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

□ INTERCONNECTION – NEW PRICES APPROVED

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved by determination dated 21 April the price ceilings that *PT Comunicações* (PTC) should introduce within ten days in the reference interconnection offer to be in force in 2006 (RIO 2006). The call activation charges should be a maximum of 0.57 eurocents for interconnection at local level, 0.66 cents for interconnection in simple transit and 0.76 cents for interconnection in double transit, applicable to call origination and termination services. Regarding the service of invoicing, collection and risk

of non-collection, the maximum prices are 3.08 cents per call for shared cost call services, in which the cost supported by the caller is less than or equal to Local PT, and 3.44 cents per call for the remaining non-free special services. Also set were 5.1 euros as the maximum price for pre-selection activation and 13.6 euros for individual number porting. The report from the prior hearing of interested parties on the corresponding draft decision, approved on 23 December 2005, is an integral part of this determination. (+info)

□ PRICE AND QUALITY CONVENTIONS FOR UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE

ANACOM and the CTT – *Correios de Portugal* signed on 21 April the price and quality conventions for universal postal service, covering reserved postal services and non-reserved postal services included in universal service. The Price Convention regulates and defines the rules for setting prices for the services composing the universal postal service provided by the CTT and specifically stipulates that the maximum price variation for reserved services in 2005 cannot be more than IPC-0.3% (price cap). The Quality Convention sets and publi-

shes the parameters and minimum levels for quality of service associated with the provision of universal postal service, with the determination of higher quality levels. These conventions are effective from 1 January 2006. Also on 21 April, ANACOM decided not to oppose the entrance into force on 1 May 2006 of the proposed price table for universal postal service (reserved services and non-reserved services included in universal service) submitted by the CTT. (+info)

□ PRICE CEILING SET FOR MONTHLY LOCAL LOOP FEE

By determination dated 13 April, ANACOM set at 8.99 and 2.51 euros the maximum prices for the monthly local loop fee in the complete access and shared access modes, respectively. *PT Comunicações* (PTC) must modify the reference unbundling offer (RUO) to bring it into conformity within 10 working days.

The prices now set take force as from 1 January 2006. The report from the prior hearing of interested parties on the corresponding draft decision, approved on 14 December 2005, is an integral part of this determination. (+info)

□ UNIVERSAL SERVICE FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND PARAMETERS

ANACOM has set the quality of service parameters and performance objectives applicable to universal service for electronic communications that the respective provider, *PT Comunicações* (PTC), must comply with, without jeopardising application of the Concession Bases for Public Telecommunications Service. By determination dated 30 March, PTC is specifically obliged to make available to consumers, prior to the signing any contract, clear, comparable and updated information on the quality of the service it practices. To that end, it must annually release, by the last working day of January, information on the performance

levels of the previous year and on the performance levels it intends to offer, and also to update the information provided to consumers whenever it decides to change the previously proposed performance levels. This information should be announced and provided to end users in writing, in all service sales points and on the PTC website. A report with monthly measurements of the set parameters must also be sent to ANACOM on a quarterly basis. The final report from the consultation procedure that the corresponding draft decision of 14 December 2005 was subject to is an integral part of this determination. (+info)

■ CHANGE IN THE ANACOM PRESIDENCY

Under the terms of Resolution no. 52/2006, published on 11 May, the Council of Ministers accepted the request of Pedro Duarte Neves to resign from the position of president of the ANACOM board of directors, though he is to remain in office until a new head of this Authority is appointed. The outgoing president is to take on the duties of deputy governor in the new team at the Bank of Portugal. (+info)

■ CURRENT EVENTS

SURVEY ON ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CONSUMPTION

About 60 percent of Portuguese homes have fixed telephone service. Of those that do not have fixed telephone service, 61.2 percent use the mobile phone and 16.5 percent prefer not to pay a subscription fee. These are some of the conclusions of the survey on electronic communications consumption referring to February 2006, conducted from 17 January to 22 February by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) and Marktest. Available online, the survey particularly examines consumption involving fixed telephone service and mobile telephone service, revealing that nearly one in five aggregates with a fixed network telephone use more than one operator, with 49.2 percent using operator pre-selection. Regarding mobile telephone service (MTS), 84.5 percent of the respondents use a mobile telephone, with free and prepaid contracts respectively preferred by 45.3 percent and 42.8 percent of users. By far most of the respondents (78.9 percent) consider that the quality of service provided is good.

(+info)

MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE FEES REDUCED

Administrative Rule no. 386/2006 of 19 April has been published in the *Diário da República* (official gazette). It approves a 10 percent reduction in the fees for public terrestrial mobile service, i.e., the spectrum usage fees applicable to the base stations and mobile stations of the GSM, DSC1800 and UMTS networks. These rates, based on an ANACOM proposal, are applicable as from 1 January 2006 and continue the gradual and progressive adjustment of prices to the effective use of radio spectrum. (+info)

MODIFICATIONS OF THE 2005-2006 NFAP

Changes have been made to the national frequency allocation plan (NFAP) for 2005-2006, approved by determination dated 17 February 2006. These changes mean to update the information on FWA which resulted from the determination of 23 February 2006 and to introduce a number of editorial corrections. Regarding the updated information on FWA, the NFAP was modified with respect to the 24.5-26.5 GHz frequency band, so as to consider for usage the geographic areas defined in the annex to Administrative Rule no. 1062/2004 of 25 August. Also, the full access regime was established for the allocation of frequency usage rights in the 24.5-26.5 GHz band, depending on the grounded presentation of certain information by the interested parties. This FWA update is on page 172; the Table on "Fixed Service – Point-Multipoint Connections, Fixed Wireless Access (FWA)" has thus been amended. The editorial corrections are on pages 36, 51, 135 and 194. (+info, Portuguese only)

FOURTH QUARTER 2005 STATISTICS

Statistical information on postal services operated in competition, concerning the fourth quarter of 2005, is now available on the ANACOM website. During that period the traffic in postal services operated on a competitive basis stood at 68 million objects, corresponding to 20.2 percent of total postal traffic (reserved services and liberalised services). (+info)

Fourth quarter 2005 statistical data on trunking mobile service has also been posted. (+info)

ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM FOR FWA OPERATIONS

ANACOM approved by determination dated 21 April the allocation to *Vodafone Portugal* of the right to use additional frequencies in the 24.941-24.997 GHz /25.949-26.005 GHz band to operate the fixed wireless access (FWA) system.

(+info)

CLARIFICATION ON PLC TECHNOLOGY

After a number of questions were raised about this issue, ANACOM published on 7 April a clarification regarding PLC (powerline communications) technology. It reiterates that in the scope of its powers and as occurred with the GSM system, ANACOM is following developments in PLC technology, including eventual problems affecting the use of radio spectrum or harmful effects on human health, both with respect to its implementation in Portugal and internationally, as well as the ongoing relevant debate in the various international organisations which it participates. (+info)

NATIONAL NUMBERING PLAN UPDATED

The national numbering plan, available in the corresponding section of the ANACOM website, has been updated with respect to nomad services – numbering range "30 – VoIP Nomad Services" – and free of charge for caller, shared cost call, virtual calling card and personal number services – reference to the numbering range "882 – Virtual Calling Card Service". (+info)

ITED – PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION OF CERTIFIERS WITHDRAWN

ANACOM approved by determination dated 13 April 2006 maintaining the registration and consequent invalidation of the measure for a provisional three-month suspension applied to CERTINAC – *Empresa de Certificação e Instalação de Telecomunicações*. On the same date this Authority also determined in a draft decision maintaining the registration of *PT Comunicações* (PTC), Braga office, per the submission of a corrective plan for the detected cases of non-conformities and the prevention of future situations. Under terms of the provisions of article 100 of the CAP, PTC has been asked to comment within ten days.

(+info, Portuguese only)

ANACOM PRESENTATIONS ON ITED

The ANACOM presentations given last 12 April at the workshop on "ITED – the State of the Art", an event organised by ACIST-AET – Telecommunications Business Association, are now available. The presentations focused on various aspects of ITED (Portuguese acronym for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings) such as its evolution, system and future prospects, and also included relevant statistics. (+info, Portuguese only)

Also available is the presentation on the topic of "ITED – Telecommunications Infrastructures in Buildings" given on 4 April during the Seventh Workshops on Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications in Castelo Branco.

(+info, Portuguese only)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME AT ANACOM

The final rankings in the process of recruiting and selecting trainees launched by this Authority on 11 January 2006 as part of the Professional Training in Public Administration Programme are now available. The training periods began on 28 April 2006 and are to last for 12 months. (+info, Portuguese only)

ELECTRONIC MAILBOX

Resolution no. 50/2006, approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 April, has been published in the *Diário da República*. It determines the creation of a public service that enables voluntary communication between the services and bodies of direct, indirect and autonomous State administration, independent administrative entities and the courts, citizens and companies, by routing same by electronic mail to a nominal Electronic Mailbox. (+info)

■ DETERMINATIONS ADOPTED BY ANACOM – 1ST QUARTER 2006

Date	Decision
30.03.2006	Quality of service parameters and performance objectives applicable to universal service. (+info)
23.03.2006	Approval of issuance of temporary ITED (telecommunications infrastructures in buildings) certificates. (+info)
23.03.2006	Fixed-mobile retail prices of <i>PT Comunicações</i> . (+info)
23.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of Leiricabo certifying entity. (+info)
23.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of SNEC certifying entity. (+info)
17.03.2006	Changes to introduce in the proposed reference SLRO. (+info)
16.03.2006	Leased lines reference offer (draft decision). (+info)
09.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of Contera certifying entity. (+info)
09.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of I.E.S. certifying entity. (+info)
09.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of <i>Metalúrgica Irmãos Borlido</i> certifying entity. (+info)
09.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of J.C.T. certifying entity. (+info)
09.03.2006	Cancellation of registration of HGP certifying entity. (+info)
02.03.2006	Renewal of GSM 900/1800 frequency usage rights. (+info)
23.02.2006	Public consultation on ENUM service. (+info)
23.02.2006	Public consultation on VoIP and opening of associated numbering range. (+info)
23.02.2006	FWA frequency usage rights. (+info)
17.02.2006	2005/2006 NFAP. (+info)
17.02.2006	Public consultation on renewing the frequency usage rights allocated to SIC and TVI. (+info)
07.02.2006	Information to gather to monitor the market with respect to LLU. (+info)
02.02.2006	Designation of SGO – <i>Tecnologia e Formação</i> . (+info)
02.02.2006	Designation of IEP – <i>Instituto Electrotécnico Português</i> . (+info)

□ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – ANACOM DEFINES INFORMATION TO PROVIDE TO CONSUMERS

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has defined, also by determination dated 21 April, the information on the object and manner of disclosing to the public the conditions governing the supply and use of electronic communications services. This measure includes the effective and full implementation of the regulatory framework deriving from the Electronic Communications Law (Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February) and aims to ensure that the consumers of electronic communications services are provided with an appropriate amount of fair information about the supply of publicly available networks and services (mobile and fixed) and of other publicly available electronic communications services. The information particularly covers identification of the provider, the services offered, prices (including all types of usage and maintenance charges, discounts and specific tariff systems), systems for indemnities and reimbursements, types of maintenance services offered and typical contract conditions. Regarding its divulgation, the information should be posted clearly and in an easily viewable manner in the commercial establishments of the providers, their agents and distribution partners, and on the respective internet websites, and should also be provided to consumers in writing and free of charge, in all service sales points and at places where packages associated to the contracting of a service are sold. The approved decision also contains an annex with the quality parameters for electronic communications services suggested by ANACOM with a view to the operators' defining the quality levels. The final report from the prior consultation to which the corresponding draft decision was subject, in the wake of the determination dated 21 June 2005, is an integral part of this determination. (+info)

ities and reimbursements, types of maintenance services offered and typical contract conditions. Regarding its divulgation, the information should be posted clearly and in an easily viewable manner in the commercial establishments of the providers, their agents and distribution partners, and on the respective internet websites, and should also be provided to consumers in writing and free of charge, in all service sales points and at places where packages associated to the contracting of a service are sold. The approved decision also contains an annex with the quality parameters for electronic communications services suggested by ANACOM with a view to the operators' defining the quality levels. The final report from the prior consultation to which the corresponding draft decision was subject, in the wake of the determination dated 21 June 2005, is an integral part of this determination. (+info)

□ ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE – ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The annual questionnaire on developments in the electronic communications sector in 2005 is available on the ANACOM website; the reply should be sent to this Authority by 31 May 2006, by mail and to dee.stats@anacom.pt. All operators and providers of electronic communications services have been asked to fill

out this questionnaire, as per paragraph f) of section 1 of article 109 of Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February. The information provided will be published in aggregate form in the 2005 Statistical Yearbook. (+info)

□ 2007 WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

The ANACOM website sections on the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07), the most significant international meeting of the Radiocommunication Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), have been updated. The content recently added or updated includes information on other

entities, the work agenda, preparations for WRC-07 (to be held in Geneva), work of the CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) project teams and national preparation. (+info, Portuguese only)

■ OPERATORS/PROVIDERS OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

Operators/Providers of Electronic Communications Networks and Services

	No. of Authorised Entities (a)	Operational Entities (b)
Operators of Electronic Communications Networks (ECN)		
Cable Distribution Networks (CDN)	11	10
- Publicly available networks	9	9
- Networks not publicly available	2	1
Other Electronic Communications Networks (c)	26	21
Providers of Electronic Communications Services (ECS)		
Television Signal Distribution Service (d)	11	10
UMTS Mobile Services	3	3
Mobile Telephone Service (MTS)	3	3
Fixed Telephone Service (FTS)	20	14
Trunking Mobile Service (TMS)	2	2
Data Transmission Services (DTS)		
- Internet Access Service (ISP)	38	31
- Voice on Internet Service	17	12
- Other Data Services (e)	36	19
Public Payphone Services	16	13
Virtual Calling Card Services	31	20

Postal Service Providers

	No. of Authorised Entities (a)	Operational Entities (b)
Express Mail Services	44	36 (f)
Services Not Covered by the Express Mail Category	6	5

Audiotext Service Providers

	No. of Authorised Entities (a)	Operational Entities (b)
Audiotext Services	8	2 (g)

(a) Situation as at 31 March 2006

(b) Situation as at 31 December 2005

(c) Other Electronic Communications Networks (except CDNs)

(d) Includes service provided by CDNs and via other platforms

(e) Other data services (except internet)

(f) The company IBERCOURIER owns Marca MRW – various companies provide services using this brand on a franchising basis

(g) Source: PT Comunicações, SA

□ ANACOM EXTENDS PERIOD FOR WiMAX TRIALS

Following the request submitted by *PT Comunicações* (PTC), the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has extended until 31 October 2006 the authorisation granted to conduct technical trials with BWA (broadband wireless access) systems of the WiMAX type. This time extension presupposes maintaining all the conditions stipulated when the permission to conduct technical

trials was given. Therefore, no commitment, obligation or condition regarding the future use of WiMAX-type systems in Portugal results from same, nor any link to ANACOM or any right, expectation or legally protected interest for PTC, either with respect to the granting of usage rights eventually resulting from the FWA consultation process or an eventual future WiMAX authorisation process. (+info)

□ OECD RECOMMENDS CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION ON SPAM

The Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) approved on 13 April a recommendation on cross-border co-operation for the application of legislation concerning unsolicited electronic communications, commonly known as spam. Broadly speaking, the OECD recommends that its member countries establish an appropriate legal regime for fighting spam and that they endow the respective national authorities with the powers necessary for same and also with the capacity to co-operate with the national authorities from other member countries, specifically vis-à-vis the transmission of information and monitoring efforts. (+info)

During that same week the OECD published its report on broadband internet access - Broadband Statistics, December 2005. Standing out among the study's main conclusions is the growth recorded over the course of 2005 in the number of broadband subscribers in the countries that belong to the OECD, which rose from 136 million in June 2005 to nearly 158 million at the end of 2005. (+info) The OECD also recently published the Economic Survey of Portugal 2006. This report refers to the telecommunications sector in its fifth chapter, where the need to continue implementing measures meant to encourage competition in the sector is stressed, so as to enhance its efficiency and stimulate a drop in prices. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION

UWB (ULTRA WIDE BAND) REGULATION

The European Commission asks all interested parties to send in comments by 19 May on the harmonised use of radio spectrum by equipment that uses ultra wide band (UWB) technology. The comments should be submitted by electronic mail to the address info-rsc@cec.eu.int. The EC is also to request from the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC), whose next meeting is scheduled for 29 June, the latter's Opinion on the proposed technical implementation measures to be observed in this regard, as per decision no. 676/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002, concerning a regulatory framework for radio-frequency spectrum policy in the European Community (radio-frequency spectrum decision). (+info)

DATA RETENTION DIRECTIVE PUBLISHED

After approval by the Council of Justice and Internal Affairs of the European Union on 21 February, Directive 2006/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning the preservation of data generated or processed in the context of the supply of publicly available electronic communications services or public communications networks, and which modifies Directive 2002/58/EC, was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 13 April. Now that it is in force, the member States that did not declare exceptions under section 3 of article 15 of that instrument, such as the case of Portugal, have until 15 September 2007 to implement the new rules. (+info)

EC DECIDES NOT TO EXPAND UNIVERSAL SERVICE

After examining results of the public consultation on the revision of universal service launched in May 2005, the European Commission (EC) has decided that no modification to the scope of universal service will be proposed for the time being. According to the Commission, no new reasons were identified to change the current position that neither mobile communications nor broadband communications fulfil the conditions envisaged for their inclusion in the Universal Service Directive. However, given the changing technologies and markets, and the context of revising the regulatory framework for electronic communications (2006 Review), the discussion about the future of the offer of universal service should be considered with a view to ensuring that the overall objectives continue to correspond to the Lisbon goals, as indicated in the Communication "i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment". (+info)

.eu DOMAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL

Residents of the European Union may now request the registration of an .eu top-

level domain name as it is no longer an indispensable condition to have the nationality of an EU member State. After a start-up period during which 320,000 requests for names to include in the .eu domain were presented by the holders of trademarks, public bodies and holders of priority rights, such as unregistered brands, company identifiers or copyrights, the registry is now open to the public in general. The www.anacom.eu domain has already been registered, and is soon to be made available to the public. (+info)

STATES SUED FOR NOT LOCATING EMERGENCY CALLS

The failure to provide information on the localisation of people who make emergency calls in 11 member States is the main reason for a new batch of infringement suits filed by the European Commission this week. Regarding the four suits filed previously, the Commission announced that it had sent grounded opinions to Belgium, France, Poland and Slovenia (second stage of infringement proceedings under terms of article 226 of the EC Treaty). The European Commission simultaneously announced that it had shelved nine previous infringement proceedings as the member States in question had meanwhile taken steps to ensure the correct application of community telecommunications regulation. (+info)

EC CALLS FOR INTEROPERABILITY

BETWEEN EUROPEAN UNION PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

The EC has urged the member States to develop mechanisms to ensure interoperability between public administrations (national and regional) of the different countries. The so-called eGovernment at pan-European level is meant to remove administrative barriers and facilitate the free movement of people and businesses in the scope of the internal market. The 13 February EC Communication indicates three different interaction levels: interoperability of administrative processes (addressed to citizens and companies), comprehension of information from third parties (semantic interoperability) and technical interoperability, normally implemented by means of the standards option. (+info)

EC ENDS INVESTIGATION OF RTP FINANCING

Following the submission of commitments to change the system of financing Portugal's public television company, RTP, the European Commission has stopped the proceedings it had launched per the EC Treaty rules on state aid (section 1 of article 88). Portugal has agreed to apply measures meant to enhance the transparency and proportionality of its financing system, which will prevent the indirect subvention of commercial activities. (+info)

■ OJEU

- **Recommendation no. 194/04/COL (2006/L113/18)** – Of the EFTA Surveillance Authority, of 14 July 2004, concerning relevant product and service markets in the electronic communications sector susceptible to ex-ante regulation. Published on 27 April.
- **Recommendation no. 193/04/COL (2006/L113/10)** – Of the EFTA Surveillance Authority, of 14 July 2004, concerning the notifications, deadlines and consultations envisaged in article 7 of Directive 2002/21/EC. Published on 27 April.
- **Directive 2005/24/EC (2006/L105/54)** – Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006, concerning the preservation of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or public communications networks, and which amends Directive 2002/58/EC. Published on 13 April.
- **Opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor (2006/C91/11)** – Concerning the second generation Schengen Information System. Published on 19 April.

(+info)

(+info)

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

ECC – PT1

The 20th meeting of project team 1 (PT1 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) was held on 10-12 April in Viareggio, Italy. It was attended by more participants than ever before, indicating this group's growing importance ahead of the upcoming 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07). (+info)

ECC – CPG PT2 AND PT3

The French city of Toulouse hosted on 18 and 21 April the meetings of PT2 and PT3 of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG), with the aim of preparing the European position at WRC-07. (+info)

ECC – WG RRC-06

The sixth meeting of WG RRC-06, whose mission is to cover issues involving preparations for the second session of the Regional Radiocommunication Con-

ference (RRC-06), was held on 11-13 April 2006 in the Latvian capital, Riga. (+info)

ITU WG

Budapest served as venue for the 6-7 April meeting of WG ITU, the CEPT group in charge of basically political and strategy issues involving the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). (+info)

CERP – WG POLITICAL ISSUES

The Political Issues WG of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) met in Malta on 24 April, under the co-chairmanship of the Netherlands and Norway. (+info)

CERP – WG ECONOMIC ISSUES

The CERP WG on Economic Issues met on 11 April in Helsinki. (+info)

□ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

CONTACT NETWORK

The IRG/ERG Contact Network met on 27-28 April in Luxembourg. (+info)

WG MOBILE MARKET

The Mobile Market WG (WG MM) met on 30-31 in Bucharest, where the latest price movements for calls terminating in mobile networks were presented,

referring to January 2005, and which are contained in the benchmark for mobile termination. (+info)

WG REGULATORY ACCOUNTING

Yet another meeting of the Regulatory Accounting working group (WG RA) was held on 6-7 April in Athens. (+info)

□ SATELLITE ORGANISATIONS

GALILEO – MoU STEERING COMMITTEE

The Paris headquarters of the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) hosted on 25 April the third meeting of the Steering Committee, which oversees filings of the European radionavigation satellite system (RNSS), Galileo. (+info)

EUTELSAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 16th meeting of the EUTELSAT IGO Advisory Committee was also held in Paris, on 6 April, to prepare for (extraordinary) Assembly of Parties held on 11 May. (+info)

□ EU MEETINGS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (COCOM)

COCOM met for the 21st time on 5 April in Brussels. Highlights included analysis of the reports on VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), powerline communications

(PLC) and access by consumers with special needs to electronic communications services. (+info)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)

COUNCIL – 2006 SESSION

The ITU Council met on 19-28 April in Geneva, where it debated approval of the provisional value for the contribution unit to consider in the proposed 2008-2011 financial plan, approval of a proposed strategy plan for 2008-2011, where for the first time the aim is to use that plan as the basis for the financial plan in the

same period, so that the plans can be interlinked, and reappointment of the new Council Oversight Group (NCOG). (+info)

NEW COUNCIL OVERSIGHT GROUP (NCOG)

The sixth meeting of the NCOG, in the format approved by the 2005 Council session, was held on 18 April, also in Geneva. (+info)

□ UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

POSTAL OPERATIONS COUNCIL (POC)

The annual session of the Postal Operations Council (POC), chaired by the United States of America, was held from 20 March to 6 April in Berne, where the various

action groups, project teams, groups, committees and co-operatives gathered. Portugal was represented by ANACOM and the CTT-Correios de Portugal (Portuguese postal service). (+info)

□ AICEP – GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FORUM

The AICEP General Assembly (GA) was held on 25 April in Maceió, Brazil, attended by about 30 members. The 14th AICEP Forum was held parallel to the GA,

on 26-28 April; this year's theme topic was "The Network Society". (+info)

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY – *Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)*

- Annual statistics on telecommunications intercepts carried out by BNetzA at the request of German courts have been published. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has placed in public consultation the regulatory model to apply to internet protocol (IP) bitstream access. [\(+info\)](#)
- BNetzA has decided to lower by 10 percent (average value) the interconnection rates in the telecommunications market (call origination and termination). The decision takes force on 1 June. [\(+info\)](#)

BELGIUM – *Belgian Institute for Postal services and Telecommunications (BIPT)*

- The regulator has issued a statement on the cost calculation method associated to the provision of universal postal service by the public operator, La Poste. [\(+info\)](#)

CANADA – *Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)*

- The Canadian regulator has announced that mobile television services will be exempt from regulation, whether or not supplied over the internet, and has asked interested citizens to submit comments on the proposal. [\(+info\)](#)

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

- In the first quarter of 2006 the Spanish mobile operators applied portability to 1 million numbers. Some 7.7 million mobile telephone numbers have been ported since portability was implemented in 2000. [\(+info\)](#)
- The CMT has decided to keep the existing regulatory mechanisms in the market for call origination in the public telephone network at a fixed site, commonly known as market 8. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has also decided to maintain the regulation applied to market 7 (minimum set of leased lines). [\(+info\)](#)

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

- A total of 38 open source software projects have been presented under the PROFIT programme, with assistance worth 10 million euros requested. [\(+info\)](#)
- About 60 percent of the added value telephone numbers denounced in 2005 for failure to comply with the Code of Conduct have been withdrawn from the market. [\(+info\)](#)

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

- There were 3.15 million unbundled accesses in France on 31 March, of which 2.2 million were shared accesses and 950,000 completely unbundled accesses. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has concluded its analysis of market 18 (broadcasting services for the delivery of content disseminated to end users) and has determined the existence of one operator with significant market power, TDF, and established the corresponding obligations for the company. [\(+info\)](#)
- The French government has approved the portability model proposed by ARCEP concerning mobile telephone service numbers. Number portability

should be accomplished within ten days and will take force in mainland France on 1 January 2007. [\(+info\)](#)

- A public consultation has been launched on the costing model to be applied to internet access suppliers. [\(+info\)](#)
- A study has been published on the needs and usage of postal services by private individuals and companies. [\(+info\)](#)

IRELAND – *Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)*

- Analysis of the national wholesale market for international roaming services in public mobile networks (market 17) is under public consultation; comments may be submitted until 31 May. [\(+info\)](#)
- ComReg has published the third edition of the annual report on the service quality of the incumbent postal operator, An Post, which notes that the company is still far from achieving the goals set by the regulator. [\(+info\)](#)
- The report with fourth quarter 2005 information on the main electronic communications sector indicators has been published, indicating significant broadband growth. [\(+info\)](#)

UNITED KINGDOM – *Office of Communications (Ofcom)*

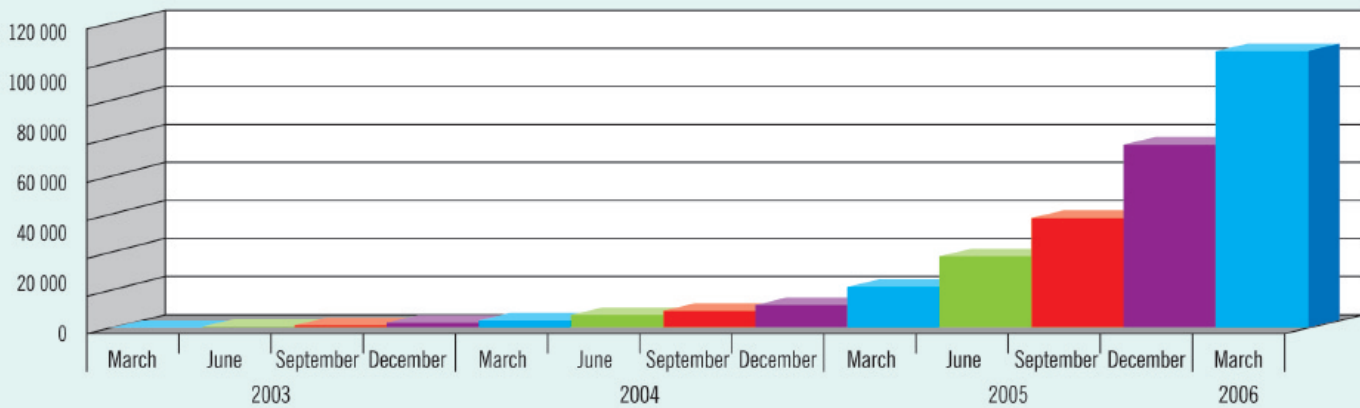
- The British regulator has announced its intention to remove the current regulation that blocks the broadcasting of pay TV channels by means of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) system, known in the United Kingdom as Freeview. [\(+info\)](#)
- Work has begun to evaluate the effectiveness of processes that enables consumers to sign up to and switch between broadband internet access suppliers. [\(+info\)](#)
- The regulator has placed in public consultation until 21 June the concept to follow in the new method to determine the limits to apply when granting licences to operate radio spectrum (spectrum usage rights – SUR). [\(+info\)](#)
- A public consultation, also until 21 June, has been launched concerning the allocation of spectrum to be used by a set of mobile radio services, public safety communications and local mobile/voice data services. [\(+info\)](#)
- The option for commercial television stations to be able to ask viewers to send donations to help fund their programmes has been placed in public consultation until 15 June. This situation is currently only allowed for British radio stations. [\(+info\)](#)
- Sarah Natan and Ian Hargreaves have been reappointed to the positions of non-executive directors of the Ofcom board. [\(+info\)](#)
- The appointment of two officials is part of the process of renewing the Content Board, the Ofcom board administration committee responsible for content issues. [\(+info\)](#)

SWITZERLAND – *Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM)*

- The Swiss Federal Telecommunications Commission (ComCom) has revoked the UMTS system operating licence granted to 3G Mobile AG, a company held by Spain's Telefónica. ComCom grounded its decision, which does not imply any compensation, on the fact that 3G Mobile is not using the licence nor is it fulfilling the territorial coverage obligations assumed when the licence was granted. [\(+info\)](#)

■ EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF UNBUNDLED ACCESSES*

2003				2004				2005				2006
March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December	March
54	295	842	1 867	2 759	4 845	6 515	8 780	15 916	27 987	43 127	72 019	108 794



* Full/shared broadband accesses and full narrowband accesses

□ COMPLAINTS BOOK – CLARIFICATION

With regard to the application of Decree-Law no. 156/2005 of 15 September, which made the widespread availability of a complaints book compulsory in the establishments of electronic communications and postal service providers, among others, the reception of documentation that is either insufficient or incorrectly submitted has been verified. The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has thus disclosed the following clarification: the originals of the complaint pages should be sent within five working days to

this Authority (section 1 of article 5 of the said instrument); the sign posted in the establishments should include the address of ANACOM (section 4 of article 5); the workers in the establishments should ensure that the user fills in all information concerning his or her respective identification, assure correct identification of the service provider and respective address, and work to ensure that the circumstances comprising the motive for the complaint are clearly and fully described (article 4). (+info)

□ WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS DAY

World Telecommunications Day is celebrated on 17 May, with this year's theme topic being "Promoting Global Cyber-security". Simultaneously, and for

the first time, World Information Society Day is celebrated, as decided at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). (+info)

■ IN MAY 2006

MEETINGS

CEPT

- ECC
- TG3 (15-18)
- WG SE (8-12)
- WGRA (2-3)
- PT PP-06
- CERP
- Plenary session (11-12)
- ERO/ETO (4-5)

EU

- RSPG (11)
- COCOM/RSC 2GHz Experts Group (24)
- Telecommunications Group (5, 12 and 19)

IRG

- IRG/ERG (18-19)

EUTELSAT

- Assembly of Parties (11)

ITU

- RRC-06 (15-16/6)

UPAEP

- CCE (22-26)

EVENTS

- **14th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics (CRR)**, Berne, 31 May -3 June (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **Public Administration Forum: Dealing with Processes of Change: innovating organisations, trusting people**, Lisbon, 30
- **1st Competition Week**, Lisbon, 29

- **SMEs - What Benefits to Obtain from Technologies?**, Lisbon, 23
- **OECD Forum 2006, Centre de Conférences Internationales** – Paris, 22-23
- **10th PORBASE workshops**, Lisbon, 18-19 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **Network Industry Structure, Investment and Competition in the New Economy**, Funchal, 18 and 20 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **Information Session on Business Opportunities**, 17 (Lisbon) and 18 (Oporto)
- **Networking 2006**, University of Coimbra, 15-19 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- **3rd Electronic Commerce Week in Portugal**, 4-14
- **Workshop on Development in the Digital Era: communication with citizens, tourism and electronic commerce**, Vila Nova de Gaia, 12
- **International Electronic Commerce: what normative framework?**, Beja, 11

(+info)