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(+info) In order to facilitate the consultation of information, the links have been replaced with this new designation

## □ SONAECON BID TO ACQUIRE PORTUGAL TELECOM

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) made a pronouncement on 4 April regarding notification of the acquisition of exclusive control of *Portugal Telecom*, SGPS, S.A., by *Sonaecom*, SGPS, S.A., submitted on 20 February 2006 to the Competition Authority (AdC – *Autoridade da Concorrência*). Whenever a merger of companies subject to notification involves a market covered by

sectorial regulation, the latter must under terms of Law no. 18/2003 of 11 June, and before making a decision under article 35, section 1 or article 37, section 1, as per the cases, request the opinion of the respective regulatory authority regarding the operation in question. ANACOM thus issued the corresponding opinion within the time limit requested by the AdC.

## □ INTERNATIONAL ROAMING ON THE ANACOM WEBSITE

ANACOM has launched a new section on its website dedicated to international call roaming. It provides useful information on applied prices and other aspects that should be taken into account with regard to roaming service, i.e., when travelling to a foreign country. This initiative comes in the wake of the most recent positions taken by the European Commission on this subject, as well as the approach proposed by the European Regulators Group (ERG) regarding the release of information on international roaming. The specific aim is to increase

tariff transparency and to help explain to users the main rules for pricing and usage applicable to this service, particularly when same differ from those practiced in the mobile services provided in national territory, without recourse to roaming (for example, tariff rules on receiving calls or using voice mail). Note that in October 2005 the EC launched the International Roaming Tariffs site, which was updated in March 2006. It has also begun work to prepare a Regulation on international roaming tariffs. (+info)

## □ LEASED LINES REFERENCE OFFER

ANACOM has determined in a draft decision that *PT Comunicações* (PTC) should modify the leased lines reference offer (LLRO) and publish it within 15 days, bearing in mind the principles of non-discrimination and orientation to costs. Approved on 16 March, this determination establishes a set of conditions subjacent to the changes to be introduced, which among others include a 15 percent reduction in the prices of digital lines with capacity between 265 kbps

(inclusive) and 2 Mbps (inclusive), and a 20 percent reduction in the prices of 155 Mbps lines, with regard to the proposal submitted by PTC on 19 October 2005. New line installation time limits are also set and the compensations for breach of same established. The determination was submitted to the prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 100 and 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure. (+info)

## □ TEMPORARY ITED CONFORMITY CERTIFICATES

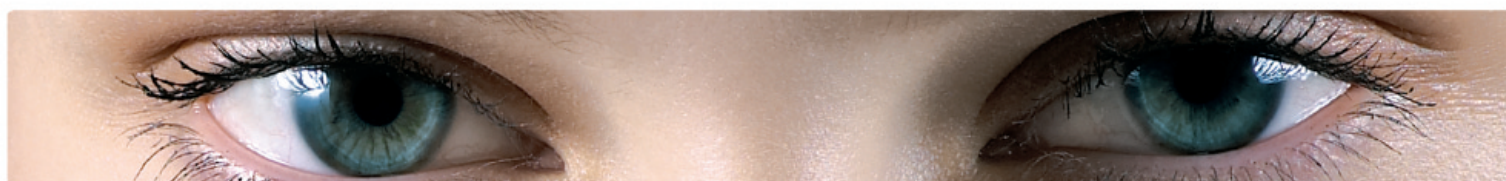
By determination dated 23 March, a decision was made to admit the issuance of ITED (telecommunication infrastructures in buildings) conformity certificates in infrastructures where tubing with commercial diameters equal to those set

as internal in the ITED Manual has been installed. The conformity certificates issued under the previously indicated conditions will be only temporary, i.e., valid up to 31 December 2006. (+info, Portuguese only)

## □ REDUCTION OF THE RADIO SPECTRUM FEES

A 10 percent reduction of the radio spectrum fees for public land mobile service has been approved, effective as of 1 January 2006, under terms of the note

issued by the Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Communications on 5 April 2006. (+info)



## ■ CURRENT EVENTS

**FIXED-MOBILE RETAIL PRICES APPROVED**

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided in a determination dated 23 March not to oppose the entry into force of the proposed price table for fixed-mobile traffic submitted by *PT Comunicações*, to take effect on 1 April 2006. (+info)

**CHANGES TO INTRODUCE IN THE SLRO REFERENCE PROPOSAL**

ANACOM determined on 17 March a set of changes that the *Grupo PT* companies must introduce in the subscriber line resale offer (SLRO) reference proposal published on 30 December 2005, following the determination of this Authority on 12 December of that year. A deadline of 10 working days has been given for the SLRO to be modified and published. (+info)

**ANACOM SPEECH AT THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INFORMATION SOCIETY FORUM**

The speech by ANACOM president Pedro Duarte Neves at the first session of the Forum for the Information Society, held on 10 March at the Aveiro Exhibition Park, is now available. It focuses on the debate about public policies meant to promote the information society in Portugal. With the theme topic of "Regulation and Competition the Broadband Market", the speech by Pedro Duarte Neves covered the regulation of wholesale markets – local loop unbundling and the "PT ADSL Network" offer – as well as market evolution in 2005. (+info)

**ITED CERTIFICATIONS REVOKED**

By determinations dated 23 and 9 March, ANACOM revoked seven ITED (telecommunication infrastructures in buildings) certifying entity registrations, on grounds of failure to carry out activity for a 12 month period, as part of the administrative proceedings under way against them. The certifying entities subject to revoked registration are: Leiricabo – Telecomunicações, Electricidade; SNEC – Sociedade Nacional de Electricidade e Construções; Contera – Sociedade de Representações e Instalações Telefónicas e de Rádio; J.C.T. – Instalações Eléctricas; HGP – Soluções Tecnológicas; I.E.S. – Infra-estruturas Eléctricas, Saneamento e Construção; and Metalúrgica Irmãos Borlido.

(+info, Portuguese only)

**NEW POSTAL OPERATOR**

ANACOM has granted the company António Carlos Santos – Entregas Rápidas Unipessoal authorisation to provide postal services not reserved and not covered by the scope of universal service. (+info, Portuguese only)

**RADIOCOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

Information has been updated on audio and television broadcast operators, as well as on phonic repeating stations in the VHF and UHF bands, in the "Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Service" section under "Radiocommunication Services" on the ANACOM website. (+info)

**APDC – RAUL MASCARENHAS HEADS NEW TEAM**

The new officers of the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC) for the 2006-2008 three-year period took office on 6 March.

Raul Mascarenhas is the new chairman of the board, which also has three vice-chairs – Almeida Mota, Ferrari Careto and Carlos Correia – and seven others, for a total of 11 members. A general Assembly was held on the election day, 2 March, which approved the APDC accounts for 2005 and during which the former chairman, Norberto Fernandes, provided a brief overview of the association's activities in 2005.

**ELECTRONIC INVOICE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE**

Co-ordinated by UMIC (Agency for the Knowledge Society) a preliminary version of the Electronic Invoice Guide has been launched. It is meant to provide information about the process of moving away from material invoices, which is considered to be an important factor for the development of electronic commerce. This document includes basic notions about electronic billing and related concepts, such as digital signatures, as well as information about applicable national and community legislation and about the models used in electronic billing. (+info)

**GOVERNMENT PRESENTS CITIZEN'S CARD**

Prime Minister José Sócrates presided on 8 March in Lisbon over a session presenting the future Citizen's Card, a document which will replace the identity card, tax card, social security card, voter card and National Health Service user card. The aim of the project is to facilitate citizens' lives by both joining various documents together by stimulating interaction with the public administration by electronic means. (+info, Portuguese only)

**SURVEY ON ICTS IN CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

More than two thirds of central public administration bodies have an internet access speed above 512 kbps, corresponding to average annual growth of 32 percent over 2003. As for net presence, 87 percent of public bodies are shown to have an internet website, with 65 percent providing downloadable forms and 36 percent enabling forms to be filled out and submitted online. The data was collected by the UMIC Information and Knowledge Society Observatory, which conducted a similar survey of local governments. (+info)

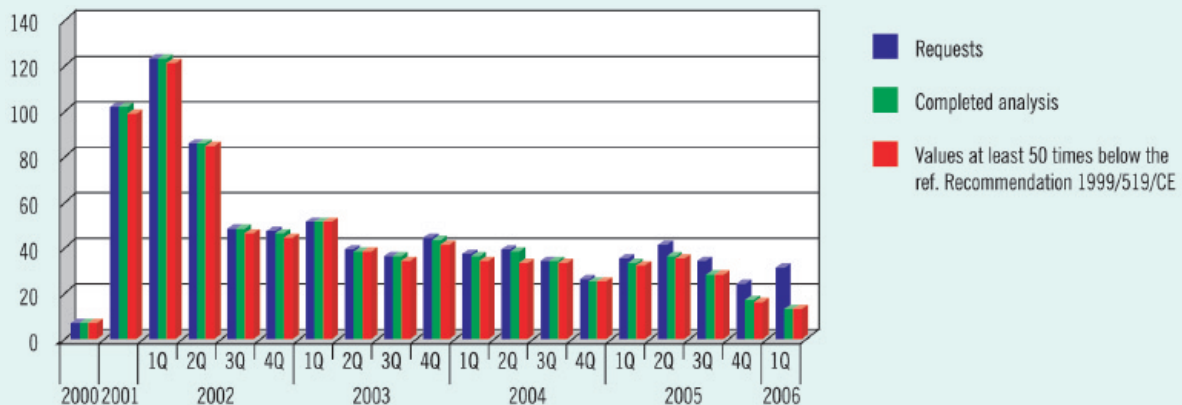
**MEGAREDE TAKES THE INTERNET TO TRADITIONAL COMMERCE**

The Megarede initiative, which aims to be the country's "biggest services network" has been officially launched and by the end of the year hopes to cover 600 establishments. Ten pilot shops in the districts of Braga, Coimbra, Lisbon and Faro are set to get the project started in April. The aim is to reach 5,000 establishments in five years; overall investment is assessed at 54 million euros. Shops that join the project, identified by the Megarede logo, will be provided a multi-function terminal and information and communication technologies which, besides expanding traditional services, will enable the online exchange of information, internet access, the offer of products and services from other members, interaction with public administration and enhanced customer loyalty.

(+info, Portuguese only)

## EVALUATION OF NON-IONISING RADIATION

	2000	2001	2002				2003				2004				2005				2006
			1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Requests	7	101	122	85	48	47	51	39	36	44	37	39	34	26	35	41	34	24	31
Analyses completed	7	101	122	85	48	46	51	38	36	43	36	38	34	25	33	36	28	17	13
Values at least 50 times below the ref. in Recommendation (1999/519/EC)	7	98	120	84	46	44	51	38	34	41	34	33	33	25	32	35	28	16	13



## WIMAX TECHNICAL TRIALS AUTHORISED

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has authorised the company Broadnet Portugal to conduct technical trials with a view to evaluating fixed and nomad broadband wireless access (F&NBWA) systems of the WiMAX type, in the scope of fixed wireless access (FWA), using a frequency bloc of 2X15MHz between 3443-3457 MHz and 3543-3557 MHz. This authorisation does not imply any commitment, obligation or condition for the future use of WiMAX type systems in Portugal, nor any binding tie for ANACOM, or any right, expecta-

tion or legally protected interest for Broadnet, vis-à-vis the allocation of usage rights that may result from the FWA consultation process or an eventual future WiMAX authorisation process. This Authority is following international debate about WiMAX technology and holds that at national level the consideration of this technology should take into account the solutions that may emerge from such discussion, particularly in Europe. (+info)

## GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE SIMPLIFICATION PROGRAMME

The Government has presented a programme meant to simplify the relationship between citizens and companies and the public administration and to extend this de-bureaucratisation to legislation. Titled Simplex, the name of the mathematical algorithm for simplification, the project cuts across all ministries and encompasses 333 measures in six areas: elimination of certifications (100); elimination of paper or dematerialisation (107); simplification (81); deregulation (7); facilitation of access to public services (21); and consolidation of legal

systems (15). The Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Administrative Modernisation Co-ordination unit (UCMA) are responsible for co-ordinating Simplex, with the latter assuring control over the programme's execution. The application of the announced measures, to be put into practice by the end of this year, will be evaluated on a quarterly basis and any delays must be justified.

(+info, Portuguese only)

## REORGANISATION OF THE CENTRAL STATE ADMINISTRATION

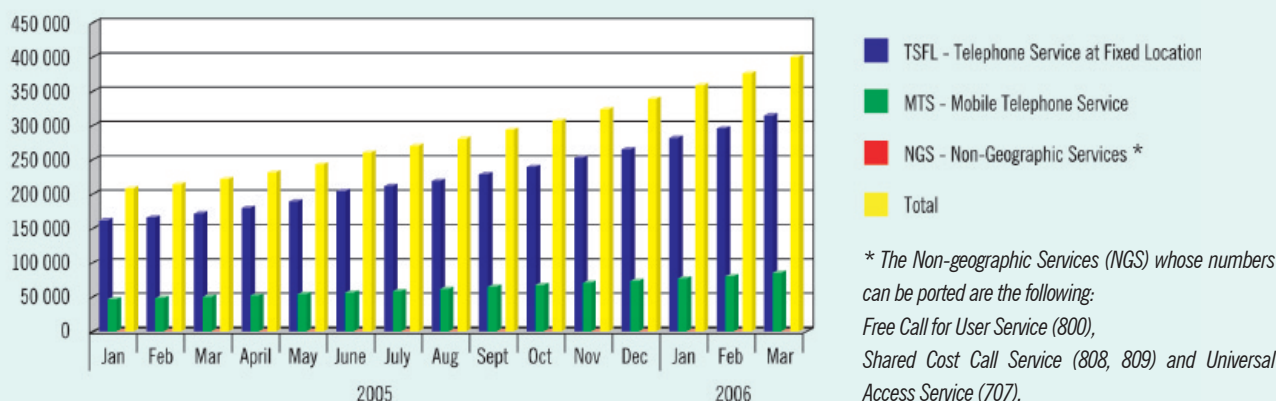
The Council of Ministers has approved a resolution establishing the General Government Restructuring Programme (PRACE). The Government aims with this initiative to carry out a diagnosis and structural reform of the central public administration, as a means towards the country's sustained economic, social and cultural development. The programme sets out principles, programmes and

methods, assuming the following goals: to modernise and rationalise central public administration, improve the quality of services provided to citizens and to make government more receptive to dialogue and closer to citizens. Under PRACE, ANACOM maintains its autonomy under the tutelage of the Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Communications. (+info)



## ■ PORTED NUMBERS

	2005												2006		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
TSFL	161 760	165 721	171 897	179 963	189 237	204 052	211 759	219 092	228 731	239 478	252 984	265 077	281 753	295 502	314 749
MTS	46 659	48 496	50 175	51 822	54 108	56 470	58 608	61 547	64 764	67 491	70 692	73 394	76 957	80 456	85 178
NGS*	282	294	293	294	303	310	312	320	329	333	347	351	396	399	432
TOTAL	208 701	214 511	222 365	232 079	243 648	260 832	270 679	280 959	293 824	307 302	324 023	338 822	359 102	376 357	400 359



## □ ANACOM CHOSEN AS SOURCE FOR GOOGLE NEWS

ANACOM was recently chosen to participate in the Google News programme and stands out as an unregistered entity in the class of online media with a notable presence in the news service of the well-known internet search engine. This Authority's information is now shown alongside stories gathered from news

agencies and online media outlets. Google's choice is due to criteria such as the credibility of the information produced, the amount of daily updates and permanent editorial coverage and analysis of topics related to the communications sector. (+info, Portuguese only)

## □ ECSI-PORTUGAL 2005 WORKSHOP

A workshop to present results of the ECSI-Portugal 2005 Project (National Customer Satisfaction Index), a system for measuring via customer satisfaction the quality of goods and services available on the national market, is to be held on 21 April in the Auditorium of the Portuguese Quality Institute (IPQ) in Monte

Caparica. The Project covers various sectors: banking, fuel, communications (fixed and mobile telecommunications, postal communications and cable television), insurance and passenger transport from Lisbon and Oporto. The communications sector study has been sponsored by ANACOM since 2000. (+info)

## □ eTEN PROGRAMME – NATIONAL INFORMATION DAY

The National Information Day on the eTEN Programme was held on 15 March in Lisbon. This programme means to help disseminate electronic services of a trans-European nature by granting financial support to consortiums made up of public and private bodies. The ANACOM-organised initiative counted the presence of the national contact point for the eTEN Programme, who summed up Portugal's participation, as well as a representative from the European Commis-

sion responsible for following the programme (Information Society and Media Directorate General) and a representative of Deloitte, a consultancy firm with experience in presenting eTEN candidates. The event was very well received by the target public and was attended by various private companies and public institutions and bodies, specifically ministries and municipal governments. The presentations are available for consultation on the ANACOM website. (+info)

## ■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Administrative Rule no. 315/2006** (I Series-B of the *Diário da República* of 5 April) – Determines, for the year 2006, the value of the percentage to apply on the amount of fees covered by the sector regulators and the respective incidence basis to be annually received by the Competition Authority;
- **Notice no. 3767/2006** (2<sup>nd</sup> series) (II Series of the D.R. of 27 March) – Concerning delegation to the president of the ANACOM board of directors of the power as per paragraph f) of article 26 of the Statutes to constitute attorneys and designate ANACOM representatives to other bodies;
- **Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 16 March) – Revokes sections 2 and 3 of the notice published in the 3<sup>rd</sup> series of the D.R. by ANACOM on 23 July 2003;
- **Joint order no. 280/2006** (II Series of the D.R. of 23 March) – Establishes the Electronic Purchasing project group;
- **Notice no. 3432/2006** (2<sup>nd</sup> series) (II Series of the D.R. of 17 March) – Publicises and approves the new national frequency allocation plan (NFAP).

## □ EUROPEAN UNION

### TRANSPORTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Transports, Telecommunications and Energy Council of Ministers met on 27 March in Brussels to consider recent developments involving the European satellite radionavigation system known as Galileo, while the European Commission reported on negotiations under way with the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU), the body in charge of running Galileo. For the time being an agreement of principles has been signed and the main risks stemming from the development and construction of such a system are being examined. The Council deemed necessary risk sharing between the public and private sectors, and asked the EC to submit more information on the way third countries can take part in Galileo and on conclusions of the GJU negotiations, and about the presentation of proposals for financing instruments. The prime ministers of the member States had met on 23-24 March. At that meeting of the European Council the issue of international roaming services was raised; lowering the respective costs was recognised as being a relevant factor for competitiveness in Europe. Considering the importance of new communication technologies, the Council also noted that the i2010 Strategy should be strongly implemented, and asked the next Presidency to examine this matter before the end of 2006. **(+info)**

### PROPOSED REGULATION ON INTERNATIONAL ROAMING

The main features of the proposed European Commission (EC) regulation on international roaming tariffs, to be submitted to the Council and to the European Parliament next June, have been announced. The new regulation is expected to take force in the second quarter of 2007. The EC proposal should cover the following aspects: consider tariffs between operators (wholesale tariffs); regulate the retail sector; and weigh the elimination of all roaming tariffs for receiving calls in other European Union (EU) member States, with the possibility of introducing the principle of 'domestic price' and 'country of origin price' for calls made from foreign countries within the EU. The proposed regulation will be under public consultation until 12 May, following on the first phase which took place from 20 February to 22 March, and for which ANACOM's response was included in the position of the European Regulators Group (ERG). Note also that the EC website on international roaming has been updated. Among other information, examples of prepaid and post-paid tariffs applied to voice calls and written messages may be consulted. **(+info)**

### EC WANTS BROADBAND FOR ALL IN EUROPE

The EC published on 21 March a Communication calling for the mobilisation of

efforts to end existing asymmetries in Europe with regard to broadband internet access. The Commission underscored the importance of widespread broadband coverage to promote growth and jobs in Europe, and thus proposed two major action axes: the first, to strengthen national broadband strategies, which should set clear targets and respond to regional needs; and the second, to intensify the interchange of best practices, specifically by setting up an internet site that functions as a single meeting point where local authorities and companies can exchange information and share experience. The Commission also plans to hold a major conference on the subject of "Broadband for All" in early 2007. **(+info)**

### EUROPE DISCUSSES RFID TECHNOLOGY

The EC has launched a public consultation on RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Devices) technology, which in the future will replace bar codes and enable a more extensive set of applications. Public discussion will be carried out in the form of workshops meant to obtain consensus on aspects vital for the success of RFID, such as the issues of security, individual privacy, technical interoperability and international compatibility. The meetings are being held in Brussels from March to June of this year; the conclusions will be used in the working document to be produced by the EC and published in September, with placement in online public consultation. The resulting comments will be studied and included in the Commission communication on RFID, which should be adopted by the end of the year. **(+info)**

### MOBILE TV AS FACTOR FOR JOBS AND GROWTH

Mobile television may become a major stimulus for economic growth and job creation in Europe. Pilot tests conducted in some EU member States suggest that about half of the subscribers to mobile telephone service, i.e., about 200 million people, are potential users of mobile TV. To ensure that this scenario becomes a reality the European Commission is funding about 40 million euros worth of research projects directly and indirectly linked to mobile TV, under the sixth Research Framework Programme (2002-2006). **(+info)**

### NEW EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDICATORS

The European statistics office, Eurostat, has published a set of data on telecommunications performance in Europe up to 2004. The publication examines a set of indicators, specifically on jobs, different network accesses and the number of suppliers for a set of telecommunications services. Notable is the growth in the number of mobile telephone subscribers and the major increase in the number of homes with internet access. **(+info)**

## ■ OJEU

- **Commission Communication (2006/C71/04)** – Alteration of the list of standards and/or specifications for electronic communications networks and services and associated resources and services.
- **Commission Call (2006/C75/11)** – To submit proposals – eLearning programme – EACEA/01/06.

**(+info)**

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

### PT PPO6

The Icelandic capital Reykjavik hosted on 29-31 March the sixth meeting of PT PPO6, the CEPT project team in charge of preparing for the next Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to be held in 2006. [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC PLENARY MEETING

The 13<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the ECC was held in Oulu, Finland, on 20-24 March, with about 30 administrations represented. [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC EFIS-MG

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Frequency Information System – Management Group (EFIS-MG), which oversees the frequency information system of the European

Radiocommunications Office (ERO) was held on 17 March in Copenhagen. [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC PT SE7

The German city of Mainz hosted on 7-10 March a meeting of PT SE7, which covers land mobile service issues. [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC RRC-06 PT2

The sixth meeting of the PT2 project team of the ECC RRC06 working group was also held in Mainz, on 7-9 March. This group's mission is to deal with technical issues as part of preparations for the second session of the ITU Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC-06). [\(+info\)](#)

## □ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

### PT ON TRANSPARENCY IN RETAIL INTERNATIONAL ROAMING

The third meeting of the project team of the IRG End Users WG set up under the Tariff Transparency (TT) project, concerning retail international roaming, was held in Lisbon on 27-28 March, organised by ANACOM. [\(+info\)](#)

### PT 2006 REVIEW

The project team on the 2006 Review met on 21 March in the Hague to debate

issues concerning the future draft recommendation on relevant markets and the notification and the consultation process for those markets. [\(+info\)](#)

### WG ON SIGNIFICANT MARKET POWER

The IRG working group on Significant Market Power (SMP) met on 21 March in Vienna. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP (ERG)

### PT ON INTERNATIONAL ROAMING

The first two meetings of the new ERG project team on international roaming were held on 9 and 17 March in Brussels and Paris, respectively. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ETSI)

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The French city of Nice hosted on 28-29 March the 47<sup>th</sup> ETSI General Assembly (GA), which saw the appointment of the Institute's next director general, Walter Weigel of Germany, who succeeds Karl Heinz Rosenbrock. [\(+info\)](#)

### OCG ECN&S GROUP

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ETSI Operational Co-ordination Group – Electronic Communications (OCG ECN&S) was held on 21 March at the offices of the French regulator (ARCEP) in Paris. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR ELECTRO-TECHNICAL STANDARDISATION (CENELEC)

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 209

CENELEC Technical Committee 209 met on 16 March in Brussels to debate the

most recent developments concerning interference in cabled and radio telecommunications networks. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)

### WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-06)

The fourth World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-06) of the ITU was held on 7-15 March in Doha, Qatar, and saw the adoption of two strategy documents for the Development Sector in the next four years: the Doha

Declaration and the Doha Action Plan. [\(+info\)](#)

### TERRESTRIAL DELIVERY WORKING PARTY (WP 6E)

WP 6E (terrestrial broadcasting) of Study Group 6 of the ITU Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R) met on 13-21 March in Geneva. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (UPAEP)

### WG ON THE FUTURE OF UPAEP

Lisbon hosted on 6-7 March a meeting of the working group on the Future of UPAEP, attended by representatives of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Spain and the United States of America. [\(+info\)](#)

### TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WG

Following the meeting of the WG on the Future of UPAEP, and taking advantage of the presence of some of its members, an informal meeting of the Technical Co-operation WG was held in Lisbon on 8 March. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

### ICCP

The 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policies (ICCP) was held on 9-10 March at OECD headquarters in Paris. The participants covered, among others, issues concerning universal

service, the economic impact of the voice over internet protocol (VoIP), the multi-play services (also known as triple-play services) market, the internet traffic interchange market and measures to assess its growth, as well as the latest evolution of the markets for internet domain names. [\(+info\)](#)

## ■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

### GERMANY – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)

- The regulator has announced the launch of a public consultation on the obligations to set in the markets for the termination of fixed-mobile calls, as the significant market power (SMP) of the four existing mobile operators requires BNetzA to impose obligations. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has launched a public consultation on the regulation mechanisms to apply to the service of data transmission via the ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) protocol. [\(+info\)](#)
- The annual activity report covering 2005 has been presented. BNetzA President Mathias Kurt stressed that the publication “documents a concept almost unique in Europe – integrated regulation of different network-based industries” (postal service, telecommunications, gas, electricity and railways). [\(+info\)](#)

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

- The Spanish regulator has approved a regulation with its position regarding the public consultation on international roaming launched by the European Commission, which is not in line with the common position of the European Regulators Group (ERG). [\(+info\)](#)
- The creation of the Association of Operators for Portability (AOP) has been announced, as per the stipulations set out in CMT circular 2/2004 of 15 July. [\(+info\)](#)
- Statistical information has been published on the Spanish telecommunications market during the year 2005, which emphasises the growth of broadband accesses and the increased penetration rate of mobile telephone service. [\(+info\)](#)
- The price has been set for the national information service (11818) provided by the incumbent operator, Telefónica, in the scope of universal telecommunications service. [\(+info\)](#)

### SPAIN – Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade (MITYC)

- The quality regulation applicable to mobile telephone service and internet access has been approved by administrative rule, as had already occurred for telephone service at a fixed location. [\(+info\)](#)
- More than 2.5 million homes and about 7.5 million viewers already watch digital terrestrial television (DTT), according to data from the ministry. By 31 January 2006 1.1 million DTT decoders had been sold, joining the 1.3 million customers of cable operators and the 250,000 of Imagenio. [\(+info\)](#)

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

- The regulator has submitted to public consultation until 18 April the draft decision on the technical conditions and the price to which France Télécom's leased lines reference offer on a wholesale basis will be subject. [\(+info\)](#)
- France Télécom has presented an alternative offer for unbundled access to its network in remote places, corresponding to the regulator's specific request to that effect on 19 May 2005. After negotiations with the operators, a network model was developed and tests conducted in three departments. France Télécom announced in March 2006 its black fibre offer, with price ranging between 2.90 and 1.40 euros per metre/year, depending on the size of the networks, the rental period and the volume ordered by the alternative operators. [\(+info\)](#)

### FRANCE – Competition Council

- Following the request submitted by the regulator (ARCEP), the French Competition Council issued an opinion in favour of the regulator's intervention in the

wholesale market for SMS communication termination in mobile networks, so as to increase competitive pressure on the retail prices paid by consumers. [\(+info\)](#)

### GREECE – Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission (EETT)

- The regulator has fined each of the country's three biggest mobile operators 1 million euros for illegal price fixing in short written message service (SMS). The EETT considered that the increases implemented by Cosmote, Tim Hellas and Vodafone in the spring of 2005 represented a breach of the rules of free competition, as they almost simultaneously decided to raise the cost of SMS by 7 percent to 0.09 euros.

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

- A public consultation has been launched on the universal service obligations regarding the provision of basic telecommunications services in Ireland; the deadline for submitting comments is 11 May. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has announced that the IENUM consortium won the tender to create a single registry for the supply of ENUM (Electronic Numbering) services. The winner IENUM comprises the Irish body that oversees the .ie domain and its Austrian counterpart, Internet Foundation Austria (IPA). [\(+info\)](#)
- ComReg has launched on its website for consumers, a new information section on the costs of using international roaming to make and receive mobile telephone calls. [\(+info\)](#)

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

- The activities plan for 2006/2007 has been published, in which Ofcom sets out nine priorities up to March 2007. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has placed in public consultation a set of proposals aiming to end the reference prices imposed by the incumbent operator, British Telecom, for line rental and call service, a decision made 22 years ago when the telecommunications market was liberalised. [\(+info\)](#)
- The report on the progress of digital television in the United Kingdom has been published. The data refers to the fourth quarter and indicates the existence of 17.5 million homes with access to digital TV service. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has completed the revision of the universal service obligations, with the aim of enabling all citizens of the United Kingdom to have access to basic telecommunications services at an affordable price. [\(+info\)](#)
- A public consultation has been launched on the regulator's approach to the identification of wholesale markets for international services and eventual situations of significant market power which determine action by Ofcom. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has confirmed that, following a request from the Home Office, the '101' telephone number will be reserved for the single non-emergency number throughout the United Kingdom. The cost of a '101' call has yet to be determined, though the Home Office expects a single tariff. [\(+info\)](#)

### SWITZERLAND – Département Fédéral des Finances (DFF)

- The Swiss Government intends to go ahead with the sale of the State's entire stake (62.45 percent) in the operator Swisscom. After the public consultation carried out in January, the federal Council abandoned the idea of a sale of shares to small shareholders. The sale proposal will be submitted to Parliament in May and later to the Senate. [\(+info\)](#)



## ■ TARIFF OBSERVATORY – NATIONAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

ANACOM is to launch an information campaign on the Tariff Observatory for mobile telephone service, a simulator developed in collaboration with the three mobile operators (*Optimus, TMN and Vodafone Portugal*) which enables individual consumers to consult and compare, free of charge and in an interactive manner, the prices the mobile operators charge for voice calls, written messages (SMS) and multimedia messages (MMS) at national level. The Authority's initiative, which is to run from 17 April until the end of May, aims to encourage more widespread knowledge of the Tariff Observatory, as well its extensive use by mobile telephone users. This nationwide ANACOM campaign basically involves the mass distribution of an information poster and pamphlet, the placement of a banner on various websites and the release of information announcements in the press on the national automatic cash machine (multibanco) network. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

## □ COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE INTERNET SERVICE OF TV CABO AND CABOVISÃO

The Government considers that the companies *TV Cabo* and *Cabovisão* should introduce improvements in their provision of internet connection, as it is concerned about the high number of complaints from consumers regarding the services' quality. A note from the State Secretary for Trade, Services and Consumer Defence holds that "this insufficiency penalises consumers and compromises government objectives regarding realisation of the Technology Plan and particularly the aim to assure that the Portuguese are ready for the information society". After hearing ANACOM's opinion, the State Secretary met with officials from both companies and warned them of the need for a quick response

to the hardships felt by consumers, with a corresponding improvement of the services rendered. *TV Cabo* and *Cabovisão* manifested their willingness to resolve the situation; the Government hence awaits introduction of the improvements and the corresponding results, and will later act as per its appreciation of same. ANACOM is likewise committed to following the issue, in line with its powers, paying special attention to the number of claims it has received following the publication of Decree-Law no. 156/2005 of 15 September.

**(+info, Portuguese only)**

## □ CONSUMER INSTITUTE WARNS OF SMS FRAUD

The Consumer Institute (IC) issued on 28 March a public warning to alert consumers and the public in general about a fraudulent scheme involving the use of mobile telephone service (MTS) networks. According to the IC, written messages (SMS) are being sent to the mobile telephones of MTS users regarding an alleged change in the cash machine (multibanco) reference number for recharging the

respective cards. When users order payment to the new reference number, they are inadvertently recharging the mobile telephone card of a third party. The Consumer Institute thus warns mobile telephone users of the need to verify with the respective mobile operators the truth of any such messages. **(+info)**

## ■ IN APRIL 2006

### MEETINGS

#### AICEP

General assembly (25)  
Forum (26-28)

#### CEPT

ECC  
- PT1 (10-12)  
- WG RRC-06 (11-13)  
- CPG PT1 e PT2 (18-21)  
- WG FM (24-28)  
- WG RA (24-28)  
- WG SE 19 (25-26)  
- WG SE PT7 (25-28)  
- WG FM PT22 (25-28)  
EFIS MG (20)  
WG ITU (6-7)

#### EUTELSAT

Advisory Committee (6)

#### Galileo

Steering Committee (5)

#### IRG

Contact Network (27-28)

#### EU

Group of Experts COCOM/RSC 2 GHz (4)  
COCOM (5)  
Council  
- Telecommunications Group (28)

#### ITU

NCOG (18)  
Council (19-28)

#### UPU

Postal Operations Council (5-7)

### EVENTS

- **4th EU-ALC Ministerial Forum on the Information Society**, Lisbon, 28-29
- **Iberian Telecom Business Opportunity**, Carnaxide, 28
- **International Conference on Electromagnetic Fields, Health and Environment – EHE 2006**, Funchal, 27-29
- **Workshop "ECSI Portugal – release of 2005 results"**, Monte de Caparica, 21
- **6th Rio Wireless – International Conference 2006**, Rio de Janeiro, 25-26
- **Information Technologies and Management Meeting**, Coimbra, 19
- **"ITED – the state of the art"**, Lisbon, 12
- **9th International ICT Forum and Exhibition Edition of Arabcom 2006**, Dubai, 11-12
- **The Challenges of Telecommunications**, Oeiras, 7