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□ BROADBAND CONSUMPTION SURVEY

About 34 percent of Portuguese homes have broadband internet access, corresponding to increases of 7.8 and 16.8 percent compared to the respective situations in January 2006 and December 2004, indicates the most recent survey on broadband consumption conducted by the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) and Metris GfK between 1 November and 21 December 2006. Regarding broadband internet access technologies, ADSL and cable-modem continue to be the main forms of accessing this service, respectively used by

60.5 and 36 percent of the surveyed users. In overall terms, most users consider the quality of service rendered to be satisfactory or very satisfactory. About 91 percent of users are satisfied or very satisfied with access speed and service reliability, while 95.1 percent said they were satisfied or very satisfied with billing transparency. Also noteworthy are third generation (3G) mobile accesses, a technology used by 3.1 percent of broadband users. (+info)

□ NEW ANACOM SEMINAR ON 28 FEBRUARY

Yet another ANACOM seminar will be held in Lisbon this coming 28 February at 11:30 a.m., focusing on the theme topic of the internet and broadband in Portugal. The study titled “Residential Internet and Broadband Take-up in Portugal” will be presented by Réka Horváth of the Lisbon Catholic University. (+info)

Regarding the previous event, held last 24 January, the study on “Access Pricing:

a Comparison Between Full Deregulation and Two Alternative Instruments of Access Price Regulation, Cost-Based and Retail-Minus”, by António Brandão and Paula Sarmento, professors at the University of Oporto, has already been posted online. (+info)

■ PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

CREATION OF NEW ‘761’ AND ‘762’ DIALLING CODES IN THE NNP

ANACOM has placed in public consultation the draft decision adopted last 11 January concerning the creation of two new dialling codes (‘761’ and ‘762’) in the National Numbering Plan (NNP), their designation as flat-rate call services, the definition of their features and the specific conditions for assigning and using numbers. Applicants for the rights to use such numbers should be companies that offer electronic communications services to the public. Comments may be sent in until this 13 February, preferably by electronic mail to tarifa_unica_pnn@anacom.pt. Bearing in mind this determination’s potential impact on consumers, the Consumer Institute, DECO, FENACOP, UGC and ACOP have also been asked to submit comments within the same time period. (+info)

TMN FIXED SERVICE

The draft decision approved by a determination dated this past 25 January and regarding a new TMN electronic communications service has also been put up for public consultation. The decision specifically concerns use of the GSM and UMTS frequencies of TMN’s land mobile network in the local access network for the company to provide telephone service at a fixed site, so long as a compulsory set of conditions are fulfilled, as well as the right to use the ‘2’ numbering range of the National Numbering Plan. Comments must be submitted within 10 working days (deadline is this 14 February), preferably by electronic mail to novoservTMN@anacom.pt. (+info)

OPTIMUS FIXED SERVICE

A new Optimus electronic communications service has likewise been put up for public consultation following the 25 January determination approving the corresponding draft decision. In this case it concerns use of the UMTS frequencies of Optimus’s land mobile network in the local access network for the company to provide telephone service at a fixed site (Optimus Home) per compliance with a set of conditions, and also use of the NNP numbering range. A decision was also made to ask the company to explain how it will transfer users from the Optimus Home service of Novis to the service it will provide. The deadline to submit comments is also 14 February; same should preferably be sent by electronic mail to novoservOPTIMUS@anacom.pt. (+info)

■ CURRENT EVENTS

CHANGES TO THE RCAO APPROVED

By determination dated last 4 January, the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) approved in a draft decision the changes to introduce in the Reference Conduit Access Offer (RCAO) of PT Comunicações (PTC). The modifications in question specifically concern the monthly price for the occupation of space, which by connection point (without VAT) and by slack cable (without IVA) should not be above 3.90 euros and 2.70 euros, respectively. Interested parties were given 20 days to comment in writing. Following that prior hearing period, and once ANACOM has adopted a final decision on the matter, PTC will be obliged to amend and publish the RCAO within a period of ten working days.

(+info)

REPART – CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT

ANACOM approved in a determination dated 4 January 2007 the assignment to REPART of six additional duplex channels in the 450 MHz frequency band to use in its analogue network. The basic goal of this decision is to ensure efficient management of the radio spectrum, evolution of the number of terminals pertaining to the company's network and the provisions of the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP). (+info)

POSTAL SERVICE CONSUMPTION SURVEY

More than two thirds of postal service users in Portugal (about 68.8 percent) said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the evolution of service quality in the past 12 months. According to results of the postal service consumption survey conducted by ANACOM and Metris GFK between 2 and 15 November 2006, only 5.2 percent of service users considered that they were "dissatisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with quality performance. The report, now posted online on this Authority's website, indicates that blue (priority) mail and normal mail are the services most used, respectively by 47.5 and 44.1 percent of the surveyed users. (+info)

NEW POSTAL OPERATOR

ANACOM has granted the company LORDTRANS – Transportes Urgentes, Lda. a licence to provide postal services not reserved and covered by the scope of universal postal service. (+info, Portuguese only)

PT UPDATES REFERENCE OFFERS

PT Comunicações has published the most recent versions of the subscriber line resale offer (SLRO), the reference interconnection offer (RIO) and the reference internet access offer (RIO). (+info, Portuguese only)

RADIOCOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Information on the call signs for amateur stations (assignment and listing procedures) and on evolution of the number of stations licensed for national amateur service has been updated on the respective area of the ANACOM website.

(+info, Portuguese only)

T'COM BUILDINGS INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICIANS – ACTIVE LIST

ANACOM has published an updated list of the installers, designers and designers/installers of telecommunications infrastructures in buildings (the

Portuguese acronym is ITED). The information is organised by region: Azores, Madeira, Lisbon, Oporto, North, Centre and South. (+info, Portuguese only)

MOBILE OPERATORS LAUNCH CONTENT PLATFORM

Optimus, TMN and Vodafone recently launched a platform to research so-called 'dimo' (from *directório móvel*) platforms, a mobile multi-operator directory that enables research and access to numerous websites, chat rooms, email accounts and news stories, besides consultation and the downloading of a wide range of content, such as call sounds, music, images and games.

ONLINE COMPLAINTS PORTAL LAUNCHED

A portal to register and research claims is now available on the internet and is open to all consumers, private individuals and companies. The service offered by the so-called "Yellow Book on the Internet" enables consumers to file complaints free of charge and to research complaints filed by other citizens up to the respective consultation date. (+info)

ENUM – RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

By determination dated 11 January 2007, ANACOM approved the report concerning the public consultation on ENUM service launched in February 2006, and the establishment of a working group that will study the conditions for ENUM's introduction in Portugal, including the development of a pilot-plan. A decision was also made to propose to the government the designation of ANACOM, as the national administration in the Standardisation Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T), as a Tier 1 Manager of the "1.5.3.e164.arpa" domain, given that it is the body responsible for administering the international dialling code (351) assigned to Portugal by ITU-T. It was also decided to propose to the Foundation for National Scientific Computation (FCCN) the signing of a protocol, in a form yet to be determined, specifically to make this pilot-plan operative. (+info)

TARIFF MONITOR USE IN 2006

The mobile telephone service (MTS) tariff monitor recorded 43,200 access and more than 57,100 simulation operations in 2006, for a monthly average of 3,600 accesses and 4,760 simulations. Since its public launch on 28 July 2005 the monitor has counted a total of 75,300 accesses and 129,200 simulation operations. Note that the tariff monitor is a simulator conceived and developed by ANACOM in collaboration with the three mobile operators (Optimus, TMN and Vodafone), which enables individual consumers to evaluate the alternatives MTS prices available in Portugal. (+info)

GOVERNMENT PRESENTS SIMPLEX 2007

Following presentation of the 2006 balance of the Programme for Administrative and Legislative Simplification (Simplex) on 26 January, the Government announced the goals for the current year. Simplex 2007 envisages 235 administrative simplification measures, 149 of them more addressed to citizens – in 2006 the simplification of administrative acts was more directed towards the business community. (+info, Portuguese only)

■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 9/2007** (I Series – *Diário da República* of 17 January 2007) – Approves the National Accessibility Promotion Plan (PNPA).
- **Administrative Rule no. 14/2007** (I Series – D.R. of 5 January 2007) – Applies the net results of financial year 2005 of the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM).
- **Decree-Law no. 238/2006** (I Series – D.R. of 20 December 2006) – Promotes simplification and transparency of the national fiscal order.

(+info)

■ DETERMINATIONS ADOPTED BY ANACOM – 4TH QUARTER 2006

Date	Decision
14.12.2006	Proposed universal postal service price table (2007). (+info)
14.12.2006	Co-mingling procedures (draft decision). (+info)
14.12.2006	Assignment of rights to use numbers in the “18xy” range (draft decision). (+info)
14.12.2006	Changes to the RIO on the offer of capacity-based interconnection. (+info)
05.12.2006	Extension of the BWA public consultation deadline. (+info)
23.11.2006	Issuance of titles for rights to use frequencies for FWA. (+info)
23.11.2006	Public consultation on broadband access by radio. (+info)
16.11.2006	Radiomóvel intervention request (draft decision). (+info)
16.11.2006	Statistical indicators for 2003, 2004 and 2005. (+info)
16.11.2006	Designation of the Cristóvão Colombo Vocational School as a Telecommunications Infrastructures in Buildings training entity. (+info, Portuguese only)
13.11.2006	Cancellation of FTS contracts by suspension of SLRO for lack of customer payment. (+info)
09.11.2006	Universal Postal Service Quality Convention (records affected by strike). (+info)
09.11.2006	Statistical indicators for the low bitstream fixed switched service markets. (+info)
02.11.2006	Sub-delegation of powers in the management of the Department of Communications and Image. (+info, Portuguese only)
02.11.2006	Statistical indicators in the broadband markets. (+info)
02.11.2006	Statistical indicators in the leased line markets. (+info)
02.11.2006	Sub-delegation of powers in the management of the Department of Studies and Strategy. (+info, Portuguese only)
02.11.2006	Sub-delegation of powers in the assistants in the Directorate of Regulation and Legal Affairs. (+info, Portuguese only)
26.10.2006	Renewal of the frequency usage rights assigned to SIC and TVI. (+info)
23.10.2006	Inventory of the property pertaining to the concession of public telecommunications service. (+info)
23.10.2006	Changes to introduce in the RCAO of PT Comunicações. (+info)
23.10.2006	Statistical indicators of services supported in UMTS and data services. (+info)
23.10.2006	Vodafone Portugal “Homephone” Offer. (+info)
23.10.2006	Changes to the RIO on the offer of capacity-based interconnection (draft decision). (+info)
23.10.2006	CTT cost accounting system (2004). (+info)
12.10.2006	“PT Free Nights” tariff plan. (+info)
04.10.2006	Cancellation of the registration of the GENCO certification entity. (+info, Portuguese only)
04.10.2006	SLRO reference proposal (suspension for lack of customer payment and temporary service suspension). (+info)
04.10.2006	Modification of Regulation no. 46/2005 and setting of quality parameters applicable to internet access service. (+info)
04.10.2006	Cancellation of the registration of the Linhas Múltiplas, Projectos de Telecomunicações certification entity. (+info, Portuguese only)

□ UNIVERSAL SERVICE – RESIDENTIAL FTS PRICE TABLE

The proposed price table for residential customers of telephone service provided at a fixed site (FTS) under universal service, submitted by PT Comunicações (PTC) on 20 December 2006, has been approved by the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) as a draft decision, on the pretext that various conditions are cumulatively and entirely met. The decision, dated last 18 January, stipulates that the price table to implement must contain two options for the monthly payment for analogue access: that corresponding to the monthly payment now in effect, which will provide free traffic access during the Nights period, and another optional one, with a price at least 50 cents less than the

aforementioned monthly payment in effect, applicable to users who subscribe to the Nights option. PTC should also guarantee the right to choose between the two options, to that end including a registration form in the invoice of each residential FTS customer, with a factual, relevant and properly detailed description of each of the available options. This price table will only take effect after an ANACOM determination confirming that the Grupo PT companies have met the conditions associated with the provision of offers combining network line and traffic in one single price (per determination dated 14 December 2005). (+info)

□ PRE-SELECTION – SERVICES UNDULY TERMINATED BY PTC

Regarding the undue termination of pre-selection services by PT Comunicações (PTC), ANACOM approved in a determination dated 18 January a draft decision determining that PTC must immediately cease pre-selection deactivations not originating in a request transmitted by the pre-selected provider based on the modification or cancellation of the respective contract by the subscriber vis-à-vis that provider, in order to comply with the pre-selection deactivation procedure envisaged in article 10 of the Selection and Pre-Selection Regulation (Regulation no. 1/2006 of 9 January). PTC was also given a maximum of five

working days to remove from its internet website the information concerning the procedures and reasons for cancelling pre-selection under the terms currently indicated; same should be posted in compliance with the same provision of the said Regulation. This determination follows reiterated complaints from various operators – Vodafone, OniTelecom and Tele2 – regarding allegedly incorrect behaviour by PTC in the procedures for pre-selected customers to cancel pre-selection. (+info)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES – SITUATION AT 31.12.2006

Cases processed

		Cases Filed	Cases Decided	Decision to Shelve	Voluntary Payment	Decision to Admonish	Total Fines
Electronic Communications Networks and Services	Start of activity without prior communication to the NRA – General Authorisation Regime (Art. 21/1)	5	1				1 / €1.250,00
	Failure to comply with the obligation to provide information to the NRA (article 108)	9	1			1	
	Use of adhesion contracts without prior NRA approval (article 39/4)	1					
	Violation of regulatory obligations imposed under article 85	2	1				1 / €150.000,00
	Use of geographic nos. without obtaining the respective usage right or not complying with their terms [Art 113/1, par. n)]	1					
	Violation of the right of portability subscribers (article 54/1)	1					
	Failure to comply with legitimate NRA mandates or orders [See Art 113/1, par. vvv) and no. 2]	12	1			1	
Other Networks or Services	Postal Services	11					
	ITED (Telecommunications Infrastructures in Buildings)	5	3	1		2	
	Electromagnetic Compatibility	1					
	Radio and Terminal Equipment	4	4	1			3 / €55.349,40
	Television Activity	1	1	1			
	Audio Broadcasting	3	1				1 / €498,79
	Audio Broadcasting – RDS	1	1				1 / €2.493,98
	Amateur Radiocommunication Service	3	2		1 / €49,87		1 / €50,00
	Maritime Mobile Service	1					
	Personal Radio Service – CB	89	71	7	50 / €5.087,76	2	12 / €1.198,79
	Private Use Land Mobile Service	20	9	3		2	4 / €3.248,19
Total		170	96	13	51 / €5.137,63	8	24 / €214.089,15

Cases passed on from 2005

		Cases Decided	Decision to Shelve	Voluntary Payment	Decision to Admonish	Total Fines
Electronic Communications Networks and Services	Start of activity without prior communication to the NRA – General Authorisation Regime (Art. 21/1)	10			2	8 / €20.250,00
	Failure to comply with legitimate NRA mandates or orders [See Art 113/1, par. vvv) and no. 2]	1			1	
	Use of adhesion contracts without prior NRA approval (article 39/4)	1			1	
	Failure to comply with the obligation to provide information to the NRA (article 108)	1				1 / €5.000,00
	Suspension of telephone service provision without prior warning (Art. 52/1)	1				1 / €5.000,00
Other Networks or Services	Postal Services	1				1 / €498,80
	Processing of Personal Data and Privacy Protection	2	1		1	
	Audiotext Service	2	2			
	Radio and Terminal Equipment	3			1	2 / €26.300,00
	Television Activity	1			1	
	Audio Broadcasting Activity	10	1		4	5 / €7.996,38
	Audio Broadcasting Activity – RDS	1			1	
	Amateur Radiocommunications Service	1		1 / €49,87		
	Personal Radio Service – CB	29	6	15 / €1.496,40	1	7 / €898,32
	Private Use Land Mobile Service	19	3		3	13 / €7.159,07
Total		83	13	16 / €1.546,27	16	38 / €73.102,57

PORTUGUESE RADIO SCIENCE COMMITTEE OF URSI

The website of the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) now contains a new section dedicated to the Portuguese Radio Science Committee of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI); this Authority is in charge of organising the respective work. The aim of the Committee is to encourage, promote and co-ordinate at national level studies in the area of radio sciences, telecom-

munications and electronics. The new online section provides information on the context and the national scientific commissions of the Portuguese committee, as well as on the activities of URSI, which is currently one of the 27 scientific unions affiliated with the International Council for Science (ICSU).

(+info, Portuguese only)

■ EUROPEAN UNION

TRIPARTITE EU PRESIDENCY PROGRAMME

The programme of the German Presidency of the European Union (EU) Council was presented last 17 January in the European Parliament. One of its novelties is the existence, for the first time in EU history, of a programme shared by the three countries occupying the EU Council presidency between January 2007 and June 2008: Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. This team approach will help ensure and consolidate the continuity and consistence of EU presidencies, for which "six months are not enough", according to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. In sectorial terms or with relevant implications, the Presidency's programme envisages various measures that may be consulted online. (+info)

ECC LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON BWA FREQUENCIES

The public consultation launched by the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) concerning the draft ECC Decision on the availability of frequency bands between 3400 and 3800 MHz for the harmonised implementation of broadband access systems via radio (BWA) is under way until this 14 February. Interested parties are asked to submit their contributions in English to yurdal@ero.dk. (+info)

EC EVALUATES ROBUSTNESS OF COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

The European Commission (EC) recently released the preliminary results of a report on the "Availability and Robustness of Electronic Communications Infrastructures", a study conducted at the Commission's request by Alcatel-Lucent with the aim of assessing the capacity and robustness of the electronic communications networks currently available in the European Union (EU). The study, whose final report will be published this February, puts forward a number of recommendations addressed to the EC, the EU member States and the private sector, concerning significant issues related to the capacity and security of existing electronic communications infrastructures in Europe, specifically vis-à-vis the threat of terrorist attacks or natural disasters. Interested parties may submit their contributions to the email address info-a3@ec.europa.eu until the end of April. (+info)

ERG PUBLISHES MOBILE MARKET REPORTS

The European Regulators Group (ERG) has posted online three new reports on the mobile communications market: "Mobile Access Market Competition", "Spectrum Allocation and Possible Bottlenecks" and "Mobile Termination Rates Snapshot". The reports were prepared by ERG working groups based on data gathered in 2006 from the national regulatory authorities of the 25 European Union member States, along with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, and do not correspond to any ERG policy position. (+info)

eTEN REPLACED BY THE "ICT PSP" PROGRAMME

From the beginning of 2007 on, the support for public interest electronic services is to be provided by the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP), part of the 2007-2013 Competitiveness and Innovation Framework-Programme (CIP). (+info)

PLURALISM IN THE EU MEDIA

The European Commissioner for Information Society and the Media, Viviane Reding, and European Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström have presented to their fellow commissioners three steps on media pluralism in the European Union, thus responding to the concerns voiced by the European Parliament and non-governmental organisations about media concentration and its possible effects on diversity and freedom of expression. The presented approach

is based on three points: a working document on media pluralism, which contains a preliminary survey of media markets in the member States, an independent study on EU media pluralism (2007) and a Commission Communication on media pluralism indicators in the EU member States (in 2008), about which an extensive public consultation will be conducted. (+info)

NEW ERAWATCH INFORMATION SYSTEM

The European Commission has launched a new online information platform dedicated to the research policies and services practiced in the European Union. Known as ERAWATCH, this new information system is a support tool for building the European Research Area (ERA), as it provides analysts and politicians involved in science and research with updated data and studies on events in this working area in the different member States and in other selected countries. (+info)

LUXEMBOURG – LEGISLATIVE NON-COMPLIANCE

The EC has formally asked Luxembourg to put into practice within two months the decision of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) concerning access to the telecommunications market. The ECJ holds that Directive 90/388/EEC on competition in the telecommunications service markets has not been duly transposed into the national legislation of that country. It particularly mentions the procedures to obtain authorisation to install telecommunications networks along roads and railways, which were considered to be not very transparent. (+info)

POLAND – EC REQUIRES NEW MARKET ANALYSIS

The EC has asked the Polish regulator, Urząd Regulacji Elektronicznej (UKE), to withdraw measures it intends to implement to regulate the retail markets for access services. The reason is that the UKE has been unable to justify why it aims to simultaneously regulate the narrowband retail markets and broadband access services – a situation currently unprecedented in the European Union context. (+info)

RE-USE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION – COURT PROCEEDINGS

The European Commission is taking five member States (Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg) to the European Court of Justice for the failure to apply the Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI). Public sector information is a resource with huge economic potential, as it represents a raw material for new added-value products and services worth between 10 and 48 billion euros in the EU alone. "Failure to act now will stifle growth, will stifle jobs and will ultimately hurt this all too important sector for Europe. This is why we will not let proactive member States and Europe suffer because of inaction by others," stated Viviane Reding. (+info)

STATISTICS ON eBUSINESS IN THE EU

The European Statistics Office (Eurostat) has released a report on the use of information and communication technologies by European companies in the development of so-called eBusiness. Noteworthy is the fact that internet access is close to saturation in companies with ten or more workers, though there is room for innovation with respect to interactive websites. The data also indicate that in 2005 some 33 percent made purchases online, with sales in ten percent of companies. (+info)

INDEPENDENT EXPERTS – 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The Commission is recruiting independent experts to set up a database of professionals who can help the EC in various tasks related to the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development. (+info)

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

ECC WG FM PT45

The German city of Mainz hosted last 17-19 January the first meeting of the FM PT45 group, whose main goal is to prepare a CEPT draft report in response to the European Commission Mandate on harmonisation of the 1452-1479.5 MHz band in the EU. (+info)

ECC WG FM

The 59th meeting of the Frequency Management working group (WG FM) was held last 23-26 January in Helsinki. (+info)

ECC TG4

The first meeting of TG4, whose main duty is to begin preparing the first of three reports on the digital dividend, was held in Mainz, Germany. (+info)

CERP – WG SURVEILLANCE/MARKET STATISTICS

The working group (WG) on Surveillance/Market Statistics of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) met last 24 November in Mainz, Germany. (+info)

□ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY MEETING

The extraordinary plenary meeting of the Independent Regulators Group was held last 25 January in Rome. (+info)

WG FIXED NETWORKS

The German city of Bonn hosted last 14 December a meeting of the Fixed Networks working group (WG FN) of the IRG. (+info)

WG REGULATORY ACCOUNTING

The Regulatory Accounting working group (WG RA) met last 11-12 January in Istanbul. (+info)

CONTACT NETWORK

The first meeting in 2007 of the IRG and ERG Contact Network, chaired by Italy, was held last 25-26 January in Barcelona. (+info)

PT NGN

The sixth meeting of the IRG project team for Next Generation Networks (NGN) was held last 12-13 December in Bonn, Germany. (+info)

□ INTERNATIONAL MOBILE SATELLITE ORGANISATION (IMSO)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

London hosted last 15-16 January the 17th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the International Mobile Satellite Organisation. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION

POSTAL DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE (PDC)

The Postal Directive Committee met last 18 January in Brussels. (+info)

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP (RSPG)

The RSPG met last 11-12 in Brussels, with the main goal of examining responses to the public consultation on the Opinion concerning the digital dividend. (+info)

RADIO SPECTRUM COMMITTEE (RSC)

Two extraordinary meetings of the Radio Spectrum Committee were held on 11 and 19 January 2007 in Brussels. (+info)

JOINT CNSA/LAP MEETING

The second joint meeting of the Contact Network of Spam Authorities (CNSA) and the London Action Plan (LAP) group was held last 13-14 December in Brussels. (+info)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP

The 14th meeting of the ITU Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) took place last 24-25 January in Geneva. (+info)

□ INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

Candidates for the vacant posts of Deputy to the Director and Chief of Field Operations Department in the Telecommunications Development Department (BDT) may be submitted to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialised United Nations agency based in Geneva. The applications must be presented by this 15 February and will only be accepted if accompanied by a Personal History Form, which is explained on the ITU website. (+info)

The European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) is seeking a spectrum management expert for its headquarters in Copenhagen. Applications should be submitted in English, accompanied by a curriculum vitae, by this coming 28 February. (+info)

□ UNCTAD DISCLOSES ECONOMIC REPORT

The United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released the "Information Economy Report 2006: the development perspective". This report examines a number of relevant and current issues affecting the information economy, covering topics such as electronic commerce, e-business, the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on commerce and on countries' economic activity and development, and the way those aspects are related to the information economy strategies of developing countries. (+info)

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)

- The regulator has sent to the European Commission its proposal to regulate the market for ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) bitstream access. Deutsche Telekom will ensure the supply of access, which according to the proposal should be effected in a non-discriminatory manner, with accounts separation and the publication of a reference offer. The applicable rates will be subject to ex-post regulation. **(+info)**

BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)

- The regulator has approved modification of the regulation on remuneration of fixed telephony networks. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

SPAIN – Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)

- The CMT Council has extended until 31 March 2007 the deadline for Euskaltel customers covered by the company's December 1998 agreement with Orange to request number portability. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- The number of broadband internet connections stood at a total of 6.49 million at the end of November 2006, for a penetration rate of 14.7 lines per 100 inhabitants. According to a CMT statistical report, that same month saw requests for the portability of 263,645 numbers; since portability began to be applied in 2000 more than 10 million numbers have therefore been ported in Spain.

(+info, Spanish only)

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

- The regulator has published a legal opinion on the mechanisms for putting into practice the "secondary frequency market" and its co-ordination with the powers of regional administrations, and has approved the possibility of partial transfer of Wimax frequency rights from one region to another. **(+info)**
- Statistics on the postal sector in 2005 have been published. Noteworthy is the fact that direct mail is the main mail type, with a total of 18.6 billion objects sent.

(+info, French only)

- An article written by Gabrielle Gauthey of ARCEP on fibre optics, about what she calls an "evolution that is essential, and somewhat revolutionary in the history of telecommunications", is now available. **(+info)**
- Patrick Raude has been appointed a member of the ARCEP Council, replacing Michel Feneyrol, as has Denis Rapone, who will take the place of Jacques Douffiagues. **(+info)**

FRANCE – Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA)

- The High Audiovisual Council (CSA) has placed in public consultation a document on the future launch of digital terrestrial television for reception in mobile devices. **(+info, French only)**

The deadline to submit comments in the consultation on high definition digital terrestrial television is 15 February. **(+info, French only)**

IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)

- The regulator has published the fourth provisional report on the programme to evaluate non-ionising radiation, covering the years 2005 and 2006. **(+info)**
- The deadline granted to Eircom to comply with its non-discrimination obligations vis-à-vis other operators, regarding access to relevant customer information, has been extended until 30 April 2007. **(+info)**
- The public consultation period for analysis of the wholesale markets for call origination and communications transit services is under way until 2 March.

(+info)

- Likewise up for public consultation, until 23 February, is the new analysis of the termination market for voice calls in the third generation mobile network of the operator Hutchison (H3GI), conducted by ComReg following the decision by the Electronic Communications Appeals Panel (ECAP) on H3GI's not holding significant market power. **(+info)**

UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)

- A proposed code of good practices on changes to the current agreements for television transmission and reception ahead of the switchover from the analogue to the digital system has been published. Interested parties may submit comments until this coming 6 March. **(+info)**
- Those interested in commenting on the obligations to be met by British Telecom in its financial reports may do so until this coming 23 March, the deadline for the consultation launched by Ofcom. **(+info)**
- Likewise up for public consultation until 23 March is a document with the British regulator's view about the potential impact of the digital media on public television service. **(+info)**

- The regulator has published a preliminary assessment of the market impact of the introduction of new on-demand services proposed by BBC television, whose potential is estimated at 4 billion hours of content for viewers and listeners in 2011. **(+info)**

- Regarding the consultation on the allocation of spectrum in the 10 GHz, 28 GHz, 32 GHz and 40 GHz bands, whose deadline was 8 February, the regulator aims to publish the final decision by mid-2007. **(+info)**

SWEDEN – Post & Telestyrelsen (PTS)

- The regulator has announced that the Riksdag (Swedish parliament) has decided on the full switch from analogue to digital television. The switchover is currently under way and should be completed by 1 February 2008. **(+info)**

■ OJEU

- **Corrigendum to Regulation (EC) no. 1321/2004** – Of the Council of 12 July 2004, concerning the structures for managing the European satellite radio-navigation programmes. Published on 11 January 2007.
- **Corrigendum to Common Action 2004/552/PESC** – Of the Council of 13 July 2004, concerning aspects of operating the European satellite radionavigation system that affect European Union security. Published on 9 January.
- **Directive 2006/138/EC** – Of the Council of 19 December 2006, amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax (VAT) as regards the period of application of the VAT regime applicable to radio and television broadcasting services and certain electronically supplied services. Published on 29 December 2006.
- **Recommendation** – Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006, concerning the protection of minors and human dignity and the right of reply in relation to the competitiveness of the European audiovisual and online information services industry. Published on 27 December 2006.

(+info)

■ OPERATORS/PROVIDERS OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

Operators/Providers of Electronic Communication Networks and Services

	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
Operators of Electronic Communications Networks (ECNs)		
Cable Distribution Networks (CDNs)	11	11
- Publicly accessible networks	9	9
- Networks not publicly accessible	2	2
Other Electronic Communications Networks (c)	31	22
Providers of Electronic Communication Services (ECS)		
Television Signal Distribution Service (d)	11	11
Mobile Telephone Service (GSM and UMTS)	3	3
Fixed Telephone Service (FTS)	22	12
Trunking Mobile Service (TMS)	2	2
Data Transmission Services (DTS)		
- Internet Access Service (ISP)	38	27
- Internet Voice Service	21	11
- Other Data Services (e)	33	18
Public Payphone Service	17	11
Virtual Calling Card Service	31	16

Postal Service Providers

	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
Express Mail Services	38	38 (f)
Services not Covered by the Express Mail Category	8	7

Audiotext Service Providers

	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
Audiotext Services	9	2 (g)

(a) Situation at 31 December 2006

(b) Situation at 30 September 2006

(c) Other Electronic Communication Networks (except CDNs)

(d) Includes service provided in the scope of CDNs and via other platforms

(e) Other data services (except internet)

(f) Includes 27 companies providing the service under the MRW brand. The company IBERCOURIER owns the MRW brand; various companies are providing services under this brand on a franchising basis

(g) Source: PT Comunicações, SA

■ IN FEBRUARY 2007

MEETINGS

CEPT

ECC

- WG SE (5-9)
- WG RA (19-23)
- CPM (19-2/3)

IMSO

- Advisory Committee (26-27)

IRG

- Plenary meeting (15-16)

REGULATEL

- Regulatel/EC (1-2)

EU

- Telecoms Group (1, 8 and 15)
- Communications Committee (7)
- Postal Group (13 and 22)
- Radio Spectrum Policy Group (14)
- Group of Experts in Electronic Commerce (20)
- Safer Internet Plus Committee (28)

UIT

- Telecommunications Standardisation Advisory Group (26-1/3)

EVENTS

- **"Mobility & RFID" Conference**
Lisbon, 27
- **Pervasive and Trusted Network and Service Infrastructures: information day on the first call for proposal**
Brussels, 26
- **Conference on "The Impact and Future of VoIP in Companies"**
Oeiras, 15 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **"Electronics 2007" competition**
Aveiro, 14 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **3GSM World Congress**
Barcelona, 12-15

(+info, Portuguese only)