



Current Events

User information for ported numbers

Portugal joins One Stop Shopping for satellite

2 Postal Services in debate

3 European Union

4 Group of Galileo system notification administrations

5

6

7

NEW ANACOM STATUTES TAKE EFFECT, WEBSITE REORGANISED

The new statutes of the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*, also known as ANACOM, took effect on 6 January 2002, leading it to adopt a new visual identity that comprises a new logotype (see box) and total makeover of its website.

The new ANACOM website may be accessed at www.anacom.pt. Both image and functional design have been reorganised; it also presents new fields and informative content to meet the most sophisticated navigation requirements for all public administration websites.

New features include on-line attendance, covering services such as telecommunications infrastructures in buildings, radio reception protection, amateur service, personal radio service (citizen's band) and audiotext, as well as a glossary and an area for useful contacts.

Besides this service, in which users are able to fill out forms on-line, a press room will also be set up to provide information to media professionals, with a specific email address for journalists and gallery of official images to illustrate news reports on the sector. Regarding content, existing areas will be renovated and new areas given autonomy, such as the one for the R&TTE (Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment) system. In a second

phase, other areas will be launched and specific aspects of current areas further developed.

NAVIGATION FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The new website was conceived in accordance with the principles set by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) organisation and the manual on "Website Accessibility in Public Administration - Navigation Requirements" of the National Institute of Administration and the ACESSO unit of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and pays special attention to people with special needs, particularly the blind and the visually impaired.

Users with special needs are provided simplified means of keyboard navigation and special functions such as subtitled images, simplified page structure and the use of high-contrast graphics.

Information research mechanisms have also been reformulated: the new website has an upgraded search engine that enables searches by date, author, title, subject or key word. The ANACOM website is also prepared in the near future to allow syndication of content and the shared use of resources with other public administration websites.

SEE www.icp.pt/indexuk.asp

SEE www.anacom.pt

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1889&ida=183>

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1876&ida=182>

PRICE REDUCTION FOR ULL SHARED ACCESS

The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* approved on 14 December a draft decision on modifications to introduce in prices for shared access service provided in the scope of the 2001 Reference Offer for Unbundling the Local Loop submitted by PT Comunicações, S.A. (PTC). This decision implies wholesale price cuts that vary between 5 and 90 percent.

Uninstallation of the local loop exemplifies the greater price cuts determined by ANACOM (90 percent). The intervention service for undue notification of problems is to be reduced by 5 percent. Also noteworthy are the prices set for local loop monthly fees, which are fixed at €7.80 in the case of POTS (Plain Old Telephony Service) access and €7.90 in the case of ISDN (Integrated Service Digital Network), constituting a reduction of 58 percent.

The operator must within 10 days change the prices of the aforementioned service, including them in the 2001 ULL Reference Offer.

With this decision, ANACOM complies with community decisions in this area and has informed the Commission that Portugal is not among the group of countries formally charged with non-compliance last December 20.

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1914&ida=183>

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1896/0|RAPID&lg=EN

NEW LOGO ADOPTED

The new logo of the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) uses symbolic graphics based on the national colours - red, green and yellow - appearing on the Portuguese flag.

ANACOM is a national trademark, conceived for two levels of simultaneous reading: a first, institutional level, which aims to transmit rigour, transparency and confidence; and a second level, emotional, which enables a thorough reading with the empathy and close relationship sought from a public that is diverse by nature, i.e., all users and consumers of telecommunications.

The ANACOM symbol includes autonomous elements, the three chromatic spheres (in the foreground a red sphere, with the green and the yellow sphere behind) joined together by a grey ring. These elements suggest movement in their structure and also in their application, diagonal to the lettering. The notion of movement is associated to values such as dynamism and progress.

The lettering (ANACOM, ANACOM - *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* or *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*) is in turn written in a timeless semi-serif font, which is presented from inside to outside, structurally open.

The advertising campaign will run from 11 to 24 January, with plans calling for the use of advertisements and banners in the press and on the internet. The comprehensive replacement of stationary will also be undertaken.

SEE www.anacom.pt

CURRENT EVENTS

Interconnection and Internet Access reference proposals -

Under terms of the Code of Administrative Procedure, *PT Comunicações* (PTC) has been given 10 days to pronounce on the draft decision approved by the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) on 21 December, in the context of the Interconnection Reference Proposal and the Internet Access Reference Proposal for 2002. Both proposals should reflect a drop in interconnection prices, bringing them into line with the necessary cost orientation. Additional information at <http://www.icp.pt/interligacao/uk/nacional2.html>.

SMP in the fixed network - Also on 21 December, ANACOM decided to notify *PT Comunicações* of the probable outcome of its decision to designate the latter an operator with significant market power (SMP) in the markets for fixed telephone networks and/or fixed telephone service. Given this draft decision, PTC must respond within the usual time limit of 10 days.

New postal operators - The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* has granted three new licences for the provision of postal service, not reserved and not covered by the scope of universal service, to the postal operators TNT Express Worldwide (Portugal) - *Transitários Transportes e Serviços Complementares, S.A.*; Chronopost Portugal - *Transporte Internacional, S.A.*; and D.H.L. - *Transportadores Rápidos Internacionais, Lda.* The three operators are specifically to provide express mail services, encompassing the faster than usual collection, handling, transport and distribution of dispatched correspondence and packages. See <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1913&ida=183>.

ULL Advisory WG - The seventh meeting of the Advisory Working Group on Unbundling of the Local Loop (ULL) was held on 3 December, with discussion focusing on the information access service provided in the scope of the Reference Offer for the Unbundling of the Local Loop and the harmonisation of the processes of ULL and number portability.

Price Convention for Universal Telecommunications Service - Likewise under study in accordance with article 11 of Decree-Law no. 458/99 is a draft Price Convention for Universal Telecommunications Service for the 2002-2004 triennium, to be undertaken by the Directorate-General for Trade and Competition, *PT Comunicações* and ANACOM. Comment is also awaited from the Consumer Institute and the consumer representative associations.

Portable numbers - In the period between 30 June and 31 December 2001, since the "number portability" function took effect, some 2,338 numbers have been ported from the fixed network.

Licences - The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* decided on 21 December to authorise the transmission to *RENTELECOM - Comunicações, S.A.* of the license for public telecommunications

networks granted in March 2001 to *REN - Rede Eléctrica, S.A.* A proposal has meanwhile been made to the Infrastructure Ministry to revoke the licence for fixed wireless access (FWA) granted to *Teleweb - Comunicações Interactivas*.

OPTEP's stake in UMTS - Infrastructure Minister Ferro Rodrigues signed on 18 December an order to the effect that *OPTEP - Sociedade Gestora de Participações Sociais* should suspend, between 19 December 2001 and the date of sale of its stake in the share capital of *Optimus - Telecomunicações*, its associated rights in that company. The measure also determines that *OniWay - Infocomunicações* may only begin operations in the telephony market no less than 30 days after the above-mentioned alienation. Given the indirect but simultaneous participation of OPTEP in the share capital of the third generation mobile operators *OniWay* and *Optimus*, the aim of the measure is to guarantee conditions of effective competition between the respective operators, in wake of the publication on 17 December of Administrative Rule no. 1428-A/2001, which has changed the regulation of the corresponding public tender.

FTS statistical indicators - Pre-selection - The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* approved on 31 October a draft decision on statistical indicators that fixed telephone service (FTS) providers must provide to ANACOM, in order to enable accompaniment and evaluation of the operational status of pre-selection and compliance with the service quality obligations anticipated in the specification of that function. The FTS operators have been given 10 days to comment.

Sound and televised radio broadcasting on the ICP website - ANACOM has made available a new area on its website, dedicated to sound and televised radio broadcasting, which lists the respective service operators, the measures defining the activity and information on the licensing process.

ANACOM laboratories - Application of the international quality norm NP EN ISO/IEC 17025, compulsory from 1 January 2002, is already in effect at two of the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* laboratories: the Laboratory for Electromagnetic Compatibility (LCEM) and the Laboratory for Radio Metrology (LMR), accredited by the Portuguese Quality Institute since 1993 and 1999 respectively.

The LCEM supports industry and carries out market control tests to assess the conformity of electric and electronic equipment. The LMR's activity mainly covers three types of equipment: radiocommunications analysers, measurement apparatuses (multimeters and oscilloscopes) and radio frequency generators. Data concerning the activity of ANACOM labs is available at <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1915&ida=183> and <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1916&ida=182>.

POSTAL SERVICE PRICES APPROVED

The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* approved on 20 December the price regime for non-reserved services that integrate the universal postal service in effect in 2002, the respective proposed signing of an Addendum to the Price Convention and also the universal postal service tariff schedule for the current year.

Regarding the rate schedule for universal postal service in 2002, price variations of 2.8 percent were verified for the basket of reserved services and 2.9 percent for the basket of non-reserved services.

The national base rate for ordinary mail (letter in normal format weighing up to 20 grams), for manual purchase of stamp, franking and franking machines, is €0.28. The national base rate for priority mail (letter in normal format weighing up to 20 grams), for manual purchase of stamp and franking in post offices is €0.43.

Communications in Portugal

USER INFORMATION FOR PORTED NUMBERS

The providers of fixed telephone service and mobile service operators are obliged to effect an awareness campaign to inform users making calls of the prices in effect for calls to ported numbers, indicates a 21 December proposal of decision of the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). This draft decision follows on the procedures agreed upon during definition of the portability specification last June.

Operators or providers will thus for two months provide a free on-line announcement for voice calls whenever the price of the ported call is above the price in effect before number portability. Users must be informed by recorded message of the existence of a telephone information service for ported numbers; calls to obtain such information should preferably be free of charge - their cost may not be above that of a local call or the price of an information call at the rates currently practiced by the respective operator. Access to the above-mentioned information is to be assured via both fixed and mobile networks.

When the two-month period corresponding to the first operational phase of this system comes to an end, operators and providers will continue to provide information to their customers via a user support service. They should also send a leaflet and an invoice informing of the possible change in call prices for ported numbers and providing their customers with detailed invoicing of calls to ported numbers.

Interested operators and providers have been given 10 days to comment on this draft decision.

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/interligacao/uk/nacional3.html>

NEW ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

A new entity has been born whose aim is to develop the Information Society in Portugal - the Association for the Promotion and Development of the Information Society (APDSI). Formally constituted on 12 December, the association has already included in its 2002 activities plan the realisation of studies on public administration and eProcurement in the information society, media and audiovisual policy, and also on urban planning and information society and on the fight against poverty and social exclusion by means of same. Plans also call for various seminars, namely to debate subjects such as the "Green Paper for Information Society - four years of existence", "Thinking health in Portugal in the context of information society", "eCommerce in Portugal - the postponed promise" and "Rethinking the Society of Information and Knowledge for the 21st Century". The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* is among founders of the association, which is headed by Dias Coelho, with Raul Junqueiro leading its General Assembly.

SEE <http://apdsi.no.sapo.pt>

ACCESS TO TRANSPORTS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) is to finance a project of the Faculty of Engineering of Oporto, whose aim is to facilitate access of the visually impaired to transports through the use of information and communications technologies. The Project for Transports Accessibility for Persons with Vision Problems (PATPCV) will be co-ordinated at government level by the Ministry of Infrastructure, via the assistant state secretary for transports.

By order of Infrastructure Minister Ferro Rodrigues, dated 6 December, the initiative anticipates the constitution of a Working Group to Accompany the PATPCV, with five members representing the Directorate-General of Land Transports, the Offices of the Minister of Infrastructure and the Assistant State Secretary for Transports, ANACOM and the National Institute of Rail Transport.

Besides stimulating and supervising development of this project, the Working Group will maintain close relations with the National Secretariat for the Rehabilitation and Integration of the Handicapped (SNRIPD).

SUPERVISION OF ENTITIES CERTIFYING INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS

Certifying entities registered with the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) are as of January subject to supervisory actions, ANACOM decided by approving on 4 December the corresponding inspection procedure.

Such inspections aim to certify compliance with the following obligations: registry conditions; verification of other obligations such as the entities' collaboration in inspection and verification actions; confirmation of periodic calibration of their testing and measurement equipment; the guarantee of conformity of telecommunications infrastructures of buildings with applicable requirements for the actions undertaken; and study of detected cases of interference.

COMMUNICATIONS CONGRESS

The 11th Communications Congress was marked by new operators' complaints about problems with the current situation of competition in telecommunications, particularly in the fixed network, and the difficulties (lack of initiative and investment) indicated by the new market actors who have emerged with liberalisation. This annual initiative of the Portuguese Association for Communications Development (APDC), held from 4 to 6 December and focusing on the theme of "2001 - Communications Odyssey", also sought answers to the question of whether or not it is necessary to find a new regulation model, or if the current one only needs to be adjusted to the new realities, particularly those stemming from the European regulatory framework now being finalised, which will define the markets subject to specific regulation.

The panels on "Portability and New Services: Major Trends" and "Media and Telecommunications: the Protagonists", were especially popular. In the first case, the debate conclusions indicated the need to strengthen regulatory powers, as a way to simplify and speed the implementation of portability, while in the second they centred on the inevitable convergence of telecommunications and content producers. Before closing, the usual debate on the "State of the Nation of Communications" was held.

SEE <http://www.apdc.pt/ingles/11congresso/entrada.html>

CEPT MEETINGS

PT WTDC

In wake of the preparatory meetings for the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), to be held in March 2002 in Istanbul, a meeting of the Project Team (PT) of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) charged with preparing for said conference took place in Copenhagen on 6-7 December.

The main purpose of the meeting was to analyse the ECP (European Common Proposals) whose themes were selected, with the subjacent concerns the European countries hope to see resolved at WTDC02.

Also present at the meeting was a representative of the ITU's Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT), who presented the main conclusions and measures adopted at the last meeting of the Telecommunications Development Advisory Group (TDAG).

The principal issues considered at that meeting, held in Geneva on 3-5 October, basically concerned preparation for the conference, particularly its structure and the strategic plan for the Development Sector (ITU-D).

The material covered by the CEPT's ECP is particularly current and essentially seeks to link the development resulting from increased telecommunications to the lag registered in many countries, so that reduction of the digital gap can help lead to more economic and social growth in those countries.

The seven ECP projects concern such matters as convergence and regulation; the specific needs of developing countries in the European region; increased powers for the TDAG in the period between conferences; the new concept of Project Management Groups (PMGs); and the role the ITU should play with respect to other partners who at global level are involved in the reducing the digital gap.

The involvement of regional offices in the ITU conferences and the development of human resources, along with ITU action in internet access and use, are subjects to be reviewed at the upcoming WTDC02.

ETO BOARD

The Board of Administration of the European Telecommunications Office (ETO) met on 18 December in Copenhagen and approved the working plan for 2002, as well as guidelines for the ETO's activity in the area of numbering, with particular emphasis on issues related to convergence of the internet and telephony.

In the context of the CEPT's reorganisation process, according to which the two current offices - the ETO and ERO - should merge into one single entity, the Board's Rules of Procedure were approved, based on the ones that will eventually govern the future single office (ECO).

ITU WG

The Working Group set up by CEPT to co-ordinate ITU matters (ITU WG) met in Copenhagen on 4-6 December, keeping in mind the September/October 2002 realisation of the next ITU Plenipotentiaries Conference (PP02).

The aim of the meeting was to approve and finalise editing of the ECP, which were reviewed and discussed at the fourth meeting of the PT-PP02, held in Moscow on 22-23 November.

The subject matters of the ECP primarily concern solutions and eventual proposals that from the European point of view should respond to the political and technical aspects raised by exercise of the ITU's powers, in an atmosphere of major challenges and changes.

The PT-PP02 meeting counted the presence of representatives of the European Telecommunications Network Operators (ETNO) Association, with the agenda including study of the ECP and a draft brief (outline of the European countries' positions for PP02) on pending matters.

The ITU WG considered 11 draft ECP submitted by the PT, covering various questions related to organisational and legislative aspects, and sought to find solutions that would make the organisation more efficient. The meeting accepted 10 of the ECP projects, following the criterion adopted by the CEPT, which requires the support of at least 10 countries.

The ECP will now be sent by the United Kingdom, which holds the WG presidency, to all the CEPT administrations, who are to provide written comments on each for posterior submission to the ITU.

The ITU WG also focused on the reports by diverse regional organisations (ATU, CITELE, ICAO), as well as from countries outside Europe, in the context of preparation for PP02.

FMWG PT41

A meeting of the Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG PT41) of the Electronic Communications Committee - ECC was held in Biel, Switzerland, on 6-7 December. Participants concluded the preliminary report on spectrum needs for broadcasting services auxiliaries (SAP/SAB), including electronic news gathering/outside broadcasting (ENG/OB), with identification of the operational needs and spectrum of current and future applications of SAP/SAB used for video and sound reporting. This document will be submitted for approval of the FMWG at its January 2002 meeting in Lisbon.

SEE www.cept.org

SEE www.ero.dk

SEE www.eto.dk

PORTUGAL JOINS ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR SATELLITE

The Portuguese state in December 27 formally joined One Stop Shopping for satellite networks and services (OSS SAT), an instrument that combines in one format the questions put by the 44 countries of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) regarding operator licensing, service providers and radio licensing in the area of satellite communications.

In a context of growing telecommunications liberalisation in Europe, with the support of industry and the European Commission, and with the aim of improving market access for the satellite industry, the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) and the Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs (ECTRA) of the CEPT committed significant resources and efforts to the development of OSS SAT.

One Stop Shopping was also conceived to receive and respond to requests carried by OSS SAT. Also developed along with this tool was a database containing information on the licensing of telecommunications networks and services.

At present, OSS integrates 11 CEPT countries, among them nine member-states of the European Union. The current expectation is for industry to begin using the mechanisms placed at its disposition.

SEE <http://194.182.137.10/eto22/>

POSTAL SERVICES IN DEBATE

CERP STANDARDISATION WG

The Standardisation Working Group (WG) of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) met on 4 December in Bonn, with the agenda focusing on issues related to the progress of work in the Technical Committee of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN/TC 331). Participants also discussed matters to consider at the plenary session of that committee, namely concerning mail routing delays, mislaid non-registered priority mail, complaints and procedures, the new mandate of the European Commission, new aspects to standardise and the identification of new customer needs.

CERP PLENARY SESSION

The 25th plenary meeting of the CERP was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 8-9 November 2001. All the Working Groups (WG) reported to the plenary session - the Regulatory Affairs WG, UPU Affairs WG, Standardisation WG and Economic Affairs WG - as well as the Steering Group, the contact group between the CERP and PostEurop, and the CERP/European Express Association contact committee.

Beyond the current status of the Postal Directive effected by the European Commission, the usual exchange of information on postal sector progress

in the various CEPT countries also took place. Lastly, a forum was held on the theme of "consumer perspectives on postal sector liberalisation and the consequences for customers", which counted the participation of various representative speakers from the relevant sectorial organisations, such as the Union of European Consumers, Postwatch (recently-founded postal service consumer organisation in the United Kingdom), the European Express Mail Order Trade Association (EMOTA), PostEurop and the European Express Association.

COUNCIL WG ON POSTAL SERVICE

The Council WG on Postal Service met on 6 November 2001 in Brussels, with the main point on the agenda concerning study of reasons for modification of the Postal Directive. A result of the discussion was that most of those reasons will be kept unchanged: three were eliminated, while the terminology of those remaining underwent some changes.

No more meetings of the Group are scheduled, given that it achieved political consensus on the new Postal Directive in the Council of Ministers of last 15 October. The final document, which includes the text and the reasons, was sent to linguistic experts to harmonise the language; the Council of Ministers of 6 December adopted a common position with regard to the political accord of 15 October.

NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

FRANCE - *Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART)* - The authority made public on 2 January the conditions for two new UMTS licences, whose results will be released by 30 September 2002. See <http://www.art-telecom.fr/textes/avis/01/01-1202.htm>. On 10 December, ART made public its position on the sharing of infrastructures in third generation mobile networks, the result of a study carried out by the Radiocommunications Advisory Commission.

At <http://www.art-telecom.fr/dossiers/umts/partage-infras.htm>.

IRELAND - Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) - The closing date for receipt of applications for the UMTS tender ends on 27 March 2002. Four licences will be granted (one "A" licence, with coverage of 80 percent of the territory, and three "B" licences, covering at least the five major cities), with the results to be made public in June. Details at http://www.odtr.ie/press_releases.asp.

GERMANY - *Regulierungsbehörde für Telekommunikation und Post (RegTP)* - RegTP's second activities report was released on 6 December and indicates that the competition engendered by liberalisation has not reached desirable levels, while in the postal sector have only been achieved in niche markets. Additional information at http://www.regtp.de/en/aktuelles/start/fs_03.html.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - OFTEL's draft management plan for 2002/3, which includes rules of the new

European regulatory framework and prepares for the merger into the super-regulator denominated OFCOM, is available for consultation until 31 January (see http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/about_oftel/2001/man1201.htm). On 17 December, OFTEL announced measures to boost competition in the leased lines market, which impose new obligations on the incumbent operator BT. At http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/pr88_01.htm. The British regulator has also issued (see http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/pr83_01.htm) guidelines that operators should follow to improve network security.

CHINA - The World Trade Organisation (WTO) approved by consensus on 10 November China's membership in the organisation, which is to be formalised 30 days after ratification by the Chinese parliament. China will be the 143rd state to join the WTO, culminating 15 years of negotiations toward liberalisation and opening the country to foreign trade and investment. Details at http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres01_e/pr252_e.htm.

Progress in 3rd Generation Mobile - While tests of the third generation mobile prototype network resulting from the NEC/Siemens partnership are under way on the British Isle of Man (though the network should only be operational at the end of 2003), Vodafone Spain and J-Phone, the group's Japanese subsidiary, effected on 20 December the first international UMTS connection, between Madrid and Tokyo.

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EUROPEAN UNION

TARIFF REBALANCING IN SPAIN

The commission announced on 21 December that it will refer to the Court of Justice the dispute it has maintained since 1998 with *Telefónica* on the question of tariff rebalancing. The Commission charges that the Spanish incumbent operator has not complied with the 1996 Directive on "Full Competition", and that it has practiced subscription rates for fixed telephone service above the prices oriented by costs.

At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1898|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION BY WANADOO

Also on 21 December, the Commission sent to Wanadoo Interactive, a subsidiary of *France Télécom*, a statement of objections with regard to prices for ADSL internet access services. The Commission suspects that Wanadoo may be setting prices below costs, a situation considered to be abuse of dominant position. More information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1899|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The European Commission's right to veto decisions of regulatory bodies in two matters (definition of relevant markets and designation of operators with significant market power) and the strengthening of its powers to co-ordinate management of the radio spectrum were the main innovations studied during the European Parliament's second reading of the so-called 99 Review package. The new regulatory framework encompasses the Directive on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services and the so-called Directives on "Access", "Authorisation", "Universal Service" and "Data Protection", as well as a Decision concerning radio spectrum policy. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1801|0|RAPID&lg=EN and http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/01/427|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

ELECTRONIC STANDARDS ON-LINE

As already effected by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) has announced that in the framework of the eEurope Standards Action Plan it will from the beginning of the year publish electronic standards on-line and free of charge.

See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1837|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

ACTION PLAN FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

On 4 December, the Commission presented a Communication on the Science and Society Action Plan. Details at ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/ss_ap_en.pdf.

@LIS - EU ALLIANCE WITH LATIN AMERICA

"@lis - Alliance for the Information Society with Latin America" is the name of the EU's co-operation programme with the American subcontinent. It was approved by the Commission on 6 December and aims to encourage continual partnership in the field of telecommunications, internet and eCommerce. Budgeted at 85 million euros, the programme will be officially launched in April 2002, during the @lis Conference organised by the Union's Spanish presidency.

See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1761|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

GREEN PAPER ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

A public hearing on the European Commission's Green Paper on Consumer Protection was held in Brussels on 7 December; public consultation of the document will end on 15 January. The speech by the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, David Byrne, is available at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/01/620|0|RAPID&lg=EN. The Green Paper may be consulted at http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/policy/developments/fair_comm_pract/fair_comm_greenpap_en.pdf.

ANTITRUST RULING AGAINST *LA POSTE*

The Commission on 5 December fined the Belgian postal operator *La Poste* the amount of 2.5 million euros for abuse of dominant position, ruling that it harmed the private operator *Hays* by adopting a preferential tariff in the general letter mail service associated to provision of a B2B service.

At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1738|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

OJEC

- **Commission Decision (2001/892/EC)** - Concerning a process of application of article 82 of the EC Treaty, applied to *Deutsche Post AG*, for interception of cross-border mail. Published on 15 December.
- **Auction of GSM licences (2001/C344)** - The assignment of new second generation mobile licences in Norway took place in the first week of December. Published on 6 December.
- **Resolution of the European Parliament (C343/286)** - Concerning the Commission Communication on "Internet organisation and management - European and international political questions 1998-2000". Published on 5 December.
- **Common Positions of the Council (2001/C337)** - Concerning the Directives on "Framework", "Access", "Authorisation" and "Universal Service". Adopted on 17 September and published on 30 November.
- **Commission Call for Proposals (2001/C321)** - For indirect actions in research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) for the area of the "user-friendly information society" (1998 to 2002). Proposals with deadlines must be submitted by 21 February and 13 March 2002. Published on 16 November.
- **Commission Communication (2001/C320/04)** - Concerning application of the rules in matters of state aid for public radio broadcasting service. Published on 15 November.
- **Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2001/C311)** - Concerning the European Satellite Radio-Navigation Programme (Galileo). Published on 7 November.
- **Call for Proposals TEN-Telecom 2001/2 (C309/12)** - For submission of proposals on projects of common interest in the area of trans-European telecommunications networks - general applications and services. Proposals may be submitted until 31 January 2002. Published on 6 November.
- **Resolution of the Council (2001/C292)** - On "e-Inclusion" - Exploiting the Information Society's potentials for social inclusion. Published on 18 October.

GROUP OF GALILEO SYSTEM NOTIFICATION ADMINISTRATIONS

The second meeting of the group of European Union administrations associated with the European system of satellite radio-navigation, Galileo, also known as the GLS, was held in Paris on 17 December and counted the presence of nine of the 13 associated administrations, along with representatives of the European Commission, the National Centre for Space Studies, the European Space Agency and industry. The aim was to evaluate the regulatory risks to which the system is subject, with regard to the publication of Galileo in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

According to the Galileo notification administration to the ITU, France, this system registers maximum priority vis-à-vis the application of procedures for Radiocommunications Regulation.

If the system does not "enter in service" (for example, due to implementation delays) on the anticipated dates, there is the risk of losing its priority co-ordination ranking, given that the USA and China have similar requests. The main consequence is non-obtainment of the necessary spectrum or subjection to regulatory conditions that make its operational performance unfeasible.

Regarding the political risks associated to agreements the Commission sought from the USA to guarantee inter-operational capacity for the two systems, the Galileo proposal to use the same GPS frequency bands is technically possible. The Americans' problem with this point has to do with their view that the European structure lacks the credibility to take appropriate

security measures to restrict access to Galileo PRS (Public Regulated Services) signals.

Finally, the conclusions serve as a regulatory message to the various Commission groups involved in Galileo, and also for political decisions to be taken in the near future, given that phase two of the project, regarding system definition, is nearing its end.

IMPASSE ON GALILEO

The profitability of the European satellite radio-navigation system may be at risk if the project is not subject to rapid developments that enable it to begin operations in 2008, Transports Commissioner Loyola de Palacio warned in the aftermath of the Council of Ministers of Transports and the European Council of Laeken, respectively held on December 7 and 14-15. The meeting of Union government officials revealed major divisions on the matter within the Fifteen, especially regarding financial and legal aspects: six member-states (the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Sweden and Denmark) requested that they should only comment in March 2002 on the study by the consultant PricewaterhouseCoopers. The Commission considered that the technical aspects (security, frequency assignment) had already been amply discussed and agreed upon, and proposed, also unsuccessfully, that political accord be obtained in Laeken. ◀

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1843|0|RAPID&lg=FR

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

2ND WORLD REGULATORS SYMPOSIUM

The 2nd World Regulators Symposium of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was held in Geneva on 3, 4 and 5 December and included debate on various issues and the presentation of individual experiences by several regulators.

The symposium's results obviate the need for training in the needier countries, for greater involvement of African organisations in co-operation forums and for more regional preparation and co-ordination of regulators given the approaching World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC02), as well as the elaboration of a future plan for harmonisation and the exchange of regional experience, the promotion of training at regional level among regulators, the creation of consultation mechanisms to conceive subjects for upcoming symposiums, the supply of additional training opportunities and the establishment of small working groups to develop ideas for WTDC02.

By joint initiative of the regulatory authorities of Brazil (ANATEL) and Portugal (ANACOM), simultaneous interpretation in portuguese was provided at the symposium, as has been procedure at other high-level ITU events. That measure was in line with a general policy to promote the portuguese language that the two countries have worked together to implement.

TSAG

The second meeting of the Telecommunications Standardisation Advisory Group (TSAG) of the ITU's Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) was held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November, and sought to develop its respective Strategic Plan for 2003-2004, which includes analysis of reform for the sector itself.

ITU-T is one of three sectors of the ITU, founded in 1993, whose main function is to provide global standards for industry and operators by means of the study and specification of technical, operational and tariff questions linked to the provision of telecommunications services. Results of this work

are published as ITU-T Recommendations.

The TSAG meeting set as priority goals the provision of specific contributions of the Standardisation Sector for the next Plenipotentiaries Conference (PPO2).

Among issues included on the agenda of the TSAG meeting that stand out are those related to two recommendations from the ITU Reform Group for the Sector. The study on the long-discussed possible establishment of a pilot forum within ITU-T, aiming to be a space for debate and consensus in which the member-states and Sector members can set technical specifications, with equal rights and obligations, was one of the hottest topics debated. Some difference of viewpoints on the final position nevertheless subsisted. Also in the context of the proposals for alterations to the ITU Convention and Constitution, TSAG decided to set up a Correspondence Group to study possible modification of the concept of "Question", in connection with the role of the World Telecommunications Standardisation Conference (WTSa).

Also approved was the draft strategic plan for the Sector, to be submitted to the Director of the Telecommunications Standardisation Bureau (TSB); the evaluation of implementation of the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) was also carried out, with emphasis on its success and positive effects on the image of ITU-T.

The meeting adopted various decisions concerning the increase of electronic supports, aiming not only to reduce costs but also to promote the ITU's image in general, and that of ITU-T in particular, and the dissemination by the telecommunications community of its activity.

Particular attention was paid to telecommunications security, due to the situation stemming from the events of 11 September, with increased interest in the implications thereof. TSAG will thus encourage the launch of new initiatives regarding the security problem, limited for the time being to telecommunications security, with the security of individuals excluded. ◀

SEE www.itu.int

SPANISH PRESIDENCY - GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The "More Europe" motto announced by Spain when it assumed for the third time the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, for the term comprising the first half of 2002, is indicative of that country's six main priorities. They include the fight against terrorism, introduction of the euro, economic reform centred on stimulation of the Lisbon process in the Barcelona European Council, enlargement to central and eastern Europe, external relations (which include Mediterranean policy and strengthened ties to Latin America and the Caribbean) and debate on the future of Europe.

Regarding the euro, the Spanish presidency is concerned about correct transition to the single currency, strengthened co-ordination of national economic policies, progress aiming to integrate financial markets and enhanced consolidation of the euro monetary zone at international level.

Spain goes so far as to consider that there are five concrete areas that require new impulse from the Fifteen: a European space for transports and telecommunications that will work to guarantee efficient use of resources and an integrated economy; a single market for energy, "indispensable for the competitiveness of European industry", with the Spanish goal to achieve political accord that enables total liberalisation of the gas and electricity markets; a single financial market, arising as a "logical consequence of the

euro" and whose immediate objectives include application of the Directive against inside information and against market manipulation, and the Directive on Takeover Bids; realisation of the full employment goal by 2010 and the holding of a Social Summit that will elaborate a Multiannual Working Programme; and lastly, education, which should become "solid, practical and open", to achieve a "knowledge-based economy, competitive and dynamic".

Two European Councils are scheduled in the context of the Presidency. The first will be held on 15-16 March in Barcelona and focus on the process of modernising and liberalising the European economy, aiming to reduce uncertainty over the current economic situation, in line with efforts to make the Union a prosperous economy, one dynamic and at the service of citizens. The second European Council will be held on 21-22 June in Seville, where a first analysis of work on the convention on Europe's future will be undertaken (the dossier is being co-ordinated by former French president Giscard d'Estaing). The two Council of Ministers of Telecommunications and Transports are scheduled for 25-26 March and 17-18 June; on 21-23 February the city of Vitoria will host an informal meeting of Ministers of Telecommunications and Information Society.

SEE <http://www.ue2002.es/principal.asp?opcion=0&idioma=ingles>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS

ICP - Registered Certifying Entities	Registration Date	ICP - Registered Certifying Entities	Registration Date
Epoch - Consultores de Telemática, Lda.	19.04.2001	Monticanalizações e Instalações Eléctricas, Lda.	01.10.2001
PT Comunicações, S.A.	19.04.2001	Signum - Comércio, Serviços e Representações, Lda.	01.10.2001
EBL - Electro Belarmino, Lda.	30.04.2001	Mitel - Sociedade de Equipamentos de Telecomunicações, Lda.	01.10.2001
Rimielgab - Gabinete Técnico de Engenharia	30.04.2001	HPG - Soluções Tecnológicas, Lda.	09.10.2001
Instituto Electrotécnico Português	10.05.2001	Linhas Múltiplas - Projecto de Telecomunicações, Lda.	22.10.2001
Laboratório Industrial da Qualidade	10.05.2001	Genco - Gabinete de Engenheiros Consultores, Lda.	22.10.2001
Santos & Sousa, Lda.	10.05.2001	Totalinspe - Inspeção de Sistemas Energéticos e Ambiente, S.A.	22.10.2001
Gatipel - Telecomunicações e Informática, Lda.	22.06.2001	Leonel Barbeiro - Electricidade e Canalizações, Lda.	31.10.2001
Sednorte - Montagens Eléctricas, Lda.	28.06.2001	Elevar - Associação de Apoio Técnico	15.11.2001
Multinfra - Projectos e Representações Electromecânicas, Lda.	28.06.2001	Vasconcelos & Filho, Lda.	15.11.2001
Imotron - Edifícios Inteligentes, S.A.	05.07.2001	TELJAP - Manutenção, Instalação e Comercialização de Telecomunicações, Lda.	15.11.2001
Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade	30.07.2001	Odiphone - Serviços e Equipamentos de Comunicação, Lda.	22.11.2001
Cerqueira & Oliveira, Lda.	30.07.2001	Certitejo - Certificação de Instalações de Telecomunicações, Unipessoal, Lda.	22.11.2001
Ribatel - Equipamentos de Telecomunicações, Lda.	08.08.2001	I.E.S. - Infraestruturas Eléctricas, Saneamento e Construções, Lda.	29.11.2001
Rudistel - Equipamento Eléctrico e Electrónico, Lda.	08.08.2001	Vilacel - Electricidade e Consultoria, Lda.	13.12.2001
Electro Arroiteense - Instalações Eléctricas, Lda.	08.08.2001	SNEC - Sociedade Nacional de Electricidade e Construções, Lda.	13.12.2001
Astroluz - Sociedade de Electricidade e Construção Civil, Lda.	08.08.2001	J. Rocha Pinto, Projectos e Consultadoria, Lda.	20.12.2001
Renet Açores - Engenharia, Infraestruturas e Obras Públicas, S.A.	23.08.2001	Meira de Sá, Projectos, Engenharia e Serviços, Lda.	20.12.2001
Guimete - Projecto e Instalação de Materiais Eléctricos e Telecomunicações, Lda.	01.10.2001		
Rediprotel - Engenharia, Estudos e Projectos, Lda	01.10.2001		

IN JANUARY 2002

EU

- Economic/Telecommunications Affairs Group (10)
- ONP Committee
- Licences Committee (30)

ITU

- Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-02 (14-15)
- Development Sector
- TDAG (16-18)
- Radiocommunications Sector
- TG 6/8 (16-18)

CEPT

- CPG PT1 (23-25)
- ERO
- Council (8)
- ECC
- GTFM PT32 (13-15)
- PT WTDC02 (28-29)
- PT PP02 (30-31)

IRG

- ERG IT - Implementation Group (14-15)
- ARN/ARC WG Co-operation (18)

EVENTS

- **PTC2002: Next Generation Communications and Making IT Work** - 13-17, Honolulu
- **3G Mobile World Summit** - 15-18, Tokyo
- **Human resources as basis for Communications development (APDC)** - 16, Lisbon
- **IP Multicast** - 21-23, London
- **Next Generation WAP Services & I-mode** - 21-23, London
- **Interconnect 2002** - 28-31, Berlin