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□ PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON RELEVANT MARKETS (2ND STAGE)

October 27 is the deadline to submit comments in the second stage of the public consultation, launched by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), on the definition of relevant markets, assessment of significant market power (SMP) and obligation imposition on operators and providers of electronic communications services.

The second stage aims to gauge the reaction of various telecommunications market players to issues raised by the entrance into force of the sector's new regulatory framework, namely the assessment of competition levels in the leased lines market and regarding local loop unbundling and broadband

services.

Comments to this consultation should be submitted, preferably in electronic format, to analise.mercados@anacom.pt.

Meanwhile, on 22 September ANACOM published a report on the first stage of the said consultation, which may be consulted at <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=79632>.

The contributions received (*Clixgest*, *Grupo Portugal Telecom*, *Novis Telecom*, *OniTelecom*, *Optimus*, *RenTelecom* and *Associação dos Operadores de Telecomunicações - Apritel*) were made available at the same time.

→ :: <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=130436> :: <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=130435> <

□ INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED BY THE FTS PROVIDERS

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided on 1 September that all fixed telephone service (FTS) providers should take steps to ensure that their information systems collect the indicators defined in the "request for infor-

mation on fixed interconnection and retail services", thus providing the statistical, operational and financial information needed to define markets and assess significant market power (SMP), as framed by the new 99 Review guidelines.

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

□ INTERCONNECTION FOR ACCESS TO DATA TRANSMISSION SERVICES

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided on 23 September and after prior hearing of the interested parties, to approve the determination on changes *PT Comunicações* should introduce in its Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO).

The ANACOM determination rules that the regime for data transmission service (DTS) traffic propriety should be changed and that it should be included in the conditions set in the RIO.

→ :: <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=80750>

■ PORTUGAL ENDS MANDATE AT CEPT HELM

On 30 September Portugal ended its first international mandate at the helm of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

José Saraiva Mendes, member of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) board of directors, had on 1 October 2002 assumed the CEPT presidency, which on 1 October 2003 was transferred to the Swiss administration.

The year leading CEPT may be characterised by the dynamism instilled in the

organisation and fulfilment of the main aims of the mandate, i.e., internal and external promotion of CEPT and stimulation of its co-operation activities on various fronts.

For the period of one year, Portugal will still be a member of the organisation's *troika*, which comprises the previous presidency, along with current (Switzerland) and next (Romania) ones.

Note: See also "CEPT Assembly" (page 4)

→ :: <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=132337>

■ CURRENT EVENTS

FTS PRICES DROP BY 16 PERCENT

The price of the fixed telephone service (FTS) basket practised by *PT Comunicações* dropped by 15.7 percent over the past five years, indicates a study drawn up by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). The study on the evolution of FTS prices between 1998 and 2003 considers the prices for installation and monthly rental and the prices of local, regional, long distance (domestic) and international fixed calls. The sharpest decrease in prices was for long distance communications, which dropped by 64.7 percent.

:: <http://www.anacom.pt/template15.jsp?categoryId=7185>

PORTED NUMBERS

The total for ported numbers at the end of September was 126 752, distributed as follows: 108 804 numbers from the fixed networks (of which 108 601 are geographic numbers and 203 are non-geographic) and 17 948 from mobile systems. The figure implies a 4 percent increase in ported numbers since the end of August.

CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATIONS

ANACOM approved on 21 August revocation of the registration titles assigned to *Vizzavi Portugal - Comunicações e Serviços* and to *Diniz & Ávila - Comunicações*, with recovery of the latter's codes for indirect access provider and access to virtual calling card service.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN ANACOM AND THE COMPETITION AUTHORITY

ANACOM has issued an opinion on articulation between the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* and the Competition Authority under the new regulatory framework for electronic communications, whose transposition is under way, and upon publication of the new competition law. The opinion was drawn up by the professor and economist Pedro Pita Barros. Meanwhile, a co-operation agreement between ANACOM and the Competition Authority was signed on 26 September.

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

ANAFRE SIGNS PROTOCOL WITH THE CTT

The National Association of Neighbourhoods (ANAFRE - *Associação Nacional de Freguesias*) and the *CTT - Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service) signed on 2 September a collaboration protocol that envisages the provision of postal services to nearly 400 neighbourhood councils.

:: http://www.anafre.pt/anafre/pdf/protocolo_anafre_ctt.pdf (Portuguese only).

PRODUCTIVITY IN PORTUGAL 2010

"Overall, Portugal's productivity is about half the average of the most productive European countries." This is one of the conclusions found in the study on "Portugal 2010: Accelerating Productivity Growth in Portugal" which the government commissioned to the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI). The report, presented on 16 September, studies nine sectors of the economy, among them telecommunications, and identifies the main barriers to productivity.

:: http://www.min-economia.pt/port/documentos/programas/sint_portugal_2010.pdf (Portuguese version only).

APDSI AWARDS PRIZE

The Association for the Promotion and Development of the Information Society (APDSI) has awarded the Person of the Year prize to Francisco Godinho, a professor and researcher at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD) who has specialised in defending access to new technologies by citizens with special needs.

:: <http://www.apdsi.pt/> (in Portuguese only).

PORTUGUESE YOUTH AT ITU TELECOM 2003

Two young students from the Portuguese Catholic University will be among more than 300 students from nearly 150 member countries of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) who attend the Youth Forum held during the Telecom 2003 fair. This major event for the telecom world is held every four years in Geneva, this year from 12 to 18 October. More information at <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

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□ ICTS AND THE DISABLED

"Disabled People and the Labour Market - ICT Solutions" was the theme topic of yet another workshop organised by the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC) and held on 30 September. The aim was to promote the development and use of communication technologies to better integrate the disabled in society and in the labour market.

According to Eurostat, there are 77 million elderly and 43 million disabled people in the European Union (EU). Some 10 percent of the European population are included in the group of citizens with special needs. But the aging European population means that an estimated 136 million people will likely fall into this group by the year 2030.

There is thus a growing market of necessities for ICT-related companies to exploit, as there is a need to articulate public and private actions and to set up

→ :: http://www.apdc.pt/ingles/ing_flash.html

partnerships to stimulate mechanisms able to reduce and eliminate barriers at international and local level.

Some examples show that information society technologies are the key interface between disabled people and the surrounding environment. Mobile technologies are particularly relevant in this context, as they are able to foster greater integration. In Portugal, it has been calculated that 20 percent of the population lacks adapted mobile terminals.

"Design for all", barrier-free products and innovation initiatives taking into account special needs are evolving on a qualitative and quantitative basis, reflecting a change of mentality. For, more than rehabilitation, disabled citizens need to be seen as people with skills.

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□ 1ST LISBON IS FORUM

The purpose of the protocol signed by the Innovation and Knowledge Mission Unit (UMIC) and the Portuguese Industrial Association (AIP) during the 1st Lisbon Information Society Forum (LISF2003), held on 24-25 September, was to enhance promotion of the information society, particularly the use of new technologies in public administration services and in small and medium sized companies. The organisers - the AIP and UMIC - announced that the event, in which the challenges of the information society and electronic government are debated, will be repeated annually.

:: <http://www.lisf2003.iweb.pt/SAPPortal/> (in Portuguese only).

SURVEY ON ICT USE BY THE PORTUGUESE

More than half (53 percent) of the Portuguese population uses computers and 39 percent access the internet, reveal main results of a Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies by the Portuguese Population released by the UMIC.

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□ ANACOM CO-OPERATION

CPLP

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) presented various papers during the second technical telecommunications meeting of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), held in Brasilia from 29 September to 1 October.

The participants included representatives of the national regulatory authorities and administrations from the CPLP countries, with the work agenda focusing on various issues such as prices and tariffs, interconnection of fixed and mobile networks, radio spectrum sharing, broadband introduction, quality and universal service.

The first of these meetings was held in Luanda in July 2002.

:: <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=133418>

IIRSA

The first meeting of the Executive Technical Group of the South American Region Infrastructure Integration Initiative (IIRSA) was held in Brasilia from 23 to 26 September.

The meeting was opened by Brazilian Communications Minister Miro Teixeira, and by the presidency of the IIRSA Executive Management Committee. Other presentations were by the Telecommunications Secretary of the Brazilian Communications Ministry, the president of the Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulatory Bodies (REGULATEL) and vice president of

the *Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações* (ANATEL), and representatives of the Information Society Directorate General of the European Commission, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and ANACOM.

Issues such as public telecommunications policies, new European directives for the sector, costing models and tariff policies were discussed.

On the sidelines of the IIRSA event, another meeting held in Brasilia on 25 September brought together representatives of the Brazilian Communications Ministry and various outside consultants, ANATEL, the FCC, ANACOM and the European Commission. The participants discussed matters related to making telecommunications service universal, regulating retail and interconnection prices, historic cost systems and incremental engineering models, local loop unbundling, portability, indirect access and service quality.

AICEP WORKSHOPS

The Association of Postal and Telecommunications Operators from the Portuguese-speaking Countries and Territories (AICEP) hosted from 15 to 18 September at the Portuguese Communications Foundation two workshops on the postal sector, on the theme topics of "Postal Management for Upper Management" and "Reform of the Postal Sector and Universal Service". At the same time, a telecoms workshop was held, on "Management of Telecommunications Enterprises for Upper Management". ANACOM made three presentations during these workshops.

:: <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=60250>

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■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Administrative Rule no. 1076/2003** (I Series-B of the *Diário da República* of 29 September) - Modifies Administrative Rule no. 144-A/2003 of 10 February, which set the applicable fees for radiocommunications.
- **Administrative Rule no. 985-A/2003** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 15 September) - Stipulates that the delivery in digital format of the executive requisition envisaged in Decree-Law no. 200/2003 of 10 September should be by electronic transmission, in a specific format provided by the Directorate General for the Administration of Justice and posted on a public access web page.
- **Administrative Rule no. 985-B/2003** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 15 September) - Approves the requisition model for access to the computer registration of actions executed.
- **Decree no. 39/2003** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 2 September) - Approves the Final Acts of the 1984 Regional Administrative Conference, on the planning of audio broadcasting service in metric waves (region 1 and part of region 3).
- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 134/2003** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 28 August) - Modifies Council of Ministers Resolution no. 3/2001 of 8 January, which sets up a working group to serve as a liaison between the UMTS operators, the ICP (now ANACOM) and the Inter-ministry Commission for the Information Society, in order to monitor and assess compliance with the obligations assumed by the UMTS operators.
- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 135/2003** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 28 August) - Sets up, dependent on the Minister of the Economy, a mission structure whose aim is to ensure reorganisation of the Economy Ministry.

The Council of Ministers (CM) of 2 October approved a Decree-Law establishing the Health Regulatory Body, and another that authorises the National Mint to produce and commercialise a collector's edition coin that commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first postage stamp.

The 18 September CM approved a proposed law that authorises the government, in the scope of transposition of the directives that comprise the legal framework applicable to electronic communications, to establish the regime of jurisdictional control for acts practised by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), to strengthen the framework for sanctions and use of the public domain and respective fees, and to revoke the current Telecommunications Basic Law, Law no. 91/97 of 1 August.

The 11 September CM in turn endorsed a proposed law that establishes the Framework-Law for Public Institutes, while the 4 September CM approved a measure that adopts a special regime for expenses in the context of the National Electronic Purchases Programme, the Citizens' Portal programme and projects associated to rationalising the communications costs of public administration.

→ :: <http://www.governo.gov.pt/en/>

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□ CEPT MEETINGS

ASSEMBLY

The second and last Assembly of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) under the Portuguese presidency was held in Madeira on 9-10 September.

The Madeira Assembly modified the basic instruments of CEPT (CEPT Arrangement and Rules of Procedure), following on the work carried out in the past year to set up a methodology to co-ordinate European candidates for posts in international organisations, clarify co-operation procedures with other regional organisations and increase flexibility at the level of the CEPT Assembly structure.

As narrowing ties and relations with other international bodies is one of CEPT's working areas, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Commission was presented and approved by the Assembly, to be formalised in the near future.

The range of issues debated was quite varied: management of the financial situation of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU); updating of the political agenda; co-operation with other international bodies; preparation of high level international events (2004 Congress of the Universal Postal Union, 2004/2005 Regional Radiocommunications Conference, 2004 World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly and the World Summit on the Information Society); PostEurop activities; implementation of the Tampere Convention; co-ordination of European candidates in elections of the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP06); and improvement of the CEPT image.

Information was also presented on the admission of Belarus, soon to be realised, which will increase to 46 the number of CEPT member countries.

At the Assembly closing, the Swiss administration received the CEPT flag from the hands of the current president in a symbolic power transfer ceremony; the official transfer took place on 1 October, when the United Kingdom left the *troika* and was replaced by the new member, Romania, which will hold the presidency from 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.

For a summary of the Portuguese presidency, consult detailed information at <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=132337>.

Note: See also news item on page 1.

ECC PT5

Project Team 5 (PT5) of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) met in Copenhagen on 16-17 September and assessed results of the work PT5 has carried out to promote implementation of ECC decisions and adhesions to one stop shopping for satellites (OSS).

The comments made by the Radio Regulation Group (WG RR) on decisions concerning the free circulation of personal communications by satellite were discussed and studied, along with eventual irregularities with regard to the way in which some countries have implemented same. Agreement was made to draw up a document describing this situation, denounced by some operators, which will be sent to WG RR and also be included in PT5's report to the ECC.

Also, work related to updating the Common Application Form (COM) and the CAF continues and should be finished by the end of the year.

ECC PT3

The ECC's project team 3 (PT3) met in Sofia on 25-26 September to debate numbering issues, aiming to exchange information and to harmonise national positions and decisions concerning aspects of common interest linked to numbering. To that end, recommendations and decisions are drawn up for formal approval by the ECC.

At this meeting of PT3, which will henceforth be designated WG NNA (Working Group on Naming, Numbering and Addressing), decisions were made on the recourse to international numbering designate as the European Telephone Numbering Space (ETNS), including the approval, for submission to the ECC, of modifications to ECTRA decision 99(04) on the conventions used to manage and use the ETNS, currently published on the website of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) at <http://www.ero.dk/documentation/docs/docfiles.asp?docid=1833>.

These modifications consider the following aspects, among others: the duties of ETNS administrator are transferred to WG NNA; better definition of the duties of the recourse body, now called the revision body, and their attribution to the ECC plenary session; the delegation from the group of 24 countries that have been assigned the 3883 code by the Telecommunications Standardisation Sector of the ITU (ITU-T) in the ECC, with respect to administrative responsibility of the ETNS; more detail in defining procedures related to the designation, modification and recovery of the identity of European service; detailed procedures for the assignment, recovery and definition of procedures to port ETNS numbers; the ability of the ETNS registrar and administrator to impose sanctions for breach of the conventions; and specification of emergency procedures to deactivate ETNS numbers.

On the other hand, a package of three recommendations was drawn up for approval by the ECC. It concerns the use of E.164 (ITU-T recommendation) numbers for emerging mobile systems.

Also concluded was the report on "Implications for Numbering, Naming and Addressing of Convergence of the Internet and the Telco Networks", which will subsequently be posted on the ERO website after approval by the ECC plenary session.

ECC PT SE 7

PT SE 7, or the project team of the Spectrum Engineering group (WG SE), on mobile systems except UMTS, which particularly focuses on the introduction of code division multiple access - public access mobile radio (CDMA/PAMR), met in London on 2-3 September.

About 21 participants attended the meeting, which saw presentation and debate of studies on various theme topics: compatibility between CDMA/PAMR and UIC DMO and GSM-R technologies in 900 MHz, where early conclusions indicate the need to use mitigation techniques between the two services; compatibility between CDMA/PAMR and short range and power devices (SRD), which reveal that interference may occur in class 2 SRDs (equipment with coverage radii of from 50 to 58 metres); compatibility of CDMA/PAMR in the 400/450 MHz bands, over which doubts persist regarding the transition band advised by the group.

The LS to submit to WG SE37 was also approved, with copy to WG FM38, where conclusions of the approved reports are presented, specifically the bandwidths needed to implement CDMA/PAMR. ►

The PT was also charged with carrying out a study on compatibility between the TAPS and tactical military bands.

ECC PT1

St Petersburg hosted the 17-19 September meeting of the ECC's PT1, responsible for all matters concerning the evolution of IMT-2000 and systems beyond, including the co-ordination of European contributions and positions on spectrum, regulatory and sharing/compatibility issues in the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R).

Taking the realisation of WRC03 into account, along with the fifth and latest mandate from the European Commission (EC), the reference terms of this group were revised; in reply to the EC mandate a report must be elaborated along with a decision on use of the 2.5 GHz band (2500-2690 MHz) in the context of IMT-2000.

Discussions continued over spectrum use in the 2.5 GHz band by the satellite component of IMT-2000. Germany holds that in this band only the use of IMT-2000's terrestrial component will be possible. But the pro-satellite community argues that no decision should be made yet; this position is based on studies that are under way and which indicate that for the time being mobile service via satellite needs more spectrum.

As for channelling of the 2.5 GHz band, it was concluded that it is still too early

to tangibly define the channel arrangements for IMT-2000. Indeed, issues such as band use in countries from other regions and the characteristics of traffic asymmetry prevent major advances on this matter.

Lastly, note that the group is working on a report that will contain the result of studies on the compatibility of IMT-2000 with other radiocommunications services operating in co-channel and adjacent frequencies. Preliminary results concerning IMT-2000's compatibility with radio-astronomy indicate that they may co-exist as long as exclusion zones are defined around the radio-astronomy stations, which, depending on local conditions, may reach 60 km for a terrestrial UMTS base station.

EFIS-MG

Presentation of the EFIS 2.0 version, which will include the radio interfaces, in line with the format proposed by the Telecommunications Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee (TCAM) was a highlight of the EFIS-MG (Frequency Information System of the European Radiocommunications Office - Management Group) meeting held in Mainz on 4-5 September.

The definitive model for demonstration of the EFIS 2.0 model should be presented at the next meeting of EFIS-MG on 5 February 2004, to be followed by a trial phase. Plans call for the programme to become operational in November 2004.

→ :: <http://www.cept.org> :: <http://www.ero.dk>

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□ WSIS PREPARATION

In the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the third and last meeting of its preparatory committee, PrepCom3, was held in Geneva from 15 to 26 September, with the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) included in the Portuguese delegation.

Participants in PrepCom3 studied and debated various issues, such as the organisation of work during the first WSIS phase, to be held in Geneva on 10-12 December, and finalisation of the Statement of Principles and Action Plan that will be considered there.

PrepCom3 was meant to generate consensus, by reconciling the interests of the various entities involved - civil society, organisers, governments, private

sector, media and multilateral organisations, among others - to ensure as far as possible a balance between their opinions, interests and concerns.

The European Union (EU) considered strengthening the intervention of economic players in civil society, as well as the role of foreign direct investment and other private financial flows. This was fully seconded by Portugal as comprising the appropriate means and instruments to leverage international co-operation towards promotion of the information society.

The Action Plan that will embody the Statement of Principles will have to be realistic and ensure desirable development sustained by the peoples, in line with principles of the Universal Human Rights Declaration.

→ :: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

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□ PORTABILITY DEBATED

A conference on the theme topic of "Number Portability" was held in Vienna on 15-17 September, organised by the Institute for International Research (IIR) Telecoms & Technology. The focus was on mobile numbers, including the status and modes of implementing this function in various countries.

Among other aspects, the role of the national regulatory bodies in introducing portability stood out, as well as the models for implementing and managing portability databases and the course some countries follow *vis-à-vis* the issue of tariff transparency.

Beyond regulators and operators, the participants included suppliers of centralised portability database solutions, who presented their wares, sometimes accompanied by a description of the respective application in different countries, specifically in Portugal. Also mentioned was the possibility of using those same solutions for the processes of pre-selection, local loop unbundling, telephone numbering mapping (ENUM) and the supply of re-leased subscriber lines, among others. Written message services, voice mail, fax and data in the context of eventual portability constraints were also subject to discussion. ◀

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

WSIS WG

The vital role of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the need for greater involvement of information and communication technologies (ICT) businesses in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) were underscored by Saraiva Mendes, in his double status as chairman of the ITU Council and host, as ANACOM administrator, at the opening of the fourth meeting of the ITU Council's working group on WSIS (WG WSIS), held on 10-11 September in Madeira.

Addressing the meeting's 30 participants, representing 14 countries, 3 companies and the ITU, the ITU Council chairman stated that companies are not very motivated for the WSIS process, even though its success is indispensable for their development.

This concern is accompanied throughout the ITU structure, as was made obvious in the speech by the director of the Telecommunications Standardisation Bureau (TSB), on its activities with regard to WSIS, specifically the holding of a parallel event, the Chief Technical Officers (CTO) round table on future evolution of the ICTs, to be held in Geneva on 8-9 December.

The group reviewed the documents - Statement of Principles and Action Plan - that will be approved in the first WSIS phase, to be held in Geneva from 10-12 December. It held the statement issue to be closed and decided to focus on the ITU's contribution to the IS and also on contributions to the Action Plan.

To that end, two editing groups were set up, one to discuss the document that reviews the status of the digital divide and ITU actions in this area, and the second to study the stock-taking document which identifies the main advantages in terms of ITU activities that may prove decisive for implementation of the Action Plan, as well as the ITU's priorities with regard to same.

Study of the first document led to elimination of references to an eventual "Digital Solidarity Fund", in reply to concerns expressed by the European Union and the United States of America. This report was also thoroughly modified to lessen the effect of references to the ITU's Secretariat and Secretary General, clearly expressing their origin within the ITU Council.

The second editing group faced strong opposition from the European Union to study of the Action Plan, as the latter was about to be revised at the meeting of the 3rd Preparatory Committee (PrepCom3), which began four days later. The group thus discreetly moved on to study the stock-taking document, adding points concerning centres of excellence and references to the ITU's activities in standardisation and its Study Groups, specifically the activities of study group 3 on interconnection tariffs.

The WG's conclusions recommend that the ITU Secretary General deliver the documents worked on to PrepCom3 as an ITU contribution, particularly the "Status Paper on the Digital Divide", expressing the ITU's availability to play a major role in implementing the Action Plan, and especially to co-ordinate that implementation with other players in the UN system such as Unesco.

COUNCIL OVERSIGHT GROUP (COG)

The fourth meeting of the ITU's Council Oversight Group (COG) and the last before the Council's next extraordinary session (27-29 October) was held on 17 September in Geneva.

This group is composed of representatives of 10 of the Council member States, two for each ITU administrative region, including the three that comprise the Council *troika* - currently Portugal (president), Kenya (next president) and the United States of America (previous president). The other members are Brazil, Bulgaria, Iran, Korea, Russia, Senegal and Switzerland.

The COG's mission is to supervise and orient implementation by the ITU secretariat (executive body) of some of the Council's main decisions, specifically preparation of a revised budget proposal and implementation of a set of recommendations on management and reorganisation of the ITU, to be put into practice in the short term (known as short term recommendations).

The main result of this meeting was conclusion of the report for the extraordinary Council session, in which it was proposed that the latter approve the revised budget draft submitted by the secretariat, as well as certain conditions to review same during the regular Council session in 2004. These conditions mainly reflect expected results of implementing the short term recommendations.

The COG had in previous meetings expressed some discontent over the relatively little progress made by the secretariat in implementing the aforesaid recommendations. However, the report presented at this meeting by the secretariat puts forward a faster evolution, which though still not ideal was well received by the group.

In its report, the COG also supports the proposal by another Council group, the GoS (Group of Specialists), for the ITU to hire an external consultant to work together with the ITU secretariat on an integrated plan to implement the former's recommendations.

The GoS is a group of experts on revision of the ITU management. It has five members (one for each ITU region) and began its work in January 2003. The GoS drew up a set of recommendations for the ordinary Council session in 2003 (May), namely the one that led to creation of the COG; the Council adopted the short term ones and asked the GoS to continue work on the medium and long term ones.

The COG's next meeting should take place only after the extraordinary Council session, at a date to be determined and depending on the results obtained and respective implications for the group's work.

STUDY GROUP 6 - TG 6/8

Group TG 6/8 of study group 6 (SG6), whose scope concerns revision of the 1961 Stockholm plan (ST61), met for the last time on 15-17 September in Geneva, in the context of the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R).

The meeting saw conclusion of work to prepare a report that focuses on various technical aspects of planning for digital terrestrial broadcasting (DVB-T and T-DAB) in the 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz frequency bands. The final report agreed to by TG 6/8 will be submitted for approval by SG6 at its October meeting.

This report supports the work of the first session of the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC04), aiming to prepare revision of ST61 and the 1989 Geneva Agreement (GE89). RRC04 will in turn approve the technical bases for planning, which will be carried out in the second session (RRC05).

STUDY GROUP 1

The second meeting of study group 1 in the current study period (2002-2006) was held in Geneva from 2 to 5 September. The main agenda point was to approve reports by the study group rapporteurs on work undertaken over the past year.

In the course of their assigned activities, the groups should undertake a number of studies, with the aim of developing and perfecting guidelines on subjects that in the communications context help enhance telecommunications policies, reduce the digital divide and enable developing countries to access new technologies and the technical advances implied by same. ▶

These groups meet once a year, in September as a rule, and in their context set up working groups made up of rapporteurs or others, which deal with specific issues. The studies, conclusions and orientations are reported to the groups, which are responsible for informing the ITU members of same, particularly the countries with more needs in this area.

Given that the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) held in Istanbul in March 2002 continued the study groups of the ITU's Telecommunications Development Sector (ITU-D) into the new study period with mandates similar to those of the previous period (only revised and updated *vis-à-vis* the new sector situation) and set the working methods that frame those groups' activities, the rapporteurs presented the conclusions and proposed measures to be adopted *vis-à-vis* the work undertaken by the respective groups.

The issues being studied and assessed during this study period are: interconnec-

tion, universal access, impact of telecommunications convergence, broadcasting and information technologies, tariff policy, methods and models to determine the costs of telecommunications services, including spectrum aspects, satellite regulation in developing countries, application of national legislation, rules and regulations of telecommunications by the national telecommunications regulatory authorities, and implementation of IP telephony in developing countries.

Progress reports were presented at this meeting by the rapporteurs charged with studies of the various issues. The encounter also highlighted the work undertaken and approved the action plans presented by each group for the next period, which basically concern the growth and increase of telecommunications policies from a standpoint of tangible resolution of problems in less developed countries.

All these reports may be consulted on the ITU website at <http://www.itu.int> . <

■ OJEU

- **Decision no. 1608/2003/EC** - Of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning the production and development of community statistics on science and technology. Published on 16 September.
- **Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (2003/C220/05)** - On the "Green Paper on European Space Policy". Published on 16 September.
- **Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (2003/C220/08)** - On the Commission Communication to the Council, European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions: final report on eEurope 2002. Published on 16 September.
- **Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (2003/C220/07)** - On the proposed regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council that establishes the European Network and Information Security Agency. Published on 16 September.
- **Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (2003/C220/03)** - On the proposed directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of member States' laws on electromagnetic compatibility. Published on 16 September.
- **Decision of the Joint Committee (2003/648/EC)** - Concerning modification of the list of conformity assessment bodies in the sectorial annex on electromagnetic compatibility, under the agreement on mutual recognition between the European Community and the USA. Published on 13 September.
- **Decision of the Joint Committee (2003/649/EC)** - Concerning the inclusion of conformity assessment bodies in the list of the sectorial annex on telecommunication equipment. Published on 13 September.
- **Commission Call (2003/C209/05)** - To submit proposals for indirect actions in the context of the Multiannual Community Action Plan to foster safer use of the internet and new online technologies (2003-2004). Published on 4 September.
- **Commission Call (2003/C196/12)** - For applications to establish the experts chamber (professional) of the eEurope 2005 Steering Group. Published on 20 August.
- **Commission Decision (2003/570/EC)** - Concerning a proceeding under article 81 of the EC Treaty and article 53 of the EEA Agreement - Case COMP/38.370 - 02 UK Limited/T-Mobile UK Limited ("UK Network Sharing Agreement"). Dated 30 April and published on 7 August.
- **Commission Call (2003/C182/08)** - To submit proposals, by 17 September, for the "Regions of Knowledge" pilot action (KnowReg). Published on 1 August.
- **Commission Notice (2003/C180A/02)** - To hire personnel for the Galileo joint undertaking. Applications should be sent to recruitment.GJU@esa.int . Published on 31 July.
- **Judgment of the Court of Justice** - Appeal against a decision of the Austrian Regulatory Authority regarding the allocation, to a public undertaking in a dominant position that holds a licence to provide digital mobile telecommunications services according to the GSM 900 standard, of supplementary frequencies in the frequency band reserved for the DCS 1800 standard, without imposing a separate fee. Dated 22 May and published on 19 July.

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

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□ EUROPEAN UNION

TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION

The European Commission adopted on 22 September a communication on the transition of radio and television emissions from the analogue system to the digital system. The member States must publish their national and migration plans, including the switchover date, by the end of 2003. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1276|0|RAPID&lg=EN ; and http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/news/index_en.htm .

HEARING ON GALILEO...

Brussels hosts on 7 October a hearing organised by the Industry Committee of the European Parliament and concerning the Galileo programme.

:: http://www.europarl.eu.int/hearings/20031007/itre/programme_en.pdf

... AND ON IS

The Belgian capital is also the venue for a 6 October public hearing on the 2005 eEurope Action Plan mid-term review. More information at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2005/highlights/whats_new/items/public_hearing/index_en.htm .

ICTS RECEIVE FINANCING

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are to receive the largest award of its kind under the 6th Framework Programme, a total of 1 billion euros, to finance 236 projects in the sector.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1298|0|RAPID&lg=EN

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/185|0|RAPID&lg=EN

CONSULTATION ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

A Commission consultation addressed to all enterprises in the 15 member States, on the legal problems associated to e-business, is under way until 7 November.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1254|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

EGOVERNMENT

The role of electronic governance in public administration strategies is the focus of a communication adopted by the Commission on 26 September. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1300|0|RAPID&lg=EN .

COMMUNICATION ON ROAD SAFETY

The Commission adopted on 29 September a communication on e-safety that recognises the use of ICTs in vehicles; the aim is to reduce mortality in European road accidents by 2010.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1301|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

COMMISSION ORGANISES WORKSHOPS

A workshop for national authorities and member State representatives on powerline communications (PLC) is scheduled for 16 October.

:: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/regulatory/publicconsult/powerline_communications/index_en.htm

Two independent studies ordered by the Commission gave rise to two other workshops to be held in the Belgian capital on 14 October, on the regulatory implications of the introduction of next generation networks and on the convergence of numbering, names and addressing.

:: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/regulatory/publicconsult/ngn_numbering/index_en.htm

CHINA JOINS GALILEO

China's participation in the European satellite radionavigation system known as Galileo was confirmed on 18 September in Beijing. A draft agreement was drawn up at that meeting and should be approved by both parties, for the EU during the next Transports Council on 9 October, and at the European Union-China Summit on 30 October. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1266|0|RAPID&lg=EN .

EU-CHINA CO-OPERATION ON CERTIFICATION

Co-operation between the European Union and China has reached a new level with the recent joint workshop on the Chinese certification system and international practice in the area.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/437|0|RAPID&lg=EN

99 REVIEW APPLIED

The Commission announced on 5 September that it had proceeded with the first application of the new telecommunications regulatory regime known as 99 Review, following study of a case submitted by the British regulator. The Commission corroborated OFTEL's position on the wholesale mobile market for access and call origination in public mobile networks, considering that the current level of competition is sufficient and that more sector-specific regulation is redundant.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1203|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

FORUM IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 7

Notifications submitted to the Commission by national regulatory authorities under the mechanism for electronic communications envisaged in article 7 of the Framework Directive, except when confidential, may be consulted at <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/info/ectct/home> .

SAFETY OF MOBILE NETWORKS AND THE INTERNET

The Commission has provided 11.7 million euros to make the internet a safer place, financially supporting projects to promote safer use of the internet and new technologies such as online mobile telephony. Proposals may be submitted until 14 November.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1204|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

NEW INFORMATION SOCIETY ADDRESS

From 1 November, the European Commission's new link for the electronic communications and information society will be http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecom/index_en.htm .

JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE

The Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled in favour of the compa- ▶

nies in the case involving the payment to the Italian State of charges calculated based on turnover by the operators Albacom and Infostrada.

:: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=CJE/03/73|0|RAPID&lg=EN

COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL

The results and agenda of the Competitiveness Council held in Brussels on 22 September may be consulted at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/181|0|RAPID&lg=EN and http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/179|0|RAPID&lg=EN. <

□ GLS GROUP

The fifth meeting of the group of European Union (EU) administrations associated to the European satellite radionavigation system known as Galileo - the GLS group - met in Paris on 16 September.

Participants in the meeting summarised Galileo-related results from the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) and also reviewed the status of information for early publication, co-ordination and/or filing of broadcasting systems by satellite (RNSS) in the Radiocommunications Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-R), debated the issue of annual free entitlements and differences between the GLS member States and the ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) on this matter and reviewed the situation of EU-United States of America bilateral talks on Galileo and the global positioning system (GPS).

A brief presentation was made of WRC03 results; it was stressed that same were very positive for Europe, which saw most of its proposals accepted. Regarding differences between the GLS member countries and the BR over the right of member States to claim a free entitlement under decision 482 of the ITU

Council, the BR holds that only filings corresponding to the year 2000 (year of early publication) and 2003 (year of invoice submission) are considered to be free entitlements, while the consortium member countries hold that 2001 and 2002 are also covered by that decision. The president of the *Agence Nationale des Fréquences* (ANFR) said that the next step would eventually be to wait for the next ITU Council meeting in order to clarify in that body the European interpretation of decision 482.

A brief oral report was presented on bilateral talks between the EU and the USA, highlighting the fact that the American side has problems with the regulatory instruments to co-ordinate radiocommunications systems, specifically the trigger for co-ordination between space stations and the subject of Public Regulated Service (PRS).

Regarding the project's progress in the European Space Agency (ESA), mention was made of plans to launch a test prototype (MSATNAV constellation) in June 2006, in order to ensure frequency priority.

The next meeting has been scheduled for 16 March 2004, also in Paris. <

□ COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (COCOM)

The 17 September meeting of the Communications Committee (COCOM) in Brussels included a short presentation on the status of transposition of the new European regulatory framework for electronic communications in each of the member States, with most of them reporting delays.

The Commission also presented a document on the notification obligations in the new regulatory framework and provided general information on the 9th implementation report.

The participants also broached matters related to establishment of the European Telephone Numbering Space (ETNS), the cost of must-carry transport in cable networks, and reports on broadband data and leased lines.

The Commission likewise presented a proposed recommendation on leased lines, which will be submitted to vote in COCOM as soon as the various language versions are available.

→ :: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/onp/index_en.htm <

□ SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

The second meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was held on 19 September in Brussels, where the director general of the Danish regulatory body (Danish National IT and Telecom Agency), Mr J. A. Andersen, was elected chairperson, while the director of international spectrum policy of the Radiocommunications Agency (United Kingdom), Mr M. Goddard, was elected vice chairperson.

The meeting saw agreement on the group's working plan, which should begin with adoption of opinions on two matters that are currently of extreme importance for Europe: the secondary market for spectrum use rights and spectrum

implications deriving from the transition to digital television - the so-called switchover.

This work should also be concluded by November 2004; two working groups have been set up for that purpose. During the groups' work consultations are expected so that all interested parties have an opportunity to contribute to the said opinions.

The RSPG was established by decision 2002/622/EC of the European Commission, deriving from the new regulatory package for electronic communications.

The group's next meeting has been scheduled for 13 February 2004.

→ :: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1275|0|RAPID&lg=EN <

□ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

SMP WG

The Significant Market Power (SMP) working group of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) discussed subjects concerning market study for the purpose of assessing SMP, specifically the criteria and indicators to use, practical issues in the context of market analysis and the effective competition problems observed in the various markets.

CONTACT NETWORK

The Contact Network met in Warsaw on 11-12 September to discuss issues related to implementation of the new regulatory framework, application of regulatory obligations (remedies), mobile markets and universal service. A decision was also made to submit to the IRG plenary session the adoption of principles of implementation and best practices (PIBs) regarding cost recovery.

MARKET ANALYSIS WG

The WG on Market Data Analysis met in Naples on 5 September.

The meeting focused on definition of the indicators identified for analysis of relevant markets, as well as other indicators that allow international comparisons. The need was indicated to share information with other groups, namely the WGs on Fixed Networks, Mobile Markets and SMP, in order to gauge whether the set of indicators and respective definitions are framed within those groups' understanding.

Almost all the countries except the United Kingdom have registered some delay in defining and analysing relevant markets, whether in the production and submission of questionnaires or in the reception of replies. The group is thus drawing up a document that sets out good practices for the market analysis process,

which should be submitted to the IRG plenary session next November.

END USERS WG

The WG on Consumers/End Users met on 29 August in Vienna, with the aim of reviewing documents on universal service, financing and designation mechanisms, to be submitted to the September plenary session. It likewise studied proposals for new work to be undertaken by the group, specifically the update of the 2002 report on tariff transparency.

Regarding the current situation of transposition and implementation of the new regulatory framework, especially Directive 2002/22/EC - Universal Service, it was concluded that same has been implemented in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Norway and Switzerland have also reviewed their respective sectorial legislation in terms of the new community framework. The EU candidate countries, specifically Hungary, Cyprus and Malta, are also adjusting their legislation, based on the PIBs meanwhile approved in the IRG, which may be consulted at <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=66731>.

RA WG

The WG on Regulatory Accounting met in Berne on 27-28 August to discuss the main issues and priorities for each regulator. Also debated was the need to adjust the 1998 European Commission recommendation to market developments and the new regulatory framework, a subject the group decided to study thoroughly. It also dealt with the upcoming elaboration of comments about the public consultation on long-run incremental costs (LRIC).

→ :: <http://irgis.anacom.pt/site/en>

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□ NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

PWG

The Policy Working Group (PWG) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) met on 3-4 September in Rotterdam, at the invitation of the Dutch administration.

The PWG studied, from the military standpoint, consequences of decisions made by the last World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) and concluded that same were satisfactory. It decided to adopt, for the WRC07 preparatory work, the principles and organisation used in the work to prepare WRC03 and reviewed subjects to be discussed on the WRC07 agenda.

Working teams were set up to begin the work of preparing military positions to defend in WRC07, *vis-à-vis* topics of military interest. The administrations were invited to comment on the areas of military interest, whether by indication of the officials eventually responsible for co-ordinating the respective working teams, or by indication of the issues for which there is an intention to present contributions.

A proposal was made to charge NATO PWG with overseeing the work to prepare military positions to defend in WRC07, which will be submitted to the Frequency Management Committee (NATO FMSC) for approval.

The PWG considered questions associated to the membership of new countries in the organisation and identified four priority areas: appointment of civil and military representation within NATO FMSC; establishment of a national military agency responsible for spectrum management; implementation of usage conditions in the NATO UHF 225-400 MHz band; and implementation of usage

conditions for the NATO Joint Civil Military Frequency Agreement (NJFA), 2002 version.

The PWG will next meet at NATO headquarters in Brussels on 17-18 December. Meetings have also been scheduled for March, June and December 2004.

FMSC

The Frequency Management Committee (NATO FMSC) also met in Rotterdam, on 5 September.

The FMSC chairman reported that NATO forces do not intend to use the Galileo system's services and that NC3A is ready to provide 14 people per month, for one year, to support spectrum management activities in the group.

The FMSC endorsed the priorities identified by the PWG in the new countries' membership process. In reply to a question it was clarified that the deadline to comply with these conditions is December 2003.

Highlights of the work results include general approval of the PWG's proposal on the preparation of military positions to defend at WRC07, with a decision to empower the PWG as the group responsible for overseeing preparatory work for the next conference. On the other hand, the Military Frequency Group (MFG) will formally submit to the FMSC chairman the military requirement for the bands under discussion at WRC07, which the FMSC chairman will pass on to the PWG. The MFG contribution containing the operational requirement for the bands included in the WRC07 agenda and identified as having military interest will be the departure point for the PWG's work preparing the joint civil/military position.

→ :: <http://www.nato.int/>

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□ EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP (ERG)

At the 25 September meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG) in Brussels the respective secretariat's co-ordinator gave a presentation on its functions.

Other presentations focused on results and progress of the ERG's public consultations on remedies, bitstream access and the forward looking long-run incremental costs (FL-LRIC) model.

→ :: <http://www.erg.eu.int/>

A debate on the subject of the so-called remedies was also effected, based on the discussion points identified by the experts who, along with the European Commission and the national regulatory authorities, are working in this context. The proposal for the European Commission and the ERG to draw up a joint document on accounting separation and cost accounting was approved.

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■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

FRANCE - *Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART)* - The development of multimedia access via mobile systems is the subject of a technical and economic study published by ART at <http://www.art-telecom.fr/communiqués/communiqués/2003/index-c031003.htm>. To replace individual licences, the regulator has published a prior declaration mechanism for operators, as well as transitional declaration forms, until full introduction of the authorisations regime.

:: <http://www.art-telecom.fr/dossiers/licences/index-liceweb.htm>

Four draft laws are meanwhile under discussion: the measure to transpose the so-called "telecommunications package", which encompasses electronic communications and audiovisual communication services; the law on trust in the digital economy; the France Telecom statute and universal service; and a last measure on postal regulation. Details at <http://www.art-telecom.fr/>.

IRELAND - *Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)* - The regulator is overseeing until 29 October a public consultation on the regulation of postal services.

:: http://www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/publications/ComReg03117.pdf

UNITED KINGDOM - *Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL)* - As none of the five mobile operators hold a significant market position, OFTEL announced on 3 October that it had revoked the latest regulatory standards on the matter, thus completing the review of a specific market for the first time since the sector's new regulatory framework took effect.

:: http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr54_03.htm

With persons with special needs specifically in mind, OFTEL has put out a good practices guide for the mobile industry.

:: http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr52_03.htm

GUINEA-BISSAU - *Instituto das Comunicações da Guiné-Bissau (ICGB)* -

The deadline to submit applications for the tender to assign a second generation mobile licence is 17 October.

:: <http://www.icgb.org/>

MOZAMBIQUE - *Instituto Nacional das Comunicações de Moçambique*

(INCM) - The national regulatory authority's new statute was recently approved, at the same time as the ongoing reform of the telecommunications and postal sectors, supported by the World Bank.

:: <http://www.incm.gov.mz/>

ANGOLA - *Instituto Angolano das Comunicações (INACOM)* - Four new fixed telephone service providers began to operate in the first quarter of this year. Preparations are being made to license three trunking operators and a third GSM mobile operator. The government should soon approve new regulations for pricing, interconnection and numbering.

:: <http://www.inacom.og.ao>

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE - Parliament is expected to approve in October the Basic Law for Telecommunications. The installing commission of the sector's future regulatory entity has meanwhile become operational.

CAPE VERDE - A multi-sector regulatory agency has been established and will be responsible for economic regulation of the areas of telecommunications, urban and maritime public transports, energy and water.

:: <http://www.governo.cv>

BRAZIL - *Government* - The Brazilian government has submitted to public consultation a draft law that will modify the way Brazilian regulatory agencies work, which may cause them to lose powers to public administration.

EAST TIMOR - *Government* - The new internet website of the East Timorese Government has become operational. In sectorial terms, noteworthy is the approval of Decrees-Law nos. 11/2003 and 12/2003, both of 29 July, which respectively establish the bases for telecommunications, and set up and approve the statutes of the Communications Regulatory Authority (ARCOM - *Autoridade Reguladora das Comunicações*), which will also regulate the postal sector, and Law no. 2/2003 of 10 March, which modifies UNTAET regulation no. 6/2002 on establishment of the country's public broadcasting service. Additional information at <http://www.gov.east-timor.org/>.

UNESCO - *Information Society Observatory (ISO)* - Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Angola and East Timor are the six countries comprising the Information Society Observatory launched in early September with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

:: <http://osi.unesco.org.br/>

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■ IN OCTOBER 2003

EU

- Radio Spectrum Committee (1)
- Working Group on Telecommunications and Information Society (9-10; 20-21; 30)
- Workshop on Commission studies - regulation and policy (14)

CEPT

- 11th Conference (22-24)

ECC

- SE WG (29/9-3/10)
- Joint APRIL & TRIS (1-3)
- RR WG (30/9-3/10)
- FM PT22 (7-10)
- 6th plenary session meeting (13-17)
- FM PT24 (14-17)
- ITU WG (26)

CERP

- Regulatory Affairs WG (3)
- UPU Affairs WG (9-10)

ITU

Council

- WG on Financial Regulation (2-3)
- Additional session (27-29)

Radiocommunications Sector

- WP 1C 30/10-5/11)

UPU

- PT Acts of the Union and Management of the Union's Work (16-17)
- Advisory Group and Commissions (20-22)
- CA plenary sessions (22-24)

EVENTS

- *Quality: Decisive Factor for the Productivity and Competitiveness of Portuguese Enterprises*

1-2, Vila Nova de Gaia

- *Digital Cities and Regions Forum: the Essential*

2, Aveiro

- *SAT EXPO (Satellite and Advanced Telecommunications)*

Vicenza, Italy, 2-4

- *Arrábida Meeting: Rethinking the Information and Knowledge Society in 2003*

3-4, Arrábida

- *Consumer Rights*

6, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 16, Bar Association (*Ordem dos Advogados*), Lisbon

- *Forum of European Postal Service Users*

8-9, Brussels

- *Aveiro Technology 2003*

9-12, Aveiro

- *ITU Telecom World 2003*

12-18, PALEXPO, Geneva

- *4th Island Engineering Workshops*

14-17, Cape Verde

- *4th Conference of the Portuguese Information Systems Association*

15-17, Oporto

- *Telecommunications Inter.face Workshops: rationalising infrastructures in public administration*

17, Lisbon

- *Security and Protection of Personal Data: legislation in force*

21, Lisbon

- *Telecoms Regulation and Competition Law*

21-22, Brussels

- *10th Global Interconnection Forum 2003*

23, Brussels

- *Inforpor 2003 and Expotelecom*

23-26, Lisbon

- *Telecom Essentials for IT Professionals*

27-28, Lisbon

- *IP Communications World Australia 2003*

28-30, Sydney

- *Competitiveness, Innovation and Qualification Forum: strategies, policies and challenges*

30-31, Lisbon Congress Centre