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## □ SPIN-OFF OF ZON MULTIMEDIA – ANACOM UNDERSTANDING

In a determination dated 3 April, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved its understanding on the spin-off of *ZON Multimédia*, in which it clarifies that the structural separation from *Portugal Telecom* (PT) means the company no longer belongs to the Grupo PT. The obligations deriving from the market analyses conducted per the Electronic Communications Law (ECL) and which concern that group are therefore no longer applicable to same. The obligations in force thus remain applicable only to companies in the Grupo PT, under the terms of Recommendation 2007/879/EC of 17 December con-

cerning relevant markets for products and services in the electronic communications sector subject ex ante regulation, until the respective markets are re-analysed. Aware of the spin-off's relevant impact on markets 11 and 12 set out in the previous Recommendation, denominated 4 and 5 by Recommendation 2007/879/EC, now in force, ANACOM is giving priority to the corresponding analyses and should begin the consultation process by the middle of this May. The authority also plans to complete in April the assessment of ways to implement the obligations maintained for the Grupo PT vis-à-vis market 12. (+info)

## □ ANACOM COMMUNIQUÉ – DECREE-LAW NO. 57/2008 (UNFAIR COMMERCIAL PRACTICES)

Following the publication of Decree-Law no. 57/2008 of 26 March, ANACOM issued on 1 April a note with its position regarding that instrument's impact on the electronic communications sector. This Authority considers that, given the complexity of the problems raised by the new legal rules, the solutions for supervising its application in the electronic communications sector will have to be defined. ANACOM will thus determine within 30 days a set of rules to judge whether the electronic communications operators are complying with the said

legal framework. Standing out among the questions raised by the instrument in the sector are those deriving from article 8, whose paragraph q) considers as misleading in any circumstance the practice of "rounding up the price, time duration or another factor, directly or indirectly, associated to supply of the good or provision of the service which does not have an exact and direct correspondence in the consumer's spending or effective use and which leads to an increase in the price paid by the latter". (+info)

## ■ PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

### REGULATIONS OF THE TENDER TO ASSIGN THE FOURTH MOBILE OPERATOR LICENCE

By determination dated last 20 March, ANACOM approved the draft regulation for the public tender to assign a nationwide frequency usage right to offer publicly accessible land mobile service (LMS) in the 450-470 MHz frequency band. Interested parties are asked to submit their comments in writing by 12 May to the headquarters of this Authority, or electronically to the email address [concurso-smt@anacom.pt](mailto:concurso-smt@anacom.pt). Among other aspects the draft regulation envisages the following selection criteria for future candidates, in priority and successive order: contribution to the conditions for effective competition (the offer of access to the competitor's mobile network by the mobile virtual operators (MVNOs) will be valued); contribution to the development of new and innovative projects for the information society (the minimum associated amount will be 5 million euros); quality of the technical plan, including the promotion of interoperability; quality of the economic-financial plan and experience in the establishment, management and operation of electronic communications networks and services. (+info)

### NEW DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR RADIOCOMMUNICATION STATIONS

Likewise in public consultation until 29 April is the new draft regulation that establishes rules concerning the identification and signalisation of radiocommunication stations, which was approved by ANACOM on 5 March and takes into consideration the comments received in the public consultation begun on 18 July 2003. Interested parties are asked to submit their comments on physical support to ANACOM headquarters or electronically to the address [Regisi@anacom.pt](mailto:Regisi@anacom.pt). This matter has been submitted to a further consideration by interested parties, given the excessively long and atypical period of time between the holding of the first consultation in 2003 and completion of the respective process, which is only now occurring; some of the positions expressed by the respondents may therefore no longer be valid.

(+Info)

## ■ CURRENT EVENTS

### DTT – CLARIFICATION REQUESTS

With regard to the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) tenders, 2 April was the deadline to receive clarification requests addressed to the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). For the Mux A tender clarification requests were received from TVI – *Televisão Independente* (12 March), *PT Comunicações* (24 March and 1 April), *Vieira de Almeida & Associados* (2 April) and *Vodafone Portugal* (2 April); this Authority responded on 20 March to the TVI request. For the Mux B and F tenders, requests were presented by *PT Comunicações* (24 March and 1 April), *AirPlus TV*, *Vieira de Almeida & Associados* and *Vodafone Portugal* (all on 2 April). The responses along with the clarification requests originating same are included in a book that interested parties may consult at the ANACOM headquarters on all working days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the same information has been posted on this Authority's website. (+info)

### INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS – NEW TRAINING ENTITY

By order dated 24 March, ANACOM designated the company SICÓ Formação – *Sociedade de Ensino Profissional, Lda.*, as a training entity for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings (ITED is the Portuguese acronym). This designation allows SICÓ Formação to give authorised courses to electricians on ITED installation, maintenance and planning, and is valid for three years from the date of the respective approval. The new training entity is obliged to maintain the conditions verified on the date of designation. (+info, Portuguese only)

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE PROCESSES

Given that IBERCOURIER – *Serviço de Transporte Urgente* submitted the third quarter 2006 statistical data after the set deadline, ANACOM, as part of its oversight and sanctions duties, fined the former last 4 February the amount of 750 euros for the negligent practice of an administrative offence, which was paid on 5 March. (+info, Portuguese only)

As Broadmedia – *Comunicações Globais* did not promptly submit statistical information, breaching the provisions of Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February, it was admonished last 28 December per the provisions of Decree-Law no. 433/82 of 27 October, with the changes introduced by Decree-Law no. 244/95 of 14 September. The former did not agree with this ruling and filed an appeal, which was relegated last 7 February to the Lisbon Commercial Court.

(+info, Portuguese only)

### ADHESION CONTRACTS

By order dated 28 February, ANACOM approved the adhesion contract of CABO TV *Madeirense* for the offer of electronic communications products and services. (+info, Portuguese only)

### NEW POSTAL OPERATORS

By order dated last 12 March, ANACOM granted authorisation to the company MANOBRA JOVEM – *Transportes, Lda.*, to provide postal services not reserved and not covered by the scope of universal service. (+info, Portuguese only)

### INTERMEDIATE SERVICE PROVIDERS

ANACOM recorded in 2007 12 registrations by means of the application form to register intermediate network service providers. Since the forms were made available in May 2006, 25 entities have registered for the various modes of intermediary services. (+info)

### POSTAL SERVICES – ADDITIONS

ANACOM has approved two additions to the authorisations to provide express mail services granted to the companies *Logista Transportes e Transitários, Lda.* and *HMJ – Envio Rápido de Encomenda, Lda.* (+info, Portuguese only)

### NATIONAL NUMBERING PLAN

Information on the national number plan (NNP) was updated in April with respect to short numbers (in the code of the indirect access provider), public telephone service at a fixed location and nomad numbers (nomad VoIP services), and to private voice network, universal access, utilitarian premium rate, single tariff per call and inter-operator routing number services. Also updated was data on the services of free call for the caller, shared cost calls, virtual calling card and personal NNP number, as well as for data network access services. (+info)

### PRICE SIMULATOR

The information supporting consultations, comparisons and simulations in the Price Simulator was updated on 31 March. Note that the simulator is an ANACOM initiative in collaboration with the three mobile operators (Optimus, TMN and Vodafone); it has publicly available since 28 July 2005.

(+info, Portuguese only)

### ELECTRONIC COMMERCE – STUDY

According to the most recent survey on electronic commerce in Portugal conducted by the Association for Electronic Commerce in Portugal (ACEP) in partnership with the Netsonda firm from last 28 January to 23 February, nearly 88 percent of the respondents indicated that internet sales volume increased in the fourth quarter of 2007 compared with the same period in 2006. For 71.5 percent of the respondents this growth was equal to or less than 50 percent. (+info)

### INTERNET IN PORTUGAL (2003-2007) STUDY

The Communication Observatory (Obercom) recently released the study on “Internet in Portugal (2003-2007)”, which uses data produced by the survey on the “Network Society in Portugal” project, which has already had two editions (2003 and 2006), as well as data produced by the Oxford Internet Institute for the “Oxford Internet Survey” in 2003 and 2005. A summary of the Portuguese results is thus presented, with a view to complementing existing information on the internet situation in Portugal. In the second part of the report this leads to a comparative analysis with the British situation, taking into consideration the variables used in both studies. (+info, Portuguese only)

### EMERGENCY LINE FOR DEAF MUTES

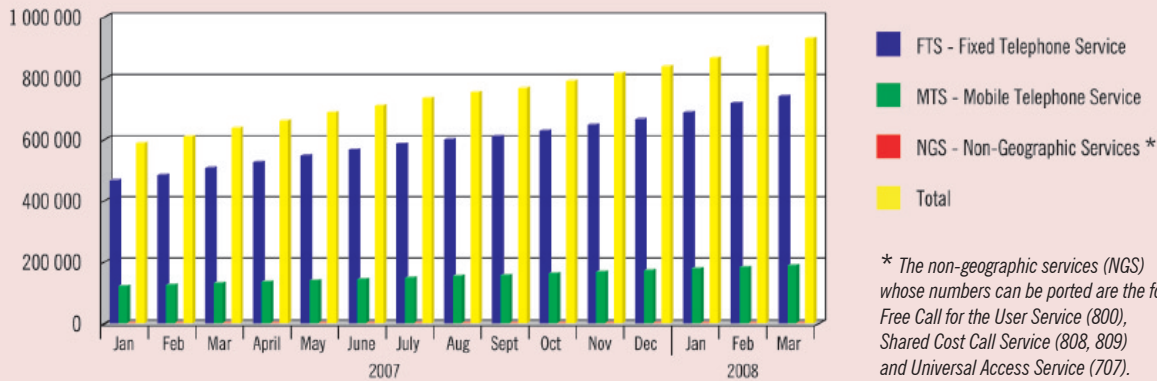
An emergency mobile telephone line service called SMS-Voice was launched last 18 March, using the number 911120000, which will enable the deaf community of the Algarve to access service by sending written messages (SMS). The regional SMS-Voice project is an initiative of the Faro District Civil Government and the Algarve Association for the Deaf (ASA). It involves the installation of a mobile telephone in the Faro District Command for Rescue Operations (CDOS), which will reroute information to the respective authority for each case. Reception of the assistance request will always be confirmed by the service operator with an SMS sent to the person requesting help. (+info)

### COMPETITION AUTHORITY INVESTIGATES TV CABO ACQUISITION

The Competition Authority (AdC) decided last 2 April to begin a thorough investigation of the merger operation involving the acquisition of exclusive control of Bragatel, Pluricanal Leiria and Pluricanal Santarém by the company TV Cabo Portugal (the current ZON), given that available information indicates that same may create or strengthen a dominant position that may significantly block effective competition in the infra-national subscription television market.

## ■ PORTED NUMBERS

	2007												2008		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FTS	466 357	483 978	506 734	524 953	547 550	565 420	585 147	599 021	609 907	626 721	646 358	664 684	686 915	718 491	740 597
MTS	121 043	125 134	130 442	134 882	139 132	143 432	148 347	153 496	156 490	162 791	167 806	172 214	178 331	183 233	188 603
NGS*	585	596	610	624	644	653	683	692	693	719	729	739	754	768	767
TOTAL	587 985	609 708	637 786	660 459	687 326	709 505	734 177	753 209	767 090	790 231	814 893	837 637	866 000	902 492	929 967



## □ CHANGES TO THE RIO 2008

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has determined in a draft decision the changes *PT Comunicações* must make to the reference inter-connection offer to be in force in 2008 (RIO 2008). The determination, dated 19 March, envisages that PTC should modify the RIO 2008 within ten working days after approval of the final decision, with respect to various aspects associated to the maximum chargeable prices to be in effect as from 12 March. The following maximum prices (without VAT) are established, among others: locally, 0.49 euro

cents for call activation, 0.38 euro cents per minute during the normal period and 0.19 euro cents during the discount period. It is also envisaged that the maximum price for activating pre-selection shall be 2.66 euros. Contributions on material associated to the services of management, operation and maintenance were also requested, bearing in mind the references in the approved draft decision, whereby ANACOM will thus consider the need and opportunity to develop a finalised draft decision on the subject. (+info)

## □ ACCESS TO THE PTC CONDUITS DATABASE

By determination dated 12 March, ANACOM approved a decision on access by RAO (reference conduit access offer) beneficiaries to the conduits database of *PT Comunicações* (PTC), which rules that the company should maintain two systems for providing information on conduits and associated infrastructure (by Extranet access and by forms with the plan arrangements in PDF format by email) for an additional period of three months (vis-à-vis the date of

1 April 2008 indicated for the said access conditions). PTC was also ordered to provide within 15 working days information and clarification about the estimated costs and pretexts used to set the price for Extranet access to the information service; the operator may, if it wants, present within the same time period a price table reworked in light of the ANACOM observations and requested clarifications. (+info)

## □ COMMUNICATIONS DISTURBANCES IN THE AZORES – ANACOM COMMUNIQUE

Following the recorded disturbances in telecommunications services between the Azores Islands and mainland Portugal, ANACOM released a note indicating that contacts have been established between this Authority, both centrally and

through the existing office in the Azores, with Portugal Telecom and the regional government with a view to starting an inquiry. (+info, Portuguese only)

## ■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Law no. 16/2008** (Series I – *Diário da República* of 1 April) – Transposes into the internal legal order Directive no. 2004/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April, concerning respect for intellectual property rights, proceeding with the third amendment of the Industrial Property Code, the seventh amendment of the Author's Rights Code and Associated Rights and the second amendment of Decree-Law no. 332/97 of 27 November.
- **Decree-Law no. 57/2008** (Series I – D.R. of 26 March) – Establishes the applicable regime for unfair company commercial practices with respect to consumers that have occurred before, during or after a commercial transaction involving a good or service, transposing into the internal legal order Directive no. 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May.
- **Rectification Declaration no. 15/2008** (Series I – D.R. of 18 March) – Corrects Administrative Rule no. 207-B/2008 of 26 February of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Communications, which sets the rates due for frequency usage for provision of digital terrestrial television broadcasting service.

(+info, Portuguese only)

### ■ DETERMINATIONS ADOPTED BY ANACOM – 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2008

Date	Decision
24.03.2008	Designation of the SICÓ FORMAÇÃO as an ITED training entity (+info, Portuguese only)
20.03.2008	Allocation of frequency usage right in the 450-470 MHz frequency band (draft regulation) (+info)
19.03.2008	Changes to the RIO 2008 (draft decision) (+info)
12.03.2008	Frequency usage rights of RTP for analogue television broadcasting (final decision) (+info)
12.03.2008	Access of RCAO beneficiaries to the PTC database (+info)
05.03.2008	Consultation on the draft regulation that establishes rules on station identification and signalisation (+info)
28.02.2008	Adhesion contract of CABO TV Madeirense for the offer of electronic communications products and services (+info, Portuguese only)
27.02.2008	Nomination of the commission for public DTT tenders (+info)
25.02.2008	VODAFONE adhesion contract to provide mobile telephone service (+info, Portuguese only)
25.02.2008	Adhesion contracts for the resale of internet access services - Cyclop Net - Informática e Telecomunicações, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
18.02.2008	TMN adhesion contract to provide Casa T Fixo service (+info, Portuguese only)
13.02.2008	Offer of new electronic communication services by RADIOMÓVEL (+info)
07.02.2008	Margin squeezing in Grupo PT broadband offers (addition) (+info)
07.02.2008	Limited consultation on spectrum auction system implementation (+info)
06.02.2008	Clara.Net Portugal adhesion contract to provide the service of resale of telephone traffic acquired from the FTS providers (+info, Portuguese only)
30.01.2008	Digital terrestrial television broadcasting (+info)
30.01.2008	Statistical information to be submitted quarterly by the subscription television service providers (+info)
24.01.2008	Limitation of frequency usage rights reserved for BWA (final decision) (+info)
23.01.2008	Study on the availability of internet access service (fixed broadband) (+info)
22.01.2008	Autorisation for TOTALMÉDIA - Entregas ao Domicílio, S.A., to provide postal services (+info, Portuguese only)
18.01.2008	BRAGATEL adhesion contract to provide electronic communication services (+info, Portuguese only)
17.01.2008	Frequency usage rights in the 450-470 MHz band (final decision) (+info)
16.01.2008	Modification of Regulation no. 46/2005 (final decision) (+info)
10.01.2008	Autorisation for EVOCARGO - Transportes e Distribuição de Mercadorias, Lda., to provide postal services (+info, Portuguese only)
03.01.2008	Frequency usage rights of RTP (analogue television broadcasting activity) (+info)

#### □ FREQUENCY USAGE RIGHTS FOR RTP ANALOGUE TV – FINAL DECISION

By determination dated 12 March, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the report from the consultation on frequency usage rights for the analogue broadcasting of *Rádio e Televisão de Portugal* (RTP) launched last 21 January. To that end it was decided to include among the conditions to

associate to the said rights ANACOM's recovery at no charge of the frequencies in question, in the wake of changes made to the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP), particularly due to the setting in legal terms of the switch-off date for analogue system television emissions. (+info)

#### □ RSS FEEDS SERVICE ON THE ANACOM WEBSITE

In order to facilitate access to updated information on its website, ANACOM has provided since 1 April the RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds service, which updates information without the need for a specific consultation. For this purpose users must have an RSS (or news) reader, which enables regular and autonomous visits to websites that have feeds and can gather news according to user indications. If the user's web browser has an RSS reader, he or she

should check that it has a news reader and can then choose what information to receive, selecting the area(s) by using the orange RSS button. If not, the user should copy the hyperlink address for the category he or she wishes to subscribe to and enter it in the RSS reader, which will begin gathering information on its own. (+info)

#### □ INTERNATIONAL ROAMING – 2008 ERG QUESTIONNAIRE

The European Regulators Group (ERG) recently approved a new specification model for data on roaming in the European Union's public mobile telephone networks. This new model for the compilation of information on mobile operators by the various national regulatory authorities in the respective countries con-

cerns the period between 1 October 2007 and 31 March 2008. Pursuant to the application of EC Regulation no. 717/2007 of 27 June, this questionnaire should be filled out and sent in electronic file to ANACOM at [dee.stats@anacom.pt](mailto:dee.stats@anacom.pt) by 28 April. (+info)

#### □ POSTAL SERVICE – QUESTIONNAIRE ON CUSTOMER NEEDS

The online version of the questionnaire by Ecorys Research and Consulting is now available and is meant to gather opinions on the needs of European postal service customers. It is framed in the study Ecorys is carrying out at

European Commission (EC) request on European postal sector developments in the 2006-2008 period. Interested parties are asked to submit responses by 30 April. (+info)

## □ EUROPEAN UNION

### DVB-H ON THE LIST OF EU STANDARDS

The European Commission (EC) has decided to add the Digital Video Broadcasting Handheld (DVB-H) standard to the list of official European Union (EU) standards, as the basis for boosting the harmonised offer of telecommunications throughout the EU. This measure represents a new step towards the creation of a single mobile television market in Europe, providing operators and industry with the necessary market scale for the massive launch of mobile television services and enabling all community citizens to have access to television service in any European country. Once this EC decision is published in the Official Journal of the EU, the member States should encourage its use; the Commission considers 2008 to be a vital year for the adoption of mobile television in the Union. (+info)

### EC COMMUNICATION ON STANDARDISATION

Standardisation can contribute to the development of a sustainable industrial policy and the potentials of innovative markets, besides strengthening the European economy. This is one of the main conclusions of the European Commission communication released on 11 March and titled "Towards an Increased Contribution from Standardisation to Innovation in Europe". The EC holds that standardisation should be adapted to meet growing international competition. It therefore proposes a number of key elements centring on support for innovation, such as the voluntary use of standards, the inclusion of new knowledge in standards and access to standardisation by all interested parties, with a view to increasing Europe's influence on global standardisation. (+info)

### NEXT INTERNET TV GENERATION

A European consortium of 21 partners comprising broadcasting organisations and research institutes has received a 19 million euro subsidy from the European Union to investigate new forms of internet TV under the P2P-Next project. This programme will research applications of the peer-to-peer (P2P) type – terminal to terminal – in the next four years, with a view to developing a system for distributing next generation internet TV based on P2P and social interaction. The platform used will be the Tribler, developed by the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands; the solutions produced will be made available in open source software on the initiative's website, so as to encourage the rise of new business models. The technology also has potential for video-on-demand (VOD) services. (+info)

### ERG – PLENARY SESSION

The Swedish city of Gothenburg served as venue last 28-29 February for the

24th plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG), which among other issues discussed the regulation of fixed and mobile communications, strengthening consumer defence and competition in the leased lines market. Regarding the regulation of fixed and mobile communications, a common position was adopted on the fixed and mobile termination rates, along with a decision to continue work on the study of mobile termination rates. As for consumers, the ERG unanimously agreed on clearer information about communications service prices and considered that various systems and mechanisms to ensure transparency should be studied. For competition in the leased lines market, the Group adopted a common position on remedies in the wholesale leased lines markets. The president of the German regulator (BNetzA), Matthias Kurth, was meanwhile elected to head the ERG in 2009. (+info)

### MARCH EUROPEAN COUNCIL – CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of the spring European Council session held in Brussels last 13-14 March under the Slovenian presidency were recently released. The following subjects involving communications stood out at the Council, on which rapid progress by the European Commission and the member States is expected: the Galileo radionavigation system; the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT); the European Research Council; the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), an initiative of the EC and the European Investment Bank; joint technological initiatives; and the use of electronic scientific infrastructures and the broadband internet. (+info)

### CONSUMER DAY

To commemorate Consumer Day, celebrated every year on 15 March, the European Union asked the member States, Norway and Iceland to hold national competitions for the year's best consumer campaign and to present the winners to the European Commission so that they could take part in the European grand finale. The first prize was subsequently awarded to Finland, for the conception of a dynamic online game aiming to inform youths about their consumption rights and responsibilities, especially in the context of purchases on the internet and by mobile phone. (+info)

### ENISA – SECURITY CERTIFICATIONS

The European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) recently published a report titled "Information Security Certifications, a Primer: products, people, processes", providing information as well as recommendations to improve information network security in Europe through widespread use of the security certification. (+info)

## ■ OJEU

- **Directive 2008/34/EC** – Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March, which amends Directive 2002/96/EC concerning electric and electronic equipment waste (EEEW), with respect to the European Commission's powers of execution. Published on 20 March.
- **Directive 2008/35/EC** – Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March, which amends Directive 2002/95/EC concerning limits on the use of certain dangerous substances in electric and electronic equipment, with respect to the EC's powers of execution. Published on 20 March.
- **Call (2008/C74/13)** – By the Commission to present proposals for indirect actions under the multi-annual community programme meant to make digital contents more accessible, usable and operable in Europe (eContentplus programme). Published on 20 March.
- **Call (2008/C67/07)** – By the Commission to present proposals under the multi-annual community programme meant to promote safer use of the internet and new online technologies (Safer Internet Plus). Published on 12 March.

(+info)

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

### **ECC WG NNA**

Amsterdam hosted last 26-27 February the 11th meeting of the working group on Numbering, Names and Addressing (WG NNA) of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), in which it was disclosed that proposed Recommendation (08)03 is under public consultation until 13 May. [\(+info\)](#)

### **ECC WG FM EFIS-MG**

The 20th meeting of the ERO Frequency Information System – Management Group (EFIS-MG) was held last 17 March in Athens. [\(+info\)](#)

### **ECC – PLENARY MEETING**

The German city of Dresden served as venue last 10-14 March for the 19th meeting of the Electronic Communications Committee; representatives of 32 administrations attended along with a number of observers. [\(+info\)](#)

### **ECC PT SE 42**

Copenhagen hosted last 4-6 March the 11th meeting of project team 42 (PT 42) of the Spectrum Engineering working group (WG SE). [\(+info\)](#)

## □ **INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)**

### **PT 2006 REVIEW**

The project team on the 2006 Review met last 10 March in Dublin. [\(+info\)](#)

### **PT SMP (subgroup)**

Vienna hosted last 14 March a meeting of the project subgroup on “Geographic Aspects of Market Analyses” belonging to the project team on Significant

Market Power (PT SMP). [\(+info\)](#)

### **PT RA**

A meeting of the project team on Regulatory Accounting (PT RA) took place in Lisbon on 28-29 February. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ **EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ETSI)**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The French city of Nice hosted last 26-28 March the 51st General Assembly of

the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), which marked its 20th anniversary. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ **UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)**

### **24<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS – CHANGE OF DATE AND PLACE**

The UPU has approved a resolution determining that the organisation’s 24th Congress will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 July to 12 August, instead

of the planned venue in Nairobi. Kenya will nevertheless continue to enjoy the status of host country and will thus remain as President of the Council of Administration during the next cycle. [\(+info\)](#)

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

### **ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Advisory and Executive Council (AEC) of the Postal Union of the Americas,

Spain and Portugal (UPAEP) met last 12-14 March in Montevideo, Uruguay. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ **EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANISATION (EUTELSAT)**

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Paris hosted last 6 March the 21st meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (Eutelsat IGO). [\(+info\)](#)

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

### **ICCP**

The 54th meeting of the OECD Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policies (ICCP) was held last 5-7 March in Paris. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ **POSTAL SECTOR – CONFERENCES**

Berlin hosted last 11-13 March the 11th conference on “European Postal Services” organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs, which focused mainly on liberalisation of the postal services market, competition and the entry of new operators, regulation, market developments and operators’ strategy.

Also regarding the postal sector, the Fifth Conference on Regulation, Competition and Universal Service in the Postal Sector, organised by the Institut d’Economie Industrielle and La Poste, was held on 13-14 March in the French city of Toulouse. Top on the agenda were competition and strategy, regulation, universal service, liberalisation of universal service and international perspectives on postal reform.

## □ **INFORMATION SOCIETY – EUROMED MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

Cairo hosted last 26-27 February the Second Euro-Mediterranean (EuroMed) Ministerial Conference, dedicated to the theme topic of “Building an Enabling Environment for the EuroMed Information Society”, held under the current Slovenian presidency of the European Union (EU), in collaboration with the European Commission (EC). The conference’s final declaration reaffirmed the commitment to EuroMed partnership (Barcelona process), considered fundamental for dialogue and co-operation among the Euro-Mediterranean countries. The development of bilateral and regional projects was also encouraged, with a view to regulatory reform of the electronic communications sector and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to share information in the region. [\(+info\)](#)

## NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

### **BELGIUM – Institut Belge des Services Postaux et des Telecommunications (IBPT)**

- The regulator has set the number subseries to be used to supply paid services by means of electronic communication networks, as per royal decree dated 10 October 2006 concerning the compliance conditions for games offered on television programmes that use telephone numbers from the Belgian national numbering plan. (+info, French only)

### **BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)**

- The regulator has approved the standard to certify and type-approve the Brazilian digital terrestrial television (DTT) system's transmitters and repeaters in the wake of the public consultation conducted from 24 October to 12 November 2007. (+info, Portuguese only)
- Mobile telephone service (MTS) recorded a total of 1,264,902 new adhesions in February, raising to 124.1 million the number of MTS subscribers, for growth of 1.03 percent over January. About 100 million of all accesses (80.9 percent) are prepaid and the remaining 24 million (19.1 percent) correspond to postpaid services. In the last 12 months Brazil gained 22,935,770 new subscribers, for MTS growth of 22.67 percent. (+info, Portuguese only)

### **CAPE VERDE – Agência Nacional das Comunicações (ANAC)**

- Statistics for 2007 on the public electronic communication service markets have been released. At the end of last year there were 71,764 fixed telephone accesses, for growth of 0.26 percent over 2006. Mobile telephony in turn recorded a total of 152,212 subscribers at the end of 2007, or 39.83 percent more than in 2006. Note also the 111 percent annual growth in ADSL connections to 3,833 subscribers. (+info, Portuguese only)

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

- The regulator has authorised incumbent postal operator La Poste to increase the Colissimo postal rates "with the reservation of the existence of a strong complementary offer" that allows, as in other European countries, the sending of small objects such as CDs or DVDs "for a price equal to or near the price charged to send a letter". (+info, French only)
- It was announced that the electronic communications operators must proceed by 1 May to pay the annual fees for activities exercised in 2007. (+info, French only)
- France counted 15.5 million broadband internet accesses on 31 December 2007, of which 95 percent were connections by ADSL technology (14.8 million). (+info, French only)

### **GERMANY – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)**

- The head of the German regulator, Matthias Kurth, has been elected chairman of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) and European Regulators Group (ERG); in 2009 he will assume the position currently occupied by Daniel Pataki of Hungary. (+info)

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

- The annual report on the quality of service performance by the incumbent postal operator An Post in 2007 has been published. (+info)
- Likewise released was a report on the quality of postal services in Ireland, which provides an overview of the sector between 1 January and 31 December 2007. (+info)

- The regulator has placed in public consultation until 16 April a proposal concerning the new price alternative operators must pay for shared access to unbundled local loops. (+info)
- The fourth quarter 2007 statistics have been published, according to which there were 5 million mobile telephone users. (+info)

### **SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE – Autoridade Geral de Regulação (AGER)**

- The regulator recently created its internet website, with the goal of heightening awareness about the sector and ongoing projects. Standing out among AGER's diverse activities are preparations for the public tender to allocate a second mobile service (GSM) licence and establishment of the legal framework to apply licensing tariffs for telecommunications stations and services, as well as procedures for network interconnection, which are already in the phase of publication in the official gazette (Diário da República). Also under preparation for approval are the following documents: National Frequency Allocation Table (NFAT) and National Numbering Plan (NNP) for the fixed and mobile networks. (+info, Portuguese only)

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

- The regulator has approved the incumbent operator Telefónica's reference offer for the wholesale supply of broadband access (OIBA), which establishes major reductions in the prices alternative operators are charged. The biggest cut is applied to high access speeds, in some modes reaching 69 percent. Telefónica must also include in the OIBA all the retail modes it currently commercialises, including the fastest ones (10 and 20 Mbps), both regionally (GigADSL) and nationally (ADSL-IP). (+info, Spanish only)
- The CMT and Red.es (public business entity for information society issues) have reached agreement to jointly produce and manage a database on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Spanish homes. (+info, Spanish only)
- January 2008 recorded 122,834 new broadband connection subscriptions, raising total accesses to 8.15 million. The recorded value shows strong growth of 19.9 percent over the same month in 2007 and represents a penetration rate of 18 accesses for each 100 inhabitants. (+info, Portuguese only)

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

- The regulator has published tables with the fees the operators must pay in financial year 2008/2009. These figures, along with the payments for managing British spectrum, finance Ofcom, which estimates that its budget should stand at 133.7 million pounds (nearly 170 million euros) in the financial year in question. (+info)
- Digital television already reached 22 million homes in the United Kingdom at the end of December 2007. The growth of digital TV has been driven by digital terrestrial television (Freeview), which recorded its best quarter ever, with sales of 4 million devices. (+info)
- The regulator confirmed the intention to permit the use of mobile phones on aircraft should the operators so desire and with the approval of the respective authorities in the United Kingdom and European Union. (+info)
- New incentives for Openreach to provide a high quality of services to communications operators have been disclosed, especially in terms of supplies, technical support, repairs and maintenance. (+info)

## ■ ANACOM SEMINARS – NEXT EVENT ON 22 APRIL

Lisbon hosts on 22 April at 3:30 p.m. the next gathering in the ANACOM Seminars series, which will present the master's dissertation on "Study of the Impact of Non-Linear Distortion on the Management of Radio Spectrum", by José Pedro Borrego of the Universidade de Aveiro, a collaborator with the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). Participation in the seminar is free, though subject to prior registration via the email address [seminarios@anacom.pt](mailto:seminarios@anacom.pt). (+info)

The study on "Bandwidth Driven Growth: policy essentials for next generation development", by Mark Jamison, Director of the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida (USA), has meanwhile been posted online; it was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> ANACOM seminar, held last 14 March in Lisbon. This work, including the respective pretexts and conclusions, is the exclusive responsibility of the authors and does not commit ANACOM or indicate any position maintained by same. (+info)

## □ ANACOM RECEIVES NEARLY 25,000 COMPLAINTS IN 2007

ANACOM received a total volume of 25,474 solicitations in writing in 2007, of which 24,745 were complaints, 575 information requests, 79 petitions, 16 suggestions and 59 communications of another nature, which were sent to this Authority by users of electronic communications and postal services and by the general public. The total volume of complaints rose by 43 percent compared to 2006, largely due to the constant rise in the volume of pages from complaints books received per the terms of Decree-Law no. 156/2005 of 15 September. As in previous years, most complaints concerned situations involving the electronic communications sector (74 percent) and postal sector (25 percent). In electronic communications the highest number of complaints per 1,000

customers concerned voice over internet (VoIP) service, despite this service's low volume of complaints (217 out of a total of 24,745). This was followed by internet access service, fixed telephone service (FTS) and cable television distribution service. In the postal sector the biggest number of complaints concerned correspondence service (about half the total number of complaints). As for solicitations received by the ANACOM public attendance services, some 7,644 were recorded, of which 7,272 were complaints and the remaining 372 information requests. Most of the solicitations were presented over the phone and concerned the electronic communications sector; FTS was the area with the most complaints. (+info)

## □ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – 13<sup>TH</sup> EC REPORT

The European Union's electronic communications sector grew by 1.9 percent in 2007. Investment likewise rose for the fifth consecutive year to stand at more than 50 billion euros. In overall terms, communications contributed nearly 12 percent to the growth of the European economy's productivity. These are some conclusions of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Commission (EC) report on the European single market for electronic communications, published on 19 March, which provides an overview of the sector's situation in 2007. Regarding Portugal, it highlights

the increased broadband penetration rate, which rose to 16.1 percent. The Commission also stresses the active implementation of remedies by ANACOM, which specifically led to more market competition and correspondingly more unbundled loops to provide broadband services. It also notes that the separation of the historic operator is likely to help competition and recognises this Authority's actions concerning radio spectrum and gradual achievement of the technological neutrality principle. (+info)

## ■ IN APRIL 2008

### MEETINGS

#### CEPT

Conference (16-17)

#### ECC

- WG SE PT 42 (9-11)

#### CERP

- PT UPU (2)

- WG Economic Issues (15-16)

#### WG ITU

- PT WTS08 (29-30)

#### EU

RSPG – Workshop (1)

Radio Spectrum Committee (2-3)

RSPG (9)

R&TTE Association (24)

ECANB (25)

#### ITU

Excellence Centre (4)

#### AICEP

Assembly and Conference (28-30)

#### GENELEC

Technical Committee 106x (2)

#### EMERG (21-22)

### EVENTS

- **4<sup>th</sup> EURO-NGI Conference on Next Generation Internet Networks**, Krakow (Poland), 28-30

- **Conference "Review of the European Framework for Electronic Communications"**, Bonn (Germany), 24-25

- **6<sup>th</sup> Eastern European eGovernment Days**, Prague (Czech Republic), 23-25

- **14<sup>th</sup> CEPT Conference "Technology and Regulation"**, Strasbourg (France), 16-17

- **ITU Symposium on ICTs and Environmental Change**, Kyoto (Japan), 15-16

- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual IEEE International Symposium on Consumer Electronics**, Vilamoura (Algarve), 14-16

- **Seventh International Conference on Networking**, Cancun (Mexico), 13-18

- **Seminar "Strengthening EU-Latin América Links in ICT Research: towards a joint roadmap"**, São Paulo (Brazil), 11

(+info, Portuguese only)