

## Current Events

European Union

CEPT Meetings

2

Independent Regulators Group

3

Communications Committee (COCOM)

4

Radio Spectrum Committee

6

7

8

## PT COMUNICAÇÕES RETAIL OFFERS

### - PT First Time ADSL

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved in a 4 April determination the probable outcome of the decision on the 'PT Primeira Vez ADSL' (PT First Time ADSL) offer by *PT Comunicações* (PTC). It covers definition of conditions to be respected by said company so that there is no opposition to continuation of the campaign associated with this offer. Interested parties have been informed of the determination and should, if they so desire, comment on same within 10 days, under terms of articles 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=63229>.

### - PT Network Line without Subscription

Following on a 17 January 2003 order by the president of the board of administration, an ANACOM determination adopted on 10 April approved the probable outcome of the decision on suspension of two optional PTC price plans, the so-called 'PT Linha de Rede sem Assinatura' (PT Network

Line without Subscription), until said company offers remaining operators the possibility of presenting similar offers. Interested parties have been notified and under terms of articles 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure have 10 working days in which to comment on this draft decision. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

### - PT Destinations, PT Schedules and PT Groups

Also by a 10 April determination, the ANACOM approved the probable outcome of the decision that consists of the interruption or suspension, depending on the case, of the following three *PT Comunicações* commercial offers: 'PT Destinos' (PT Destinations), 'PT Horários' (PT Schedules) and 'PT Groups' (PT Groups). Interested parties have been given 10 working days to comment on this draft decision, in accordance with article 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

## PT ADSL NETWORK WHOLESALE OFFER

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved in a 21 April determination a draft decision concerning the wholesale offer of the 'Rede ADSL PT' (PT ADSL Network) by *PT Comunicações* (PTC).

Under its terms, *PT Comunicações* must modify the offer by 1 June, eliminating discounts on monthly fees for local and bundled accesses envisaged in the offer; it must also reduce by 20 percent the current monthly fees for local and bundled access, and, regarding ADSL service at 512 kbps/ 128 kbps, should set the monthly wholesale fee at 50 percent of the monthly retail fee for that speed applied by the subsidiary companies of *Portugal Telecom*, SCPS.

Under terms of articles 100 and 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, interested parties have 15 days to comment in writing on the probable outcome of this decision.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>

## DIFFUSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION SIGNAL

In a 21 April determination, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the probable outcome of its decision on terrestrial television signal diffusion and distribution service provided by *PT Comunicações* (PTC). Under terms of articles 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure, interested parties have 10 days to submit comments.

The ANACOM determination sets the minimum price reductions for each of the provisions included in terrestrial television diffusion and distribution service for the period running from 1 June 2003 to 31 May 2006.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>

## DTT LICENCE REVOKED

The Economy Minister confirmed in a 9 April order that the licence granted to *Plataforma de Televisão Digital Portuguesa* (PTDP) to establish and operate a digital terrestrial television platform had been cancelled. Order no. 6973/2003 confirms the 13 March finding to that end by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM).

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>

## CURRENT EVENTS

### Exposure to electromagnetic fields

The Interministerial Group of the ministries of Infrastructure, Economy, Health, and Science and Technology, established by Joint Order no. 8/2002 of 7 January with the aim of assessing the population's exposure to electromagnetic fields, and which counts the participation of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), finished its work on 7 April.

Based on current scientific knowledge, the working group's report, which must be approved by the ministers involved, recommends adoption of the reference levels and basic limits set in the Recommendation of the Council of the European Union no. 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999.

It also presents a set of recommendations that aim to enhance protection of the general population, namely the protection of workers and consumers, as well as to obtain better security in the use of medical equipment.

### Ported numbers

Data compiled by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) indicate that 104 882 telephone numbers had been ported by the end of

April, of which 94 431 were fixed numbers (94 246 geographic and 185 non-geographic), while 10 451 were numbers from the mobile networks.

### FedEx granted postal authorisation

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) issued on 10 April an authorisation to provide postal services, namely express mail service, to the Portugal branch of the Federal Express Corporation (FedEx).

### Dinner-debate with the Economy Minister

The Minister of the Economy was guest speaker at a dinner-debate held by the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC) on 15 April, where he reviewed the first year of government action in the telecommunications sector and guaranteed that there were conditions for more effective action by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). The guest speaker at the next APDC dinner debate, on May 13, will be the executive president of *Portugal Telecom* (Miguel Horta e Costa). See [http://www.apdc.pt/ingles/ing\\_flash.html](http://www.apdc.pt/ingles/ing_flash.html).

## CO-OPERATION WITH BULGARIA

A meeting between the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) and the Bulgarian Communications Regulation Commission (CRC) was held on 14 April. The main goal was to exchange information on the sectorial situation in the two countries, including postal service and telecommunications, at a time when Bulgaria's process of joining the European Union is under way. Also discussed were possible forms of co-operation to implement in the future. The meeting counted the presence of members of the ANACOM and CRC boards of administration, as well as experts in the areas dealt with.

SEE <http://www.crc.bg>

## NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Decree-Law no. 95/2003** (I Series-A of the *Diário da República* of 3 May) - As per the legislative authorisation granted by Law no. 6/2003 of 6 March, for public interest reasons regulates the operational regime of the basic telecommunications network or the property included therein.
- **Decree-Law no. 21/2003** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 3 May) - Approves final acts of the 1985 Regional Administrative Conference of the members of the International Telecommunications Union belonging to the European radio zone, charged with undertaking partial revision of the 1961 Stockholm Agreement.
- **Decree-Law no. 78/2003** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 23 April) - Establishes the public job bank (*bolsa de emprego público* - BEP).
- **Order no. 6973/2003** (II Series of the D.R. of 9 April) - Cancels the licence granted to *Plataforma de Televisão Digital Terrestre* (PTDT) for the establishment and operation of a digital terrestrial television platform.
- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 56/2003** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 8 April) - Redefines the conditions for installation of the Integrated System of Portuguese Emergency and Security Networks (SIRESP) and determines the adoption of various tangible measures needed for the implementation of same.
- **Decree-Law no. 62/2003** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 3 April) - Modifies decree-law no. 290-D/99 of 12 August, which approves the legal regime for electronic documents and digital signatures.

The 10 April Council of Ministers approved the decree-law that transposes into the national legal order Directive no. 2002/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 June 2002, which modifies Directive no. 97/67/EC with regard to the pursuit of openness to competition of postal services and changes the bases for concession of universal postal service approved by decree-law no. 150/2001 of 7 May, which sets the regime for the access and practice of the activity of provider of postal services operated on the basis of competition.

SEE <http://www.governo.gov.pt/en>

## EUROPEAN UNION

### UMTS NETWORK SHARING AGREEMENT APPROVED

The European Union approved on 30 April a network sharing agreement for third generation mobile communications in the United Kingdom, which allows national roaming (i.e., use of another operator's network, but not automatic infrastructure sharing) in the country's smaller cities and rural areas. At [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/589|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/589|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=).

### EUROPEAN PRIORITIES FOR WRC03

The Commission adopted on 16 April a Communication that sets out the European priorities to defend at the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03), to be held in Geneva from 9 June to 4 July. At [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/548|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/548|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF COMPETITION REORGANISED

The first major reorganisation of the Directorate General for Competition in the last 13 years, ahead of the Union's enlargement to include 10 new member states, was announced on 30 April. See [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/603|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/603|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=).

### PREVENTION OF ELECTRONIC PIRACY

European competitiveness depends on efficient efforts to stamp out electronic piracy, according to a report made public on 29 April, which seeks to assess implementation of the 1998 directive on the legal protection of electronic pay services. See [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/583|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/583|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### CABLE TELEVISION LEADS TO REASONED OPINION

The Commission on 8 April addressed a reasoned opinion to the French state, for failure to comply with the so-called 'cable television' and 'full competition' directives. Details at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/520|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/520|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### FINANCING OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE

On the same date France was again warned by the Commission for not having adopted appropriate measures in the context of financing universal telecommunications service, whose arrangements were condemned by the European Union Court of Justice in a December 2001 ruling. See [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/515|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/515|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### COMPETITION DEBATED

The speech by Commissioner Mario Monti at the 20th International Forum on European Competition Policy is available at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/195|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/195|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### FORUM ON ELECTRONIC SECURITY

The European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, spoke at the Electronic Security Forum held in Brussels on 22 April. At [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/204|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/204|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=).

### INNOVATION POLICY UNDER STUDY

The European Commission recently launched the study on "Innovation Tomorrow". More information at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/514|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/514|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### IST 2003

The deadline to submit candidacies for the European Information Society Technologies Prize is 15 May. Details at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/510|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/510|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### EGOVERNMENT 2003

The Italian presidency of the European Union, whose term is in the second half of this year, will together with the Commission organise a high-level conference on electronic government on 7 and 8 July in Villa Erba, Como. Details at [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/egovconf/index\\_en.htm#eGovernment%202003](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/egovconf/index_en.htm#eGovernment%202003).

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION SEMINAR

The European Commission organised on 14 April in Brussels a seminar to discuss and prepare data for presentation in upcoming reports on leased lines and in the 9th implementation report of the new telecommunications sector regulatory framework.

Highlights among issues debated at the meeting include aspects related to the calculation of market shares, validation of the number of mobile provider subscribers, validation of fixed telephone service and leased line prices, and methodology for the calculation of time limits for the installation of leased lines.

## OJEU

- **Notice (2003/C94/03)** - Concerning the case COMP/38.170 - REIMS II Terminal Dues, under terms of paragraph 3 of article 19 of Council Regulation no. 17. Published on 23 April.
- **ESC Opinion (2003/C85/06)** - Concerning the proposed directive of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the commercial exploitation and reuse of public sector documents. Published on 8 April.
- **Commission Recommendation (2003/203/EC)** - Concerning harmonisation of the provision of public R-LAN access to public electronic communications networks and services in the Community. Published on 25 March.
- **Commission Notice (2003/C69/06)** - Call to submit proposals in the context of the Media Plus programme - Development, Distribution and Promotion (2001-2005). Published on 22 March.
- **Commission Communication (2003/C60/01)** - In the framework of implementation of Directive 73/23/EEC of the Council, concerning the harmonisation of electronic equipment. Published on 14 March.

SEE <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>

## CEPT MEETINGS

### **TROIKA**

The *Troika* comprising the presidency (held by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* - ANACOM) and vice presidencies of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) met in Cascais, near Lisbon, on 8 April. Participants further developed a number of tasks derived from decisions made by the preceding Assembly, held in the Algarve on 6-7 March. They also began preparing for the upcoming 9-10 September Assembly in Madeira. The *Troika* will next meet on 12 June in Geneva.

### **ITU WG**

The International Telecommunications Union working group (ITU WG) met in Copenhagen on 24-25 April. This first encounter since the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP02) was overseen by its new chairperson, from the Swiss administration.

The meeting was called with the specific aim of preparing for the ITU Council to be held in Geneva on 5-16 May, and specifically the most controversial agenda items. A co-ordinated European position must be worked out for them, due to their importance not only from the standpoint of European interests, but also *vis-à-vis* the broader relationship with the other ITU countries.

Given that this is a very special phase in the ITU's life, because of the PP02 decisions, the diagnosis of the Union's management made there and in the context of the financial limits, the meeting paid close attention to the draft budget for the 2004/2005 biennium and other related issues of a financial nature.

All the countries present highlighted the need for more ITU clarification in the process of drawing up and submitting the budget.

The analysis led the Council to decide to approve the proposal to push back approval of the budget to an extraordinary session to be held in the second half of 2003. By that time the budget should be modified in light of the new principles of clarification and transparency, namely stemming from recommendations of the Experts Group charged with reviewing the ITU's management; Portugal is a member of same as representative of region B (western Europe).

The meeting also considered other issues such as the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03), the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) and the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly (WTSA04). It decided to set up a WSIS task force and a project team (PT) to prepare for the WTSA, to be chaired by France.

### **ECC PT1**

Project team PT1 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) met in Dublin on 14-16 April. PT1 is the working group in charge of all matters concerning the evolution of IMT-2000 and future systems, co-ordinating the European positions and contributions on issues of spectrum, regulation and sharing/ compatibility in the context of WP8F of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R).

Participants discussed issues related to compatibility between MSS (mobile satellite services) and the terrestrial component of IMT-2000 in the 2500-2690 MHz band. The meeting reached agreement on the parameters needed to carry out the compatibility study, as opposed to in the past when studies of diverse origins used different parameters, thus arriving

at distinct results.

Another question covered was compatibility between IMT-2000 and the Ultra Wide Bands (UWBs). September was set as the deadline for conclusion of a study on the matter.

The European Commission's proposal for a new mandate on UMTS/IMT-2000 which specifies that the 2500-2690 MHz band will be used by IMT-2000 systems and future systems aims for PT1's approval of a preliminary report in April 2004 and a final report in September of that same year.

### **ECC FM WG - PT24**

The ECC's working group on frequency management (FM WG) met on 17-19 February in Geneva. The group currently prepares the briefs (technical support documents concerning European positions for the various agenda points) and European common proposals (ECPs) associated with preparation of the next Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC04/05).

Highlights of the documents being prepared include ECPs on the following issues: planning principles, the problem of co-existence in the period of transition from analogic to digital, context of the agreement, co-ordination procedures, procedures to protect analogic and digital broadcasting, planning methods, co-existence of T-DAB and DVB-T in band III, network structures to use in frequency planning at RRC04/05, data and respective format with regard to radio broadcasting required for RRC04/05 to be submitted by the administrations.

Outstanding among the briefs are those on the following: the return channel and interactive television; compatibility between the different frequency plans (analogic and digital); submission of T-DAB requirements to RRC04/05; the approach to band III planning at RRC04/05; the sharing of bands III, IV and V between broadcasting service and other services (SAB/SAP and ENG/OB); and approaches to planning and bases for planning methods.

Plans call for another meeting of this group to be held, at which the ongoing work will be finished.

### **ECC FM WG - PT22**

The FM WG's PT22 on spectrum monitoring met from 25 to 28 March in Newmarket, United Kingdom, with the agenda focusing on the development of recommendation proposals in the CEPT context, for subsequent routing to the FM WG. It also dealt with continuation of ongoing work towards the future sharing of radiogoniometry equipment by interested administrations and the creation of an alternative to telex as a means of preferential communication between the various CEPT monitoring centres. The Portuguese delegation gave a presentation on the method of evaluating T-DAB coverage and proposed the creation and maintenance in Portugal of the real-time communications server, as an alternative to telex.

### **ECC SE WG - SE 19**

The Spectrum Engineering working group (SE WG) that deals with matters related to fixed service (FS), PT SE 19, met on 18-19 March in Drammen, Norway.

Among the various issues discussed at the meeting were two ECC draft reports, one on the co-existence of FWA in 3.5 GHz and the other on

mechanisms that can improve co-existence between multipoint systems. Also debated were FS parameters for the regulation of interference, FS between 59 and 100 GHz, and transmission power for FS-PP in co-ordinated bands.

## CPG PT2 AND PT3

The fifth and last meeting of PT2 (on items related to mobile by satellite service, satellite radionavigation and space scientific services) and PT3 (fixed, fixed by satellite, broadcasting by satellite services and high-altitude platforms in the context of fixed service) of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) took place in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 31 March to 2 May. The briefs on all WRC03 agenda points were finalised there; a number of remaining ECPs on some items for CPG approval were also prepared.

In the context of PT2, modifications to the briefs were approved and the positions of regional organisations (Inter-American Telecommunications Commission - CITEL, Arab League countries and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity - APT) updated.

Highlights included revision of the 5 GHz band, with the corresponding brief modified following the proposal by the CEPT co-ordinator - the aim was to clarify allocation of the 5150-5250 MHz and 5470-5725 MHz bands to mobile service for wireless access systems including RLAN. Also revised was the brief concerning satellite radionavigation service, in order to consolidate feasibility conditions for future development of the European Galileo project. The most controversial issue had to do with item 1.24, where the intention is to revise conditions of sharing between fixed satellite service (FSS) and radio-localisation service in the 13.75-14 GHz band. Consensus has still not been reached, though a compromise is expected within the CPG that will allow CEPT to present an ECP on this item at WRC03.

In the context of PT3, the most noteworthy issues concern High Elliptical Orbit (HEO) satellite systems and the revision of technical and regulatory procedures for satellite broadcasting service (BSS).

Regarding HEO (item 1.37), ECPs were approved on the regulatory framework for such systems in bands below 1 GHz, in the L band (1467-1492 MHz) and in the C band (6/4 GHz).

For BSS (item 1.27), 3 ECPs were approved with proposals to resolve inconsistencies in the provisions of Appendices 30 and 30A indicated by the Director of the ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), proposals to modify provisions 4.1.18 to 4.1.20 of article 4 of Appendix 30 and proposals with modifications for Appendices 30 and 30A, to resolve a number of problems discovered by the Special Committee (SC) of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) in application of the Radiocommunication Regulation.

Also approved were briefs on all items under the charge of this group, with the updating of texts and the section on proposals from other regional organisations. All documents will be presented to the CPG for final approval.

## CERP STANDARDISATION WG

The Standardisation WG of the European Committee for Postal Regulation met on 29 April in Mainz, where relevant issues were discussed, namely implementation of the EN 13850 quality norm, measurement of transit times for bulk mail and non-priority mail, point-to-point measurement of ordering service by recourse to track & trace systems, measurement of hybrid mail quality service, and the extension of existing norms in the European Union member states.

## CERP REGULATORY AFFAIRS WG

CERP's working group on Regulatory Affairs met in Stockholm on 1 April, with Sweden chairing the proceedings.

The member states provided information on latest developments and the state of transposition of the Postal Directive into the respective internal legal orders.

The report presented by the European Commission indicated that, barring Austria, France, Greece and Portugal, all the other member states had already transposed Directive 2002/39/EC.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS 2000), with special emphasis on the current classification of postal services and possible changes to same. The aim was to enable countries that do not have direct contact with the negotiations to be provided with as much information as possible.

The project team (PT) studying the consequences of liberalising cross-border mail reported on its first meeting, which agreed on its respective composition (Ireland accept assumption of its chair) and defined the mandate and future work. This PT is preparing a questionnaire on the legal situation of cross-border mail in each country, which will soon be sent to all the member states.

## CERP UPU AFFAIRS WG

The 28th meeting of CERP's Universal Postal Union (UPU) working group was held on 28 March in Helsinki, with the United Kingdom presiding.

As head of the UPU's Advisory Group, Spain presented the latest developments in the group, highlighting the increase in the number of members (28 organisations/ associations) and approval of the future Advisory Committee's rules of procedure.

At the meeting, the UPU representative stated that the Postal Regulation Guide, based on a study on the status and structure of postal administrations, will be updated and presented to the 2003 Council of Administration. It also presented the programme of the Congress (to run from 15 September to 5 October).

PostEurop in turn reported on the work it has carried out together with CERP on the harmonisation of procedures.

SEE <http://www.cept.org>

SEE <http://www.eto.dk>

SEE <http://www.ero.dk>

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HEADQUARTERS • Av. José Malhoa, 12 - 1099-017 Lisboa • [www.anacom.pt](http://www.anacom.pt) • [info@anacom.pt](mailto:info@anacom.pt) • DIRECTOR • Fátima A. Botelho

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Companhia dos Riscos, DESIGN LDA • [www.companhia-riscos.pt](http://www.companhia-riscos.pt) • [geral@companhia-riscos.pt](mailto:geral@companhia-riscos.pt)

## INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP

### MM WG

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) took part in the tenth meeting of the Mobile Market working group (MM WG) of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), held on 10-11 April in Naples. The encounter marked the start of participation by candidate-countries for European Union membership and the presentation of first versions of the reports on added value short message service and termination in mobile networks.

### SMP WG

The WG on Significant Market Power (SMP) met on 4 April in Paris, where

the focus was on documents related to the concepts of emerging markets, buying power and practical issues in the context of market analysis.

### REGULATORY ACCOUNTING WG

The WG on Regulatory Accounting met in the Hague on 21 March, with participants discussing the new activities plan as well as the group's mission and objectives. Also considered were aspects related to cost recovery, accounts separation in the context of the new regulatory framework, harmonisation of cost concepts, shared access prices and sub-loops related to local loop unbundling. ◀

## UMTS COMPARATIVE FRAMEWORK

Iceland is the only one of the 19 countries in the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) whose government has not yet granted third generation mobile (3G/ UMTS) licences, indicates a document drawn up by the IRG; the latest version is dated 27 March.

However, countries such as Belgium (with 3 candidates for the provision of 4 licences), France (the tender has already passed through two phases, with one licence still to grant), Greece and Ireland (3 of the total 4 available licences granted) have not entirely completed the process of granting the licence titles.

In Norway, one operator saw its title withdrawn due to bankruptcy. In the same country, and while the parliament is preparing debate on a White Paper on Mobile Communications, the Ministry of Transports and Telecommunications has decided to fine the operator Tele2 for failure to comply with some contract conditions.

Infrastructure sharing is generally consented to in all the states, on the condition that it abides by the rules of competition. In some cases, this is studied on a case-by-case basis. For example, Sweden authorises the sharing of 70 percent of radio infrastructure, while the remaining 30 percent should be held by the operators.

Regarding the NRAs in the countries of eastern and central Europe in the process of joining the European Union and whose IRG membership was authorised in November 2002, information is currently available with respect to two of them: Estonia, whose parliament has authorised by direct offer the granting of four licences; and Poland, which has granted three licences by auction. ◀

## INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION - UIT-R

### WG 8F

WG 8F met from 26 March to 4 April. This working group from the Radio-communication Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-R) is responsible for all issues related to the evolution of IMT-2000 and future systems, including wireless internet, convergence of fixed and mobile networks, multimedia functions, interworking, interoperability and improvements to recommendations of the Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) related to IMT-2000.

WG 8F encompasses various groups (spectrum, technology, services) and subgroups (markets, services, methodology).

### STUDY GROUP 9B

Geneva hosted on 7-14 April a meeting of Study Group 9B of ITU-R, which deals with issues related to fixed service (FS) - carrying studies and recommendations on radiofrequency planning, radio system characteristics, interconnection, maintenance and various applications.

The work was undertaken in three subgroups responsible for the following areas: systems that use HAPS high-altitude platforms (subgroup 9B-1);

topics associated to FS, requirements and future view for FS spectrum, infrastructure support for the IMT-2000 network (subgroup 9B-2); processes of dialogue between neighbouring countries to co-ordinate FS systems to operate by local licence (subgroup 9B-3).

The work resulted in the production of new recommendations and two revised draft recommendations, subsequently submitted to Study Group 9 for adoption.

### STUDY GROUP 6 - TG 6/8

The group TG6/8 of Study Group 6 in the context of ITU-R met from 25 to 28 February 2003 in Geneva. The encounter saw the continuation of work to prepare a report focusing on various technical aspects of planning digital terrestrial broadcasting (DVB-T and T-DAB) in the 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz frequency bands.

This report will serve as technical basis for work of the first session of the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC04/05), which aims to prepare revision of the 1961 Stockholm Agreement and the 1989 Geneva Agreement. ◀

SEE <http://www.itu.int>

## ATU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) was for the first time represented at a meeting of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), at the invitation of same. The encounter, held in Nairobi from 8 to 10 April, took place during the current Portuguese presidency of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), which is currently held by ANACOM.

The ATU is a regional organisation of African countries with powers similar to those held by CEPT in Europe. The Note of Understanding between the two organisations was signed in March 2002; its practical application has been promoted during the Portuguese presidency term, which runs until 30 September 2003.

The way of preparing conferences and events in the ITU context, based on CEPT's experience, is held to be a favoured area for future co-operation between the two organisations.

Beyond observing CEPT's working methods in these areas, the Note of Understanding with the ATU may also be used to deal with European and African proposals prior to the respective events. ◀

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (COCOM)

The fifth meeting of the Communications Committee (COCOM) was held in Brussels on 10 April. Among other matters, it saw acceptance of the decision by the users with special needs subgroup on preparation of a questionnaire meant to provide an overview of the various member states' efforts with regard to electronic communications access by people with disabilities. The subgroup expects to finish a report by the end of the year, using the said survey. A new version of the proposed recommendation on caller localisation, the subject of various comments, was presented; the Commission recognised the need to present a new text.

Regarding transposition to the new regulatory framework, the Commission indicated that from the next meeting on it aims to thoroughly review integration of the new sectorial rules in the legal order of the fifteen member states.

The Commission also reported that at the next COCOM meeting, it will disclose a draft recommendation on the notification calendar, under terms of article 7 of the Framework Directive.

Meanwhile, a proposed recommendation on leased lines has been presented, which the Commission is expected to adopt in June.

Finally, the Committee accepted the Commission's decision on designation of an .eu top-level domain register, with two votes against and one abstaining.

SEE [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/onp/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/onp/index_en.htm)

## UPU POSTAL OPERATION COUNCIL

The annual session of the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which is chaired by Portugal, took place from 31 March to 11 April in Berne, where the various action groups, commissions, committees and co-operatives met, as did the POC in plenary session.

In the context of reformulating the Acts, Commission 1 reported that after the POC session a first draft of the Universal Postal Convention, correspondence regulation and regulation on orders - the reference text for presentation of proposals at the 2004 Congress - will be distributed to all the member countries.

Romania gave a presentation on ongoing preparations for that Congress, to be held in Budapest. The International Bureau presented the established calendar (from 15 September to 5 October 2004) and the Congress commissions, with the respective chairs and vice-chairs, among other details set to date.

For the post of Union Director General, Portugal presented the formal candidacy of Mr. Carlos Silva, Inspector General of the CTT (Portuguese postal service) and current president of the POC, while China put forward a candidacy for the post of Vice Director General.

SEE <http://www.upu.int/>

## NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

**SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT)** - A draft measure that aims to create a single invoice for fixed telephone service is in public discussion until 12 May. At <http://www.sgc.mfom.es/>.

**FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART)** - Three important measures are currently being developed: the preliminary draft that transposes the so-called 'telecommunications package', published on 1 April; the law on trust in the digital economy, which includes the directive on electronic commerce, approved at first reading; and a postal regulation project, which will soon extend the powers of the ART (to become the ARTP - *Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications et des Postes*) to the postal sector and is to be presented to the Senate in June. See <http://www.art-telecom.fr/>.

**UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTTEL)** - A consultation on rights of passage applied to the new telecommunications regulatory framework ends on 28 May. See [http://www.ofcom.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr16\\_03.htm](http://www.ofcom.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr16_03.htm). Elizabeth France has since the beginning of 2003 been the new Telecommunications Ombudsman. Her office is known as Otelo (Office of the Telecommunications Ombudsman) and may be consulted at <http://www.otelo.org.uk>.

**UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Communications (OFCOM)** - The British super-regulator, which comprises five sectorial regulatory bodies, will formally begin operating in December. See [http://www.ofcom.org.uk/newsroom/news\\_releases/PressRelease\\_05-03-03.htm](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/newsroom/news_releases/PressRelease_05-03-03.htm).

**IRELAND - Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)** - The three third generation mobile operators have signed an agreement on sharing radio sites. Details at [http://www.comreg.ie/\\_fileupload/publications/PR050303.pdf](http://www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/publications/PR050303.pdf).

**SWITZERLAND - Office Fédéral de la Communications (OFCOM)** - Unbun-

dling of the 'last mile' of local loop is going ahead with the latest measures adopted by the Federal Council. See <http://www.ofcom.ch/fr/aktuell/ull/index.html>.

**BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)** - The deadline to submit comments in the context of the four consultations on norms for the certification of cables, antennas and transmitters has been extended to 30 May. At [http://www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2003/release\\_29\\_04\\_2003\(2\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2003/release_29_04_2003(2).pdf). The operator Star One has won the second phase of the auction for operation of the Brazilian satellite for the transportation of telecommunications signals. See [http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2003/release\\_29\\_04\\_2003.pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2003/release_29_04_2003.pdf). A seminar on activities of the Centre for Telecommunications Excellence was held on 16-17 April. Details at [http://www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2003/release\\_16\\_04\\_2003.pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2003/release_16_04_2003.pdf).

**REGULATEL** - The 1st meeting of co-heads of the Latin American Authority of Telecommunications Regulatory Bodies (REGULATEL) was held on 13-15 March in Bogota, Colombia. At [http://www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2003/release\\_13\\_03\\_2003.pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2003/release_13_03_2003.pdf).

**WTO** - China and Egypt - As new members of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), China and Egypt have dropped tariff barriers to the trade in information technology products, such as computers and telecommunications equipment. The ITA, negotiated at the first WTO ministerial conference in 1996, aims to stimulate the revolution in information technologies via the gradual elimination of trade tariffs for such products. The ITA currently has 59 member countries, corresponding to 95 percent of global trade in this sector. See [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news03\\_e/news\\_china\\_egypt\\_25apr03\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news03_e/news_china_egypt_25apr03_e.htm).

## EUROPEAN UNION

### RADIO SPECTRUM COMMITTEE

The third meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee was held in Brussels on 8 April. The ERMES (European land-based public radio paging) directive, the new mandate on the third mobile generation to be presented to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), and automobile short range radars (ASRR) were among the main topics considered.

Regarding the ERMES directive (in most member states the 169.4-169.8 MHz band is reserved for ERMES applications, as per Directive 90/544/ECC of the Council of 9 October) and the respective applications associated with the digital paging system in the European context, same have diminished to such a degree that in most countries the band is not used. For this reason it has become necessary to review such allocation in order to maintain the harmonised status of the band in question. A draft mandate for the CEPT to study possible harmonised applications in light of community policy was thus discussed.

Also debated was a fifth and new third generation mobile (UMTS) mandate for CEPT, according to which work already undertaken should be complemented by the following: development of frequency plans for the 2500-2690 MHz bands; analysis of availability of the 2500-2520 MHz/

2670-2690 MHz bands for use of the satellite component and/ or terrestrial component of IMT 2000; analysis of the impact of sound broadcasting by satellite on 2630-2655 MHz in IMT 2000; analysis of the impact of technological advances such as variable duplex spacing and radio systems defined by software SDR.

Regarding ASRR, the possibility of finding an interim and temporary solution for the operation of such radars in 24 GHz is being studied. A decision eventually adopted by the community countries will necessarily be a compromise between the various organisations involved (automakers, European Commission, European Telecommunications Standards Institute - ETSI - and CEPT), in order to allow during the transition period coexistence with services that currently use that band, avoiding any kind of interference. This solution may be important for fulfilment of the community eSafety programme.

The European Commission has in turn presented a proposal on principles for collaboration between the Spectrum Committee and the TCAM (Telecommunications Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee), and the expected content of its communication to the European Parliament and to the Council on the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03).

SEE [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/onp/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/onp/index_en.htm)

### WSIS PREPARATION

The proposed 'Declaration of Principles' and 'Action Plan' being drawn up for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to take place in Geneva from 10 to 12 December, were studied at the special session of the 4th meeting of the Informal International Affairs Group, organised by the European Union's Information Society Directorate General and held in Brussels on 8 April.

The European Commission warned of the urgent need to ensure greater community participation and announced the priorities already expressed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and by the Council of Europe: public access, privacy and confidentiality, and consumer trust in the OECD's case, and human rights, democracy and the primacy of law for the Council of Europe.

The Portuguese delegation identified the following theme topics: reference to the concepts of identity, culture and linguistic diversity; consecrated

participation of the business sector and civil society; protection of privacy and confidentiality; and also employment, youth, education and the role of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in economic productivity and growth.

Other member states called attention to various theme topics: Sweden referred to intellectual property rights, financing and international global governance; Finland focused on ICTs' contribution to improving the quality of life, productivity and economic growth; Ireland emphasised political leadership in the information society process; the United Kingdom stressed the creation of conditions to enhance ICTs; and lastly France defended the priority on financing, privacy and internet governance. The European Commission called for the inclusion of topics such as gender, youth, education, employment, sustainable development and financing.

SEE <http://www.itu.int/wsisi/>

### IN MAY 2003

#### EU

- Informal Internet Group (16)
- Telecommunications WG (8,12,21)

#### IRG/ ERG

- Contact Network (5-6)
- IRG/ ERG (18-20)

#### CEPT

#### ECC

- PT5 (6-7)
- ETO Council (21)
- ERO Council (21-22)
- PT2/ TRIS (8-9)
- WG SE (12-16)
- WG FM (19-23)

#### CERP

- Plenary Session (22-23)

#### ITU

- Council (5-16)
- Radiocommunications Sector
- TG 6/8 (12-16)

#### AICEP

- Assembly and 11th Forum (7-9)
- Senior Officials Group (16)

#### EVENTS

- 4th Information Systems Security Meeting
- 7 and 8, Lisbon

- *Collecting and Producing Electronic Evidence in Cybercrime Cases* - 8-9, Namur, Belgium
- *2nd Public Administration Forum "eGovernment: what's been done and what remains to be done"* - 8, Lisbon
- *7th Information Technologies, Telecommunications and Telematics Fair* - 15 and 18, Exponor, Oporto
- *The Role of Media in the Information Society* - 21, Leiria, Portugal
- *World Telecommunications Day (ITU)* - 22, Portuguese Communications Foundation, Lisbon
- *The New Electronic Communications Regulation - What is Expected of 99 Review?* (APDC) - 26, Lisbon
- *6th National meeting of the College of Electro-technical Engineering* - 28-29, Lisbon