

Federal civil servants who answer emails, make phone calls or read minutes on their way to or from the office will be able to count this as working time starting January 1.

An amendment to the directive covering mobile forms of work for the federal administration stipulates that workers will simply need approval from their direct superior in order to have time spent working on the train “fully credited”, the *SonntagsZeitung* [external link](#) newspaper reported.

Previously such work could be billed in exceptional cases only.

A spokesperson for the Federal Personnel Office who spoke to the *SonntagsZeitung* could not say what proportion of the 38,000-strong civil service currently are allowed to work during their commute or how many are expected to take advantage of the new rule.

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