

# Skype in hot water in France after failing to register

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Under French law, a [telecommunications operator](#) does not need

administrative authorisation but only has to make a "prior declaration," Arcep said. However failure to comply with the law is a [criminal offence](#)

Arcep said it had asked Skype to declare itself "an electronic communications operator" but it had failed to do so.

An Arcep statement said Skype should register as a [telecommunications service](#) as it provided "French Internet users with services that allow them to make phone calls to or from a device connected to the Internet... in France or elsewhere in the world."

As a regular telecoms service provider, [Skype](#) would have to undertake certain obligations, including routing emergency calls and allow legal wire-tapping.

The latest move comes at a bad time for Microsoft. The European Union fined Microsoft 561 million euros (\$730 million) earlier this month for failing to provide customers with a choice of Internet browser, as promised.

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