

Report to the Federal Parliament

Enforcement of criminal fines – Follow-up of the 2014 recommendations



The Court of Audit publishes its fourth audit report on the enforcement of criminal fines.

Although it highlights a number of improvements in the enforcement of sentences pronounced by courts and tribunals, it also points out persistent problems, most of which are due to the fact that:

- an overall steering of the enforcement process is lacking;
- there is no integrated approach of the enforcement process, nor can the judicial bodies rely on a high-performance computer system to support their follow-up work;
- the methods developed in the Finance Department to collect criminal fines and follow-up their limitation in time are not appropriate;
- the sentence enforcement policy for unpaid fines is not clear.

The Court of Audit makes recommendations for addressing these shortcomings. It asks to give priority to a current state assessment of the enforcement of criminal fines and to define an improvement plan. This plan should set out a timetable for future measures and specify the means necessary to implement them, particularly as regards IT projects.