilations of Federal Legislation  
and the Federal Gazette  
(Publications Act, PubLA)**

of 18 June 2004 (Status as of 26 November 2018)

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*The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,*  
based on Article 173 paragraph 2 of the Federal Constitution<sup>1</sup>,  
and having considered the Federal Council Dispatch of 22 October 2003<sup>2</sup>,  
*decrees:*

**Section 1            General Provisions<sup>3</sup>**

**Art. 1            Subject matter<sup>4</sup>**

This Act regulates the publication by the Federal Chancellery of:<sup>5</sup>

- a. the compilations of federal legislation (the Official Compilation of Federal Legislation, AS and the Classified Compilation of Federal Legislation, SR);
- b. the Federal Gazette (BBI);
- c.<sup>6</sup> other texts related to legislation.

AS 2004 4929

<sup>1</sup> SR 101

<sup>2</sup> BBI 2003 7711

<sup>3</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBI 2013 7057).

<sup>4</sup> Inserted by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBI 2013 7057).

<sup>5</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBI 2013 7057).

<sup>6</sup> Inserted by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBI 2013 7057).

**Art. 1a<sup>7</sup>** Online publication

<sup>1</sup> Publication under this Act takes place centrally via a publicly accessible online platform (the publications platform).

<sup>2</sup> ...<sup>8</sup>

**Section 2 Official Compilation of Federal Legislation****Art. 2** Enactments of the Confederation

The following shall be published in the AS:

- a. the Federal Constitution;
- b. federal acts;
- c. ordinances of the Federal Assembly;
- d. ordinances of the Federal Council;
- e. other legislative enactments of the federal authorities and of organisations and persons under public or private law that are assigned administrative duties but do not form part of the Federal Administration;
- f. federal decrees subject to the optional referendum;
- g. federal decrees on the approval of international treaties;
- h. simple federal decrees, if the Federal Assembly so decides.

**Art. 3** International treaties and international law decrees

<sup>1</sup> If they are binding on Switzerland, the following shall be published in the AS:

- a. international treaties that are subject to a referendum under Articles 140 paragraph 1 letter b and 141 paragraph 1 letter d of the Federal Constitution;
- b. other international treaties and decrees under international law that enact law or confer legislative powers.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The Federal Council may decide that treaties and decrees that are not legislative in their nature be published in the AS.

<sup>3</sup> The Federal Council shall determine the requirements by which treaties and decrees of no more than six months in duration and of limited scope need not be published in the AS.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Inserted by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>8</sup> Not yet in force.

<sup>9</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>10</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

**Art. 4** Agreements between the Confederation and the cantons and between cantons<sup>11</sup>

The following shall be published in the AS:

- a. agreements between the Confederation and the cantons that enact law or confer legislative powers;
- b. other agreements between the Confederation and the cantons if the Federal Council so decides;
- c.<sup>12</sup> Agreements between cantons that have been declared by the Confederation to be generally binding (Art. 48a Federal Constitution).

**Art. 5**<sup>13</sup> Publication by reference

<sup>1</sup> Texts in terms of Articles 2–4 which by their special nature are not suitable for the publication in the AS shall be included simply as a title with a reference or source, in particular if:

- a. they concern only a small group of people;
- b. they are technical in nature and only intended for specialists;
- c. they must be published in a format that is not suitable for publication in the AS; or
- d. a federal act or Federal Assembly ordinance requires publication outside the AS.

<sup>2</sup> Texts under Articles 2–4 that are published in another organ of publication available free of charge in Switzerland shall also be included in the AS only by title with a reference or source in that organ.

<sup>3</sup> Articles 6–10 and 14 apply.

**Art. 6**<sup>14</sup> Exceptions to the publication requirement

<sup>1</sup> Federal enactments, international treaties and decrees under international law that must be treated as confidential in the interests of Switzerland's internal or external security or international commitments shall not be published in the AS.

<sup>2</sup> Where texts under paragraph 1 impose obligations on individuals, only persons who have been given notice of the relevant provisions are bound.

<sup>11</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>12</sup> Inserted by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>13</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016, with the exception of the introductory sentence to para. 1 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>14</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

**Art. 7<sup>15</sup>** Ordinary, emergency and exceptional publication

<sup>1</sup> The texts in terms of Articles 2–4 shall be published in the AS at least five days before they come into force.

<sup>2</sup> Agreements and decrees under Articles 3 and 4 whose commencement date is not yet known at the time of their approval shall be published immediately after the announcement of their commencement date.

<sup>3</sup> A text shall be published by way of exception on the day it comes into force at the latest (emergency publication) if this is required either to ensure its effectiveness.

<sup>4</sup> If the publications platform is not available, the texts shall be published by other means (exceptional publication).

**Art. 8** Legal effect of publication

<sup>1</sup> Legal obligations arising from texts in terms of Articles 2–4 shall apply as soon as the texts have been published in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

<sup>2</sup> If an enactment is published in the AS after commencement, obligations arising therefrom apply from the day following publication, subject to Article 7 paragraph 3.

<sup>3</sup> If an enactment is published under the exceptional procedure, it remains open to any person affected thereby to show that he or she was unaware of the enactment and despite taking all reasonable care could not have been aware of it.

**Art. 9<sup>16</sup>****Art. 10** Formal corrections

<sup>1</sup> The Federal Chancellery shall correct errors and formulations in the AS that affect the meaning and do not correspond to the decision of the enacting authority:

- a. in federal enactments, with the exception of Federal Assembly enactments: at its own behest;
- b. in international treaties and decrees under international law: by agreement with the contracting partners.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For the correction of Federal Assembly enactments, Articles 57 paragraph 1<sup>bis</sup> and 58 of the Parliament Act of 13 December 2002<sup>18</sup> applies.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>16</sup> Repealed by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, with effect from 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>17</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>18</sup> SR 171.10

<sup>19</sup> Amended by No II 1 of the FA of 15 June 2018 (Miscellaneous Amendments of Parliamentary Law), in force since 26 Nov. 2018 (AS 2018 3461; BBl 2017 6797 6865).

<sup>3</sup> Errors in Federal Assembly enactments that arose on publication are corrected in the AS by the Federal Chancellery by agreement with the Federal Assembly Drafting Committee.<sup>20</sup>

### Section 3 Classified Compilation of Federal Legislation

#### Art. 11<sup>21</sup> Content

The SR is a revised compilation, arranged under subject headings and updated at regular intervals, which contains:

- a. the texts published in the AS, with the exception of non-legislative federal decrees on the approval of international treaties and decrees under international law; and
- b. the cantonal constitutions.

#### Art. 12 Informal corrections and amendments

<sup>1</sup> The Federal Chancellery shall informally correct errors in the SR that do not change the meaning.

<sup>2</sup> It shall informally amend details such as descriptions of administrative units, links, references or abbreviations in the SR.

<sup>3</sup> For the correction of Federal Assembly enactments, Article 58 of the Parliament Act of 13 December 2002<sup>22</sup> applies.

### Section 4 Federal Gazette

#### Art. 13

<sup>1</sup> The following shall be published in the Federal Gazette:

- a. dispatches and drafts of the Federal Council on enactments of the Federal Assembly;
- b.<sup>23</sup> reports and drafts of Federal Assembly committees on enactments of the Federal Assembly and the related Federal Council statements;

<sup>20</sup> Inserted by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>21</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).

<sup>22</sup> SR 171.10

<sup>23</sup> Amended by No I of the FA of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 3977; BBl 2013 7057).