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## Royal decree

Laws sometimes require enforcement.

At the federal level, they are taken by the King, that is to say, in fact, by the King under the responsibility of one or more of his ministers who must be able to defend them before Parliament.

Such an act is called royal decree.

The royal decree can in turn empower the ministers to take implementing measures, in the form of "ministerial decrees". However, these can only relate to details.

Sometimes, the law requires that the royal decrees be taken on the basis of a collegial decision of the Council of Ministers: we then speak of a royal decree deliberated in the Council of Ministers. Certain laws, in circumstances that are in principle exceptional, attribute special powers to the King; this means that the executive power can adopt texts, called "royal decrees of special powers", which modify, replace, supplement or repeal laws.

A royal decree has:

- ▶ either a regulatory scope: it contains generally applicable legal rules;
- ▶ or an individual scope: it then concerns a specific person (eg: the appointment of a magistrate or a civil servant).

Royal decrees correspond within communities and regions to "Government decrees".

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### **Other glossary entry(s) linked to this entry, "Royal Decree" or to texts and other interventions published on the site)**

*Council of State , Federalism , Regulations (in domestic law) ,  
Subjects of this article (links to other entries in the glossary*

*Royal decree , Federal government , Minister , Executive power , King , Regulations*

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