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## □ LOCAL LOOP UNBUNDLING – CO-MINGLING PROCEDURES

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) issued a draft decision on 14 December 2006 concerning the procedures for co-mingling in local loop unbundling (LLU), which considers that PT *Comunicações* (PTC) should modify the respective reference offer, RUO, so as to improve the conditions enabling

alternative operators to co-mingle in its exchanges; it cannot deny requests from those operators alleging space or power constraints. The interested parties were given a period of 15 working days to react in writing. (+info)

## □ FLATE RATE – DECISION ON CHANGES TO THE RIO

By determination dated 14 December 2006, ANACOM decided not to oppose the introduction by PT *Comunicações* (PTC) of the mode of capacity-based interconnection (flat interconnection rate) in its reference interconnection offer (RIO), based on the proposal the company submitted on 25 July 2006. However, the following points are exceptions: period to validate requests, which should

be counted in calendar days; differentiation of periods for the switch from time-based interconnection to capacity-based interconnection according to the offer's development phase; resale of capacity-based interconnection; and inclusion in the RIO of a standard interconnection agreement form. These aspects must be altered by PTC within 15 working days. (+info)

## □ ANACOM LAUNCHES ONLINE SEARCH FOR 'ITED' CERTIFICATES

ANACOM has made available a service enabling the electronic research and consultation of ITED (Portuguese acronym for 'telecommunications infrastructures in buildings') conformity certificates issued by the entities authorised for that purpose. This new possibility complements the disclosure already effected by this Authority's public attendance services, which under terms of Decree-Law no. 59/2000 of 19 April are responsible for providing information on certified

ITED installations. The new services aims to make the disclosure of this data more accessible, fast and transparent. The content of the issued certificates is nevertheless the entire and exclusive responsibility of the certifying entities that issue same. Also, this research and consultation function only includes those conformity certificates received by ANACOM in the appropriate format, for which reason not all of them are covered by this service. (+info)

## □ NEW ANACOM SEMINARS

With a view to promoting knowledge, reflection and discussion around various significant theme topics for the communications sector, ANACOM will in 2007 continue to organise seminars in the same format as those held in 2006. For the time being two new events have been scheduled: on 24 January, António Brandão and Paula Sarmiento from the Universidade do Porto will present the study on "Access Pricing: a Comparison Between Full Deregulation and Two Alternative Instruments of Access Price Regulation, Cost-Based and Retail-Minus"; and on 28 February, Réka Horváth of the Universidade Católica de Lisboa will

present the study on "Residential Internet and Broadband Take-up in Portugal". (+info)

At the same time as the respective seminar, a study was released on "Privatisation, Liberalisation and the Portuguese Telecommunications Sector: a social cost-benefit analysis", by Maria de Lurdes Martins e Natália Maria Monteiro from the Universidade do Minho. This study was presented at the seminar held last 12 December, and is the exclusive responsibility of its authors, and neither commits nor expresses any position of ANACOM. (+info)

## ■ PUBLIC CONSULTATION – RIGHTS TO USE NUMBERS IN THE '18XY' RANGE

ANACOM has decided in a draft decision the assignment of rights to use numbers in the 18xy range to offer the service of "enquiry services – other directories". This determination, dated 14 December 2006, holds that it is not justified to condition the offer of enquiry services (also called directory services) to the agent's prior authorisation as a provider of telephone services, as it is an offer which may currently be made autonomous or separated from telephone service. It also notes that the information to be provided by such services should be limited to the data listed in the telephone directories of telephone service subscribers, fixed and mobile, along with other information that may in some way be associated to telephone directories, such as email addresses or internet domains. Interested parties were given a period of 20 working days (until 19 January 2007) to submit comments, which should be sent, preferably by electronic mail, to [servicosinformativos@anacom.pt](mailto:servicosinformativos@anacom.pt). (+info)

## ■ CURRENT EVENTS

**PRICE TABLE FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE**

By determination dated 14 December 2006, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided not to oppose the entrance into force of the proposed price table for universal postal service to be in effect in 2007, submitted by the CTT – *Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service). (+info)

**RADIOMÓVEL INTERVENTION APPLICATION**

In reply to an intervention request from Radiomóvel, ANACOM issued a draft decision dated 16 November 2006, concerning the ongoing dispute between that company and Vodafone Portugal with respect to the interconnection of their respective mobile networks, giving both parties ten days to comment on same. Vodafone Portugal was notified to pronounce, within the same time period, on the interconnection request submitted by Radiomóvel, so that ANACOM can weigh the need and opportunity to intervene on its own initiative to incentive and ensure adequate interconnection and service interoperability. Radiomóvel was likewise notified about that point, and may in that context state its opinion and add any information associated to what was presented to ANACOM on 25 July 2006. (+info)

**MEETING ON CYBERCRIME CHALLENGES**

ANACOM Vice-Chairman Alberto Souto de Miranda took part in the closing session of the seminar on “Towards the Challenges of Cybercrime”, held last 29-30 November in Lisbon and organised by the Office for European International Relations and Co-operation (GRIEC) of the Justice Ministry. (+info)

**NATIONAL NUMBERING PLAN**

Information on the national numbering plan (NNP) has been updated with respect to telephone service publicly accessible at a fixed location in the geographic areas of Braga, Lisbon, Oporto, Santiago do Cacém and Castelo Branco. (+info)

**ADSL – PT UPDATES REFERENCE OFFER**

PT *Comunicações* has published the most recent version of the reference offer for access to the broadband ADSL network. (+info, Portuguese only)

**ERC ADVISORY COUNCIL – 1ST MEETING**

Lisbon hosted on 13 December the first meeting of the Advisory Council of the Media Regulatory Body (ERC – *Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social*), in which ANACOM is represented. The agenda included presentation of the balance of the first months of ERC activity and the projects envisaged for the coming year; the preliminary draft of the Television Law was also discussed. (+info)

**SONAECON/PT MERGER – COMPETITION AUTHORITY RULING**

The Competition Authority has released online the non-confidential version of the final decision on the merger operation between Sonaecom and Portugal Telecom (PT). (+info, Portuguese only)

**INTERMEDIATE SERVICE PROVIDERS – 2006**

After ANACOM provided in May 2006 the format for registering intermediate network service providers, some 13 entities enrolled last year in the various modes for intermediate services, namely information conveyance, information storage and content association.

**PUBLICATION ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

“The Information Society in Portugal – 2006” has been published, an initiative of the Working Group to Monitor Information Society Statistics (GTAESI) of the High

Statistics Council (CSE), co-ordinated by UMIC – the Agency for the Knowledge Society and the National Statistics Institute (INE). This publication, presented for the seminar on “Observing the Information Society in Portugal: state of the art”, held at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, is the first national compilation on the main and most recent statistical information produced by the various national bodies that follow the information society. The publication is divided into six thematic chapters: “Telecommunications”, “The Population and ICTs”, “Electronic Government”, “Education and ICT Training”, “ICTs in Hospitals”, and “Digital Economy”. ANACOM is involved in the GTAESI along with other bodies such as UMIC, the INE and the Information and Knowledge Society Observatory, and helped produce that publication. This Authority also sponsored the initiative and was represented at the seminar, where it gave a presentation on “Statistical Information on Electronic Communications”. (+info)

The publication has meanwhile been posted on the internet.

(+info, Portuguese only)

**BROADBAND USE BY THE STATE – UMIC SURVEY**

UMIC – the Agency for the Knowledge Society has published two surveys on the State’s use of information and communication technologies in 2006: one on the central public administration (CPA) and the other on local governments. Noteworthy is the 32 percent growth in CPA bodies with broadband connections above 2 Mbps, as well as the 50 percent rise in the number of CPA bodies providing online services using data contained in the databases of other bodies. Note also that 27 percent of CPA bodies made orders via the internet. As for local governments, the number of same with broadband connections above 2 Mbps grew by 68 percent last year; 96 percent of them are present on the internet.

(+info, Portuguese only)

**INE – SURVEY ON ICTS IN BUSINESS**

In 2006 more than 6 out of 10 companies accessed the internet using broadband connections. This is one of the main conclusions of the survey on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in companies, carried out by the National Statistics Institute (INE) together with UMIC – the Agency for the Knowledge Society. The report also indicates that 95 percent of companies with ten or more employees use computers, 84 percent use electronic mail and 83 percent have access to the internet – in that case, 66 percent of the connections are broadband. Regarding the technology used to connect to the net, DSL is the choice of 63.3 percent, followed by analogue modem (25.2 percent), other fixed broadband connections – cable and dedicated access (24.8 percent) and ISDN, with 17.9 percent. By activity sector, the ones with the highest internet access percentages are transport, storage and communications companies (88.6 percent) and property, rental and service provider activities (88.4 percent).

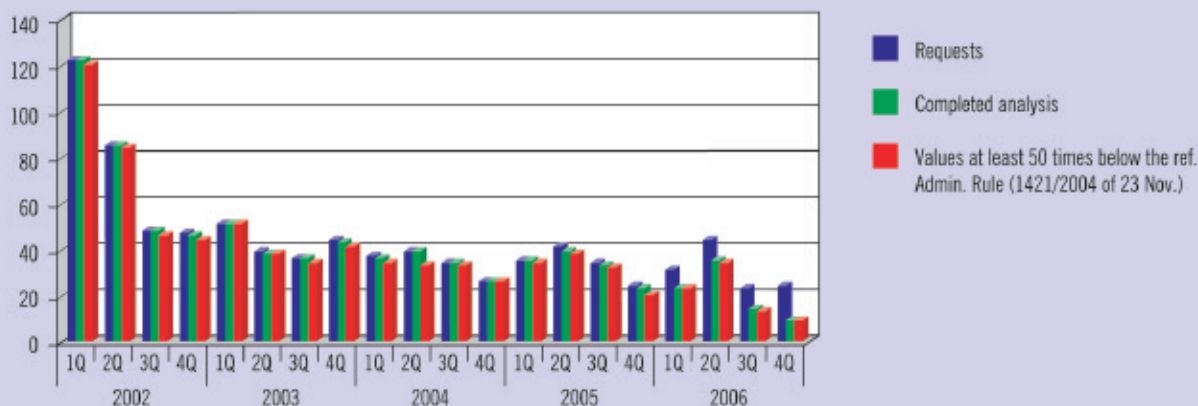
(+info, Portuguese only)

**FPC CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Portuguese Foundation for Communications (FPC) marks 10 years of activity in 2007. The aim of this institution, founded by ANACOM, the CTT – Portuguese postal service and Portugal Telecom, is to encourage the study, conservation and disclosure of the historic, scientific and technological heritage in the area of communications. The event will be marked by a number of initiatives scheduled over the course of the year.

## EVALUATION OF NON-IONISING RADIATION

	2002				2003				2004				2005				2006			
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
Solicitations	122	85	48	47	51	39	36	44	37	39	34	26	35	41	34	24	31	44	23	24
Analyses concluded	122	85	48	46	51	38	36	43	36	39	34	26	35	39	33	23	23	35	14	9
Values at least 50 times below the ref. admin. Rule (1421/2004 of 23 Nov.)	120	84	46	44	51	38	34	41	34	33	33	26	34	38	32	20	23	34	13	9



## POSTAL STATISTICS – 3RD QUARTER 2006

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) recently published the third quarter 2006 statistical information on postal services operated on a competitive basis. According to that data, the traffic in postal services operated on a competitive basis comprised nearly 72 million objects, corresponding to 25.5 percent of total postal traffic (reserved services and liberalised services). During the review period national postal traffic stood at more than 66 million objects (92 percent of the total), with outgoing international traffic recording about 6 million objects (8 percent). Of the nearly 72 million postal objects conveyed on a liberalised basis, nearly 4 million were in the express mail category and more than 68 million were included in the remaining service categories, i.e., 5 percent

and 95 percent of total traffic, respectively. Liberalised service traffic fell 6.1 percent compared to the previous quarter but rose 24.3 percent compared to the same quarter in 2005. This increase must nevertheless be viewed with caution as it is partly due to reduction of the scope of the reserved area – since 1 January 2006 the reserved area has had the following price and weight limits: two and a half times the public reference tariff (priority mail up to 20g) and 50g.

(+info, Portuguese only)

Regarding Mobile Trunking Service, the third quarter data will be released together with that for the fourth quarter of 2006.

## 47% SAVINGS WITH ELECTRONIC BUYING

ANACOM conducted last 7 December an electronic purchasing auction involving office material (paper and reprographic articles) assessed at 39,120 euros (opening price); the last bid was 20,520 euros, for a saving of 18,600 euros, 47.55 percent less than the starting price. Carried out under the National Electronic Purchasing Programme, the type of auction chosen was “descending English”, in which the lowest bid wins. Nine previously selected specialist companies took part, with 108 articles for consumption in 2007 put up for bidding. The process was supported by the TradeForum company, in administrative terms and the

provision of the necessary computer platform. Note that the first auction was held on 8 July 2004, also for office material – the opening price then was 43,376 euros and the last bid was 30,126 euros. The second such auction was held on 13 December 2005, with an opening price of 53,900 euros and a last bid value of 29,700 euros, for savings of 44.9 percent. No further auctions have been scheduled as yet, although plans call for extending the dynamic price negotiation process to other areas in 2007. (+info, Portuguese only)

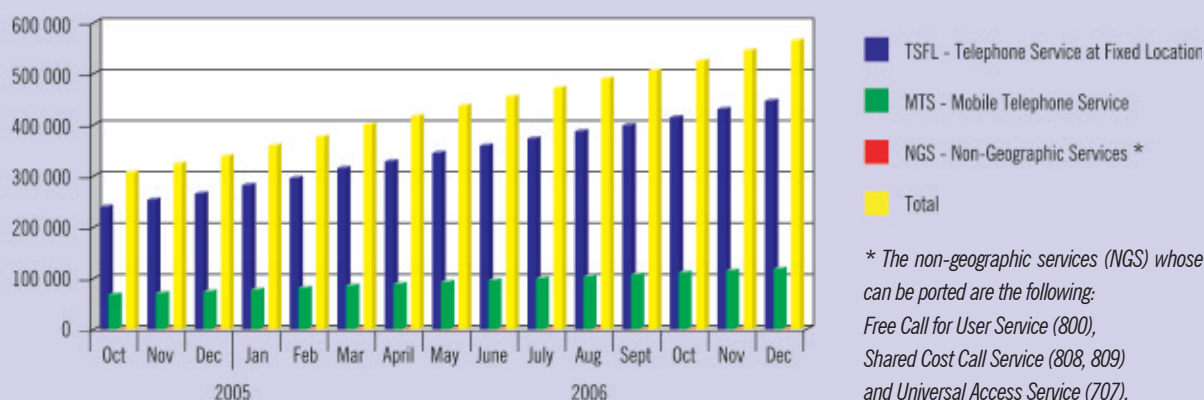
## ANACOM AUTHORISES UMTS TRIALS

Following a request by Vodafone Portugal, ANACOM authorised the company to conduct technical trials until 24 December 2006, with a view to demonstrating UMTS technology in the 900 MHz frequency band using spectrum that had been

assigned to GSM operations in that band. This decision neither binds, obliges nor conditions future authorisation for such systems in Portugal, nor any right, expectation or legally protected interest for Vodafone Portugal. (+info)

## ■ PORTED NUMBERS

	2005			2006											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TSFL	239 478	252 984	265 077	281 753	295 502	314 749	327 983	344 547	359 003	372 508	386 848	398 609	414 078	430 484	446 371
MTS	67 491	70 692	73 394	76 957	80 456	85 178	88 251	92 197	95 416	99 018	102 809	106 625	110 302	114 260	117 597
NGS*	333	347	351	396	399	432	438	461	474	503	520	532	544	549	571
TOTAL	307 302	324 023	338 822	359 102	376 357	400 359	416 672	437 205	454 893	472 029	490 177	505 766	524 924	545 293	564 539



## □ 10TH ANACOM/ANATEL MEETING

As per the co-operation protocol currently in effect, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) and Brazil's *Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações* (ANATEL) met on 13-15 December in Estremoz, Portugal, for the 10th meeting of the respective Co-ordination Commission, which saw presentation of the main measures adopted by both agencies since the last meeting (September 2005) and the projects planned for 2007. The work focused on the following topics: cost models; service resale and tariffs; broadband; digital radio, television and radio frequency; portability; convergence; infrastructures; information ser-

vices and quality; and services provided over the internet. Also discussed were issues pertaining to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) and laboratory co-operation in electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and radio. Regarding the latter, an agreement was made to exchange information on standards in the context of establishing mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) between the European Union and Brazil, currently in effect. The next bilateral meeting will be held in Brazil, most likely in the second half of 2007. (+info)

## □ "A SMILE WITH ICTS" – 2ND PHASE

The Foundation for the Propagation of Information Technologies (FDTI) launched the second phase of the "A Smile with ICTs" initiative at the Reynaldo dos Santos hospital in Vila Franca de Xira near Lisbon. The start of this new phase will also cover the Infante Dom Pedro and São Marcos hospitals in Aveiro and Braga, respectively. The aim of the initiative, which has counted ANACOM sponsorship

since it began in December 2005, to endow the paediatric sections of public hospitals with technological infrastructures that will provide child patients from 2 to 12/14 with leisure activities, the ability to be followed by family or friends, and to keep up with school activity. It is also meant to be used by technicians, hospital volunteers and the respective children's family members. (+info)

## ■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Order no. 96/2007** (II Series – *Diário da República* of 4 January 2007) – Appoints the members of the executive council of the Agency for Administrative Modernisation.
- **Administrative Rule no. 1428/2006** (I Series – D.R. of 22 December 2006) – Sets the amount to transfer to ERC (Media Regulatory Body) on account of the ANACOM net results for budget year 2005 and delivered as general State revenue.
- **Notice** – (II Series – Special Part, D.R. of 22 December) – Statement of conformity of the cost accounting system of the CTT – *Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service).
- **Administrative rule no. 1416-A/2006** (I Series – 2nd Supplement, D.R. of 19 December) – Regulates the regime for the electronic promotion of commercial registry acts and establishes the permanent credential.
- **Administrative rule no. 1358/2006** (I Series – D.R. of 4 December) – Modifies the Regulation for Implementation of the Measure to Support the Creation of New Technological Infrastructures and the Current Technological Infrastructures, for Training and Quality, approved by Administrative Rule no. 919/2003 of 3 September.

Meeting in Council of Ministers last 21 December, the Government approved the National Accessibility Promotion Plan. At its 28 December meeting, the president of the board of directors of the Energy Services Regulatory Body (ERSE) was discharged at his request.



## ■ EUROPEAN UNION

### GERMAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

"Together Europe Can Succeed" is the motto of the German presidency of the European Union (EU) Council in the first half of 2007. It will be followed by Portugal, which assumes the position in the second half of 2007. The official presentation of the presidency's programme is scheduled for 17 January 2007 and includes in its calendar celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaty on 25 March 2007. Noteworthy priorities include adoption of the Union's energy action programme, relaunch of the Lisbon Agenda and resolution of the institutional crisis around the EU constitutional treaty. Various events are planned for the communications sector: three councils of ministers of transport, telecommunications and energy (one on 15 February 2007, another on 22-23 March and a third on 6-8 June), a meeting of ministers for telecommunications and information society (15 March) and a conference on transports and e-safety (5 July). (+info)

### CONSULTATION ON SATELLITE NAVIGATION APPLICATIONS

The European Commission (EC) has launched a public consultation, under way until 6 April 2007, regarding the Green Paper on satellite navigation applications, based on availability of the Galileo European satellite radio-navigation system. The initiative aims to encourage public discussion of the measures the public sector may impose to establish an appropriate legal framework to develop those applications, beyond financial support and the creation of infrastructures. (+info)

Parallel to this, the EC has launched a competition for youths aged between 15 and 25, with the aim of identifying innovative ideas for the use of satellite navigation technologies and services. The competition rules (in English, French or German) have been posted online for consultation. (+info)

### SPECTRUM HARMONISATION – NEW COMMISSION DECISIONS

The European Commission (EC) adopted on 23 November 2006 a decision on the harmonisation of radio spectrum for radio frequency identification devices (RFID) operating in the ultra high frequency band (UHF). Under terms of this Decision, and within six months after it takes effect, the European Union member States must designate and make available, on a basis of non-exclusion, non-interference and non-protection, the frequency bands for RFID devices. The member States must also permanently control use of the relevant frequency bands and inform the Commission of the respective conclusions, with a view to allowing an eventual revision of the current Decision. Also in this

regard, the Commission adopted last 9 November a decision on radio spectrum harmonisation with a view to its use by low power short range devices. (+info)

### COMMISSION RELAUNCHES eCALL ACTION PLAN

The European Commission (EC) wants the European Union (EU) member States and industry to speed up progress on the aims set out in the eCall action plan. To that end it published the Communication "Bringing eCall Back on Track – action plan" last 23 November. This action plan, approved by the Commission and by the industrial sector in 2005, is meant to introduce eCall technology – in case of accidents, this technology will call the emergency services, accessible throughout the Union using the number 112, and communicate the precise location of the vehicle involved – in all new EU vehicles as from 2009. (+info)

In the wake of this relaunch, Iceland signed the eCall initiative memorandum of understanding (MoU), raising to ten the number of member States who have signed the document. (+info)

### ERG – PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, 19TH MEETING AND WORKSHOP

The European Regulators Group (ERG) launched last 1 December four public consultation processes associated to proposals on the approach to the topics of harmonisation, effective harmonisation, common position on high bandwidth access and wholesale offer of local loop unbundling. Interested parties may submit their contributions by electronic mail to the address [erg-secretariat@ec.europa.eu](mailto:erg-secretariat@ec.europa.eu) by 15 January 2007. Plans call in the near future for publication of the contributions received in the recently closed public consultation on the ERG working programme for 2007. The ERG is to hold a harmonisation workshop on 11 January 2007 in Brussels. (+info)

### TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL

Conclusions of the meeting last 11-12 December of the European Union (EU) Council of Ministers of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy have been posted and are available for consultation. (+info)

### ECTA RELEASES 2006 REGULATORY SCORECARD

The European Association for Competition in Telecommunications (ECTA) has released the 2006 edition of its Regulatory Scorecard report, a publication meant to assess the level of efficiency of 17 of the European Union (EU) member States with respect to fostering investment and competition in the electronic communications sector. (+info)

## ■ OJEU

- **Opinion (2006/C318/36)** – Of the European Economic and Social Committee. Puts an end to differences in broadband matters. Published on 23 December 2007.
- **Opinion (2006/C318/34)** – Of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Galileo Programme: formalises establishment of the European Oversight Authority. Published on 23 December.
- **(EC) Regulation no. 1943/2006** – Of the Council of 12 December 2006, which amends (EC) Regulation no. 876/2002 instituting the Galileo joint undertaking. Published on 22 December.
- **(EC) Regulation no. 1942/2006** – Of the Council of 12 December 2006, which amends (EC) Regulation no. 1321/2004 concerning the structures for managing European satellite radio-navigation programmes. Published on 22 December.
- **Communication (2006/C 314/05)** – Of the Commission, with respect to implementation of Directive 89/336/EEC of the Council of 3 May 1989 concerning the approximation of member State legislation with respect to electromagnetic compatibility. Published on 21 December.

(+info)

## □ CEPT (EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS) MEETINGS

### ECC PT1

The German city of Mainz hosted last 12-14 December the 24th meeting of project team 1 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC PT1). [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC – PLENARY MEETING

The 15th meeting of the ECC was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 17 November to 1 December 2006, attended by representatives of 29 administrations and various organisations. [\(+info\)](#)

### ERO/ETO JOINT COUNCIL

The Councils of Administration of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) and the European Telecommunications Office (ETO) held a joint meeting last 12-13 December in Copenhagen. [\(+info\)](#)

### CERP – PLENARY MEETING

The 35th plenary meeting of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) was held last 28-29 November in Madrid, with the participation of 28 member countries. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

### PLENARY MEETING

The plenary meeting of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) was held last 7 December in Bratislava, Slovakia. [\(+info\)](#)

### PT 2006 REVIEW

Berlin hosted last 15 December a meeting of the 2006 Review project team (PT). [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ETSI)

### OCG ECN&S GROUP

The 16th meeting of the ETSI Operational Co-ordination Group – Electronic

Communications Networks and Services (OCG ECN&S) was held last 30 November in the French city of Sophia Antipolis. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATION SATELLITE ORGANISATION (EUTELSAT)

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 18th meeting of the EUTELSAT IGO Advisory Committee was held last 5

December in Paris; the Czech Republic was the only Committee member that did not take part in this extraordinary meeting. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN UNION

### EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP (ERG)

The 19th meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG) was held last 7-8 December in Bratislava. [\(+info\)](#)

### ERG/MEDA MEETING

The European Regulators Group (ERG) and the countries covered by the MEDA programme – the main European instrument for implementation of Euro-Medi-

terranean (Euromed) partnership – met last 6 December in Bratislava with a view to determining a co-operation policy between European regulators and the Mediterranean countries. The meeting included presentations on organisational aspects of the ERG, on revision of the regulatory framework and on universal service in Romania, while Egypt described the conditions of its domestic market. In the end, it was decided that details of the kind of co-operation will be studied by the new head of the ERG, Roberto Viola, from the Italian regulator (AGCOM).

## □ PP-06 ADOPTS ECPS CO-ORDINATED BY PORTUGAL

Portugal saw approved the “business package” of four European common proposals (ECPs) whose co-ordination and defence were its responsibility at the 17th Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-06) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), held in late 2006 in the Turkish city of Antalya. The European propo-

sals negotiated in this set of ECPs were meant to improve the ITU's management by clarifying the duties and responsibilities of elected officials, and to modify the mandates and form of election to those posts. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – GSMA SUPPORTS ETSI POSITION

The GSM Association (GSMA), a body comprising 700 mobile operators from 215 countries and territories, has urged standardisation bodies to follow the orientations of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and take steps to increase transparency in matters involving intellectual property

(IPR) associated to the standards for new technologies. ETSI has been changing its policy with respect to IPR, specifically by assuring transparency of the patents declared to the Institute as a vital factor for the creation of a standard and simplification of the declaration process. [\(+info\)](#)

## ■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

### GERMANY – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)

- The regulator has reached the mark of 100,000 written claims due to the misuse of telephone numbers. Since 15 August 2003, the date when it assumed implementation of the law on value added services, BNetzA has also received many calls with complaints and questions about those services, specifically about the price charged. Administrative offence proceedings were launched in 170 cases. (+info)
- The report on "Framework Conditions for IP-Based Network Interconnection" has been published, a document produced by the German regulator to study the future of the telecommunications market, using as a reference networks based on the internet protocol (IP). Interested parties may consult the document on the BNetzA website and submit their comments by this coming 26 February. (+info)
- An auction has been opened to assign broadband wireless access frequencies in the 3.5 GHz band, in which six companies are participating. (+info)
- The regulator has published the first study on email suppliers and concluded that 3,200 companies are operating in that market, assessed at 3.7 billion euros. (+info)

### BELGIUM – Institut Belge des services Postaux et des Télécommunications (IBPT)

- Following the rulings handed down by the second instance court in Brussels, which cancelled IBPT decisions, the Belgian regulator has adopted a new decision concerning the price table for the reference unbundling offer.

(+info, French only)

### BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)

- According to the most recent data, there are 97.3 million active mobile telephones, with the prepaid mode dominating the market (78.5 million), while the post-paid system accounts for 18.8 million mobile telephone users.

(+info, Portuguese only)

- The edict announcing the bid for authorisations to use radio frequencies to operate personal mobile service in the D and E sub-bands, new sub-bands and extension sub-bands, is in public consultation until 5 February.

(+info, Portuguese only)

- The regulator has published the regulation on the conditions governing radio frequency use in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 1900 MHz and 2100 MHz bands and also another regulation on the use of sub-bands, extending the spectrum that may be used by mobile telephony and opening the way to the introduction of third generation mobile. (+info, Portuguese only)

### SPAIN – Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)

- The regulator has decided to lower, although temporarily, the prices for the wholesale supply of broadband access by the incumbent operator, Telefónica. This decision, which implies price cuts of between 22 percent and 54 percent, results from conclusions of the analysis of market 12 (wholesale supply of broadband access), among which the need for the company to orient its supply to the underlying costs stands out. (+info, Spanish only)
- The total number of ported numbers reached 9.73 million, a figure accumulated since portability took effect in 2000. As for the internet, at the end of October there were 6.28 million broadband connections, for a penetration rate of 14.2 lines per 100 inhabitants. (+info, Spanish only)

### FRANCE – Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes (ARCEP)

- The regulator has launched a public consultation, open until 25 January, on the possibility of ending use of the call-back offer in public payphones and on

the ways to achieve that objective, as said practice puts at risk the economic model for public payphones. (+info, French only)

- The synthesis of the public consultation on France Télécom's fibre optic connection offer has been released; an administrative survey has also begun to evaluate the organisational, computer and human resources and means used by the company to develop that offer. (+info, French only)
- ARCEP has launched a public consultation on value added telephone services, proposing measures to improve way that market works that will benefit consumers. (+info, French only)
- A decision has been adopted on the obligations for separate accounting of costs and cost accounting to be followed by France Télécom.

(+info, French only)

### The NETHERLANDS – Onafhankelijke Post en Telecommunicatie Autoriteit (OPTA)

- The regulator has published its activities plan for 2007, along with its view of the developments involving competition in the electronic communications and postal markets, which will serve as the basis for determining the strategic agenda, and thence be included in the annual budget. (+info)

### IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)

- A document with the regulator's approach to the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) has been posted for public consultation until 31 January. (+info)
- The regulator and the Irish Data Protection Commission have launched a joint campaign to increase awareness about the rights of people who receive telephone spam (unsolicited marketing calls). (+info)
- An *An Post* proposal to increase the price of national reserved postal services, due to take effect this coming 1 March, has been placed in public consultation.

(+info)

- The third quarter 2006 report on the electronic communications and postal market in Ireland has been released. (+info)

### UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)

- Three out of every four houses had digital television at the end of the third quarter of 2006, indicates the British regulator's report on the growth of digital TV. According to the document, 73.3 percent of homes had digital TV, for growth (between July and September) of 800,000 households, of which 600,000 had access to digital terrestrial television service (known as Freeview) for the first time. (+info)
- A document on the regulatory approach to follow when assigning one of the most valuable spectrum bands to be made available in the future (470-862 MHz) has been placed in public consultation until 20 March, given that the way the frequencies are operated will be a vital means to take advantage of the implicit digital dividend. (+info)
- Ofcom has launched a public consultation on the future regulation to apply to so-called "Participation TV" – typically competitions and astrology/paranormal and adult chat services – as same is to a high degree based on interaction with viewers, usually by means of value added telephone calls. (+info)

### ROMÉANIA – National Regulatory Authority for Communications and Information Technology (ANRCTI)

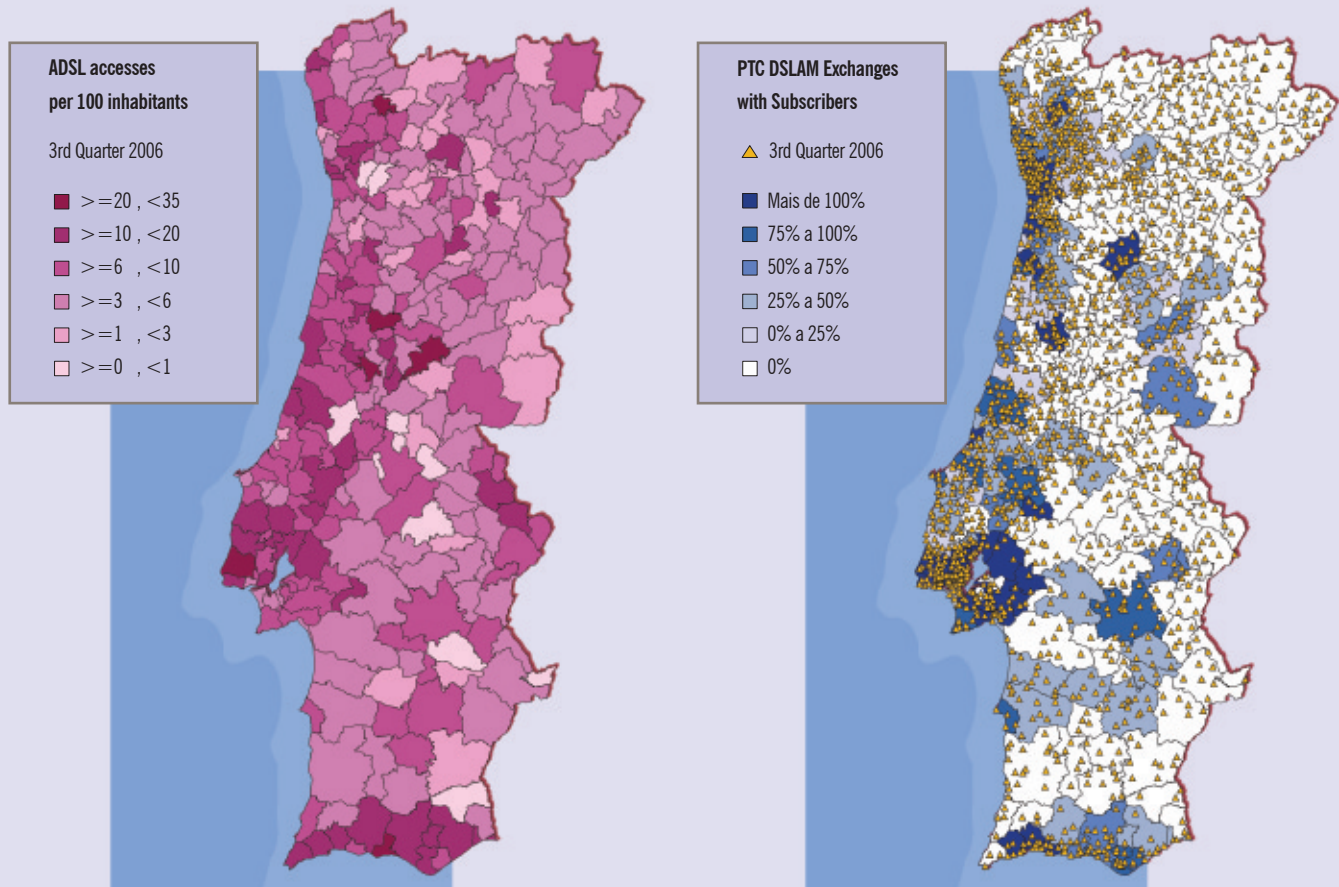
- The Romanian regulator has been reorganised and is now called the National Regulatory Authority for Communications and Information Technology (ANRCTI). Dan Cristian Georgescu is the new president of the authority, which assumes all the functions of the previous one (ANRC). (+info)



## BROADBAND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

There were 1853 PT Comunicações (PTC) exchanges and concentrators equipped with DSLAM (digital subscriber line access multiplexer) at the end of September 2006, corresponding to full coverage of the possible ADSL provision areas. These infrastructures are concentrated in the Greater Lisbon and Greater Oporto regions, along the northern coast and in the Algarve. The density of exchanges is lower in the country's interior, as is the territorial population density. As for the cable television distribution operators, the number of cabled

households rose by nearly 28,000, for growth of 0.7 percent over the previous quarter. The national total stood at 3.9 million cabled homes. The North region accounted for the highest quarterly increase in cabled houses (1.5 percent) – with an even more significant year-on-year variation (13.1 percent) – while Lisbon continues to be the region concentrating most of the cabled households in national territory (45 percent). (+info)



## IN JANUARY 2007

### MEETINGS

#### CEPT

##### ECC

- TG4 (15-17)
- WG FM PT45 (17-19)
- WG FM (23-26)
- CPG (30-2/2)

#### IMSO

- Advisory Committee (15-16)

#### IRG

- Plenary meeting (15)
- Contact Network (25-26)

#### EU

- Radio Spectrum Committee (11)
- Radio Spectrum Policy Group (11-12)
- Telecoms Group (12, 18 e 25)
- Postal Directive Committee (18)
- Postal Group (30)

#### ITU

- Radiocommunications Advisory Group (24-26)

### EVENTS

- **"IT & Internet Security" Conference**, Lisbon, 30
- **"e-Business W@tch" Conference**, Brussels, 30
- **Sessions on "The Future of Communications or the Promises of Technology"**, Lisbon, 30
- **Conference "WiMe 07 – Wireless Meeting"**, Coimbra, 27 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **"ICOIN 2007 – International Conference on Information Networking"** Estoril, 23-25 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **7th Conference of the Portuguese Information Systems Association – CAPSI2006**, Aveiro, 17-19
- **"IEEE Consumer Communications and Networking Conference" Conference**, Las Vegas, 11-13

(+info, Portuguese only)