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□ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – CHANGES TO ADHESION CONTRACTS APPROVED

By determination dated 11 December 2008 the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the final decision concerning modification of the guidelines on the minimum content to include in contracts to provide electronic communications services. These changes involve both the designated “loyalty periods” and the rules currently applied to essential public services (Law no. 12/2008 of 26 February). It was decided that the electronic communications service suppliers should adjust to the new system and submit to ANACOM for approval the respective adhesion contracts within 20 working days. Those com-

panies must also send to the subscribers, within 30 working days, a written communication informing the latter of the contract changes associated to the legislation on essential public services, namely concerning invoicing. In the case of subscribers to prepaid rates who have not provided identification information to the service providers, said communication may be replaced by the sending of an SMS that indicates the page of the provider’s website which contains the corresponding information. Within the following 30 working days ANACOM must be informed of the compliance with those procedures. (+info)

□ CAPACITY-BASED INTERCONNECTION

ANACOM approved by determination dated 23 December 2008 the draft decision concerning the supply of capacity-based interconnection, meanwhile submitted to the prior hearing of interested parties. This (draft) decision implies maintaining the theoretical model for determining the prices associated to capacity-based interconnection, besides gradually updating the traffic minutes routed per month by each 2 Mbps capacity elementary unit. Note that in its determination dated 16 May 2008, on the conditions to be valid in the 2008 RIO,

ANACOM held that the data transmitted by PT Comunicações (PTC) needed to be presented in more detail, and that other relevant information should be provided; it was not deemed appropriate to abandon the established theoretical model. This Authority also considered that very high increases in the prices associated to the capacity-based interconnection mode, as proposed by PTC (78 percent), could not be introduced without conducting a more thorough analysis of the question. (+info)

□ ANACOM ORGANISES OECD WORKSHOP – 19-20 FEBRUARY

ANACOM is organising an Expert Workshop on Measuring Mobile/Wireless Service Data, to be held this coming 19-20 February at the Culturgest Small Auditorium in Lisbon. Participation in this initiative of the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is free, though subject to prior registration by filling out the electronic form provided on the ANACOM website. (+info)

■ PUBLIC CONSULTATION

USAGE RIGHTS IN THE 2.6 GHz BAND

ANACOM decided last 11 December to launch a public consultation on usage rights in the 2500-2690 MHz frequency band (also known as the 2.6 GHz band). Interested parties are asked to submit their comments by 17 February 2009, in electronic format to consulta2600mhz@anacom.pt, or on paper to ANACOM headquarters at Av. José Malhoa, no. 12, 1099-017 Lisboa. This public consultation bears in mind national commitments in the community framework and aims to assess market interest in Portugal vis-à-vis the 2.6 GHz band’s availability for the operation of publicly accessible electronic communications services. A number of issues are thus raised with a view to examining the market in various areas, such as usage, technical operating conditions and the spectrum allocation model. The opinion of the various players involved (manufacturers, operators, users and others) will make a significant contribution to the decision on the future plan that will govern allocation and use of the 2500-2690 MHz frequency band. (+info)

NEWS

ANACOM SEMINAR – STUDY AND PRESENTATION

The paper titled “Identification and Characterisation of the Modulation of Digital Radio Frequency Signals”, by Manuel Carlos Baptista, along with the respective presentation at the 18th gathering in the ANACOM Seminars series, held last 11 December in Lisbon, have been posted online. This study, including the respective pretexts and conclusions, is the exclusive responsibility of the author and does not commit or otherwise convey any position of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). (+info, Portuguese only)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES

Upon verification that Vodafone Portugal had charged nearly two and a half times the maximum price allowed for calls to the 707 numbering range originating in fixed networks, and that it had failed to provide to the general public, either on its website or in its customer support services, correct information about those costs, it was fined a single amount of 25,000 euros. The company did not agree with this decision and judicially contested same on 27 November 2008.

(+info, Portuguese only)

As it was proved that MAILGLOBE – *Transportes de Correio Urgente* did not submit statistical information concerning the fourth quarter of 2005 and the third quarter of 2006, nor data on the first and second quarters of 2006, as required by ANACOM, a decision was made to apply a single fine of 1,000 euros for the practice, in competition, of three offences comprising negligence of a merely social order, one of them continuous. The company paid the said fine on 24 November 2008. (+info, Portuguese only)

The company PASSO RÁPIDO – *Recolha e Entrega de Documentos* has been punished with a reprimand for the negligent practice of an offence of a merely social order – the company failed to submit statistical information concerning the fourth quarter of 2005. As same did not file an appeal to contest this decision within the legally stipulated time period, the case obtained the force of *res judicata* on 4 December 2008. (+info, Portuguese only)

Upon verification that OPTION 1 – *Serviços de Telecomunicações* had failed to comply with the obligation to submit to ANACOM the response to the Annual Electronic Communications Questionnaire (AECQ) – Report 2007 within the legal deadline, the company was fined 5,000 euros. The company was notified of the decision and voluntarily paid the fine on 22 December 2008.

(+info, Portuguese only)

Also for failing to send ANACOM the response to the AECQ – Report 2007, the companies PHONE ONE – *Serviços de Telecomunicações* and TELEMILÉNIO – *Telecomunicações, Sociedade Unipessoal* were reprimanded on 21 October. As neither of the companies filed an appeal to contest the respective decisions within the legal deadline, same obtained the force of *res judicata* on 4 December 2008. (+info, Portuguese only)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS – DEVELOPMENTS

By determination dated 13 November 2008, a decision was made to open administrative proceedings with a view to cancelling the registration of the certifier Salusteca – *Electrónica*. ANACOM also decided last 19 November to launch similar proceedings regarding the certifiers Certilinhas and Guedes Fernandes – *Construções e Técnicas*. (+info, Portuguese only)

Administrative proceedings began last 11 December to cancel the registration of the certifier Simoclima, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)

The orders dated 3 and 22 December 2008 and last 5 January approved the respective registrations for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings of the certifiers Tecnospie, SA; ZON TV Cabo Portugal; and Projac.

(+info, Portuguese only)

ANACOM also approved last 2 January the registration of ATEC – *Associação de Formação para a Indústria* as a telecommunications infrastructures in buildings trainer. (+info, Portuguese only)

AUDIT OF MOBILE TELEPHONE STATISTICS

By determination dated last 19 November, ANACOM decided to conduct an audit of the statistical information concerning mobile telephone service (MTS) for the periods 2005, 2006, 2007 and the first quarter of 2008. The audit specifically seeks to verify that the criteria for calculating subscriber numbers used by the MTS operators conform with the definition now in force, and to ensure that the ANACOM determinations and recommendations in the wake of the previous audits concerning the years 2002-2004 are being followed. (+info)

ANACOM PUBLIC SPEECH

The presentation (in English) by ANACOM director José Ferrari Careto given at the ninth annual ECTA Regulatory Conference, held last 26-28 November in Brussels, is now available. (+info)

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – DECLARATIONS ISSUED

ANACOM has issued declarations for the provision of electronic communications services to the following entities: CGPT (public payphones, virtual calling cards, and telephone voice and internet traffic resale services); STV (telephone voice traffic resale, short data traffic (SMS) resale, internet access and voice over internet, as well as the supply of a cable distribution network); Ultra-serve (public payphones); T.M.I. (private virtual networks); Easytalk – *Comunicações* (virtual calling cards); Nacacomunik (nomad originated voice over internet (VoIP)); and Magic Laser (virtual calling cards). (+info, Portuguese only)

ANACOM PUBLIC TENDER

The public tender for acquisition of a study on vertical functional separation in the electronic communications sector, whose launch ANACOM approved in a determination dated 11 December 2008, ran until 7 January. The bids were opened in a public ceremony on 8 January. (+info, Portuguese only)

GUARDA CYBER-CENTRE – REGIONAL TV PROJECT

The Guarda Cyber-centre and Localvisão TV signed last 19 December a protocol with a view to starting a television channel in IPTV (regular web TV emissions), meant to involve 14 channels with regional content for the 14 counties in the district of Guarda. Localvisão TV is a nationwide regional television project that encourages programming that reaches all the country's counties. The project's aims are to promote the region in the country and around the world, and to establish a meeting point for emigrant communities. (+info)

NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS – PROTOCOLS

The Portuguese government signed last 7 January a set of protocols with four telecommunications operators (ONI, PT, Sonaecom and Zon), the Telecommunications Business Association (ACIST-AET) and the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC), concerning the implementation of next generation networks, which should reach 1.5 million users in 2009.

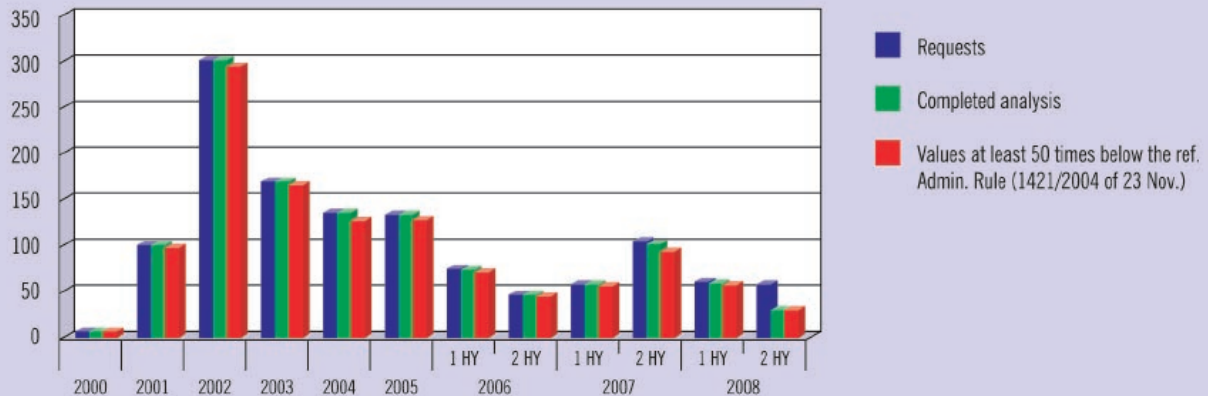
(+info, Portuguese only)

OBBERCOM RELEASES 4TH REPORT ON DIGITAL TV

OberCom (Communications Observatory) has published the latest Flash Report of a set of four on the current television situation in Portugal, vis-à-vis the introduction of digital TV. This fourth and last study evaluates Portuguese public opinion and expectations regarding digital TV, and concludes that the Portuguese have yet to form an opinion on the subject, at a time when the services are already available on the market and the start of digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasts is scheduled for 2009. (+info)

EVALUATION OF NON-IONISING RADIATION

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		2007		2008	
							1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half
Requests	7	101	302	170	136	134	75	47	58	105	61	58
Analyses completed	7	101	302	170	136	134	74	47	58	102	59	30
Values at least 50 times below the reference Administrative Rule (1421/2004 of 23 Nov.)	7	98	295	166	127	128	71	45	56	94	57	30



ANACOM AN OBSERVER IN GALILEO SYSTEM TENDER

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) will have an institutional presence as an independent observer in the limited tender for the installation of a GSS (Galileo Sensor Station) conducted by the European Space Agency and in which the Madeira Autonomous Region has been asked to participate. The initiative will enable a skills centre for global satellite navigation systems

to be developed in that island region, and comprises the installation of a GESS (Galileo Experimental Sensor Station) antenna meant for the activities of research, technological development and innovation – a pillar of that strategy. The project will be co-ordinated by Madeira Tecnopólo – *Pólo Científico e Tecnológico da Madeira*. (+info)

IDENTIFICATION AND SIGNALISATION OF RADIO STATIONS – REGULATION APPROVED

ANACOM approved by determination dated 17 December 2008 the regulation that sets the rules applying to the identification and signalisation of radiocommunication stations, and also the report from the second consultation concerning the respective draft regulation. As this is a technical regulation project, liable to fall under Decree-Law no. 58/2000 of 18 April (which establishes the administrative procedures governing the exchange of information in the area of

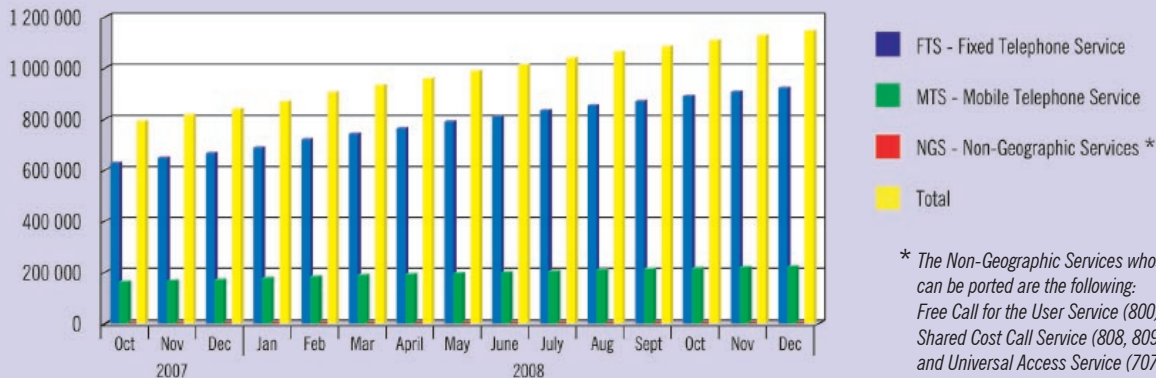
technical standards and regulations), ANACOM notified the European Commission (EC) of the regulation, via the Portuguese Quality Institute; its publication and entrance into force is thus suspended until the EC makes a pronouncement or three months have passed since the notification was received by that body. (+info)

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Resolution of Parliament no. 66/2008** (Series I- D.R. of 30 December 2008) – Approves the agreement between the Republic of Portugal and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) concerning the holding, organisation and financing of the 4th ITU World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF-09) and associated gatherings, signed in Geneva on 17 October 2008.
- **Presidential Decree no. 161/2008** (Series I – D.R. of 30 December 2008) – Ratifies the agreement between the Republic of Portugal and the ITU concerning the holding, organisation and financing of WTPF-09.
- **Administrative Rule no. 1544/2008** (Series I – D.R. of 31 December 2008) – Sets at 1 million euros the amount ANACOM must transfer to the ERC – Media Regulatory Board (Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social).
- **Administrative Rule no. 1473-A/2008** (Series I, Supplement – D.R. of 17 December 2008) – Changes the amount of the fee referred to in section 2, “Public Radiocommunications”; section 2.1, “Land Mobile Service”; and section 2.1.1, “UHF Bands (decimetric waves)” of the annex to Administrative Rule no. 386/2006 of 19 April, to be in force in the second half of 2008.
- **Administrative Rule no. 1473-B/2008** (Series I, Supplement – D.R. of 17 December 2008) – Approves the fees for the issuance of declarations proving rights to exercise the activity of supplier of electronic communications networks and services, to allocate numbers and frequency usage rights, to use radio spectrum, and other fees owed to ANACOM.
- **Administrative Rule no. 1415/2008** (Series I – D.R. of 5 December 2008) – Determines the application of ANACOM’s net results from financial year 2007.
- **Order no. 31218/2008** (Series II – D.R. of 4 December 2008) – Holding of WTPF-09.

PORTED NUMBERS

	2007			2008											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FTS	626 721	646 358	664 684	686 915	718 491	740 597	762 153	788 388	807 578	830 621	850 459	868 029	887 877	903 509	918 953
MTS	162 791	167 806	172 214	178 331	183 233	188 603	191 838	196 583	200 708	205 443	209 774	212 406	215 924	219 497	223 335
NGS*	719	729	739	754	768	767	773	779	803	816	823	852	865	876	885
TOTAL	790 231	814 893	837 637	866 000	902 492	929 967	954 764	985 750	1 009 089	1 036 880	1 061 056	1 081 287	1 104 666	1 123 882	1 143 173



QUALITY OF SERVICE OF THE CTT – 2005 REPORT APPROVED

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved last 17 December the report containing results of the verification of the quality of service levels provided by the CTT (Portuguese postal service) in 2005. The decision is framed under the Convention on the Quality of Universal Postal Service of 20

January 2004, and also derives from the Basic Law for postal services, which assigns ANACOM the duty of ensuring, independently of the universal service provider (CTT), control of the quality of service levels effectively rendered; the results must be set out in a report published at least once a year. (+info)

FRANKING MACHINES – DECISION ON DISCOUNTS

With regard to the proposed price table for universal service submitted by the CTT (Portuguese postal service) and meant to take force on 1 January 2009, which this Authority decided not to oppose, per determination dated last 26

November, ANACOM decided by determination dated last 17 December also not to oppose the entrance into force of the discounts associated to the use of franking machines, as presented by the CTT last 28 November. (+info)

POSTAL SERVICE – STATISTICAL INDICATORS

ANACOM approved last 4 December the draft decision concerning the statistical indicators the postal service providers must submit to this Authority every quarter – subject to the prior hearing of interested parties within 25 working days. A decision was also made to revoke the set of indicators applicable to postal services operated on a competitive basis, from the moment the new indicators

begin to be reported by the providers. This decision also specifically concerns the new requests and obligations to gather information at international level, as well as the need to combine the information on postal services provided on a competitive basis with information on reserved services, with a view to comparing same. (+info)

2008 NFAP APPROVED

By determination dated 17 December 2008, ANACOM approved the new version of the National Frequency Allocation Plan (2008 NFAP) to be in force in 2009, along with the report from the respective public consultation. The 2008 NFAP updates the version now in force (2007 NFAP), specifically regarding the infor-

mation on usage, with reference to 30 November 2008, and the frequency bands reserved and to make available in 2009, as well as information on spectrum uses exempt from radio licensing. (+info)

ANACOM WEBSITE PROVIDES STATISTICAL MONITORING

The ANACOM website has a new function that provides simple information to users about the most visited pages, the most used tags (taxonomy) and the types of content most viewed. Each option shows by default the statistical data for the last five days, although users may freely set the time interval they wish to

consult by means of a calendar function. Users can also determine the number of results per page, from a minimum of five to a maximum of 100, except for the consultation of statistical data concerning the most viewed content types, given that their number is less than 20. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION

EMERGENCY – 112 AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE EU

The European Commission (EC) has confirmed that the European single emergency number 112 is now available in Bulgaria, as is the caller location function, now operational in all member States of the European Union (EU). The EC had filed infringement proceedings against Bulgaria in October 2007 for defective implementation of 112, and on 18 September 2008 considered filing suit with the European Court of Justice, a decision postponed for three months to give Bulgaria time to complete its implementation plan. Also in September 2008, Romania was given the same three months to make operational its caller location services, which according to the Romanian authorities was completed at the end of November. The new information from all the EU member States concerning the operation of 112 will be published by the Commission on the respective website on 11 February 2009, European 112 day, which the EC is organising along with the European Parliament. (+info)

MOBILE TV – EC PUBLISHES GUIDELINES

The European Commission published last 10 December a Communication on the "Legal Framework for Mobile Television Networks and Services: best practice for authorisation – the EU model", which sets out the main guidelines to stimulate the offer of mobile TV services in Europe. The document identifies various orientations as good practices, such as, for example, the need for any new mobile television authorisation system under national law should imply the involvement of different players in the value chain, while at the same time ensuring compliance with community and national competition rules. In another reference from its guidelines, the EC considers that public consultations of citizens and all interested parties should be systematically organised, parallel to commercial trials specifically regarding opportunities deriving from the introduction of mobile TV, use of the digital dividend for mobile TV services and financing models. (+info)

NEW "SAFER INTERNET" PROGRAMME

The new Safer Internet programme was adopted last 9 November and will have a budget of 55 million euros, distributed as follows: 48 percent for public awareness, 34 percent for the fight against illegal content and harmful online conduct, 10 percent to promote a safer online environment and 8 percent to establish a knowledge base. The programme now approved, which follows the previous programme for 2005-2008, results from a European Commission proposal dated 28 February 2008, subsequently backed by the European Parliament on 23 October 2008. The Safer Internet programme's main goal is to pro-

tect children in an increasingly sophisticated electronic world, through knowledge and training for safe use of online services, specifically social networks, blogs, instant messages and mobile telephone communications. (+info)

ERG PLENARY MEETING AND IRG GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Budapest hosted last 4-5 December the 27th plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG), in which the Group welcomed the progress on revising the regulatory framework for electronic communications under the first reading before the European Parliament and Council of Ministers. However, despite positive expectations regarding the latest developments, the ERG still underscored a number of issues that need further consideration, namely financing and participation of the new European Telecommunications Regulators Group (GRET). The gathering also discussed progress on the introduction of next generation networks and issued a declaration on the subject, elected Matthias Kurth of BNetzA to the post of ERG president in 2009, and approved the working programme for the same year.

The fourth General Assembly of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) was held in parallel, and saw the members of its directorship elected. Besides Matthias Kurth of BNetzA, to serve as president in 2009, the IRG Council will count the following members: Daniel Pataki of NHH, John Doherty of ComReg (to be president in 2010), Chris Fonteijn of OPTA and Roberto Viola of AGCOM. (+info)

INTERNET IN THE EU – EUROSTAT STATISTICS

The percentage of European Union (EU) homes with internet access increased from 49 to 60 percent in the last three years, parallel to broadband usage, which rose from 30 percent in 2006 to 48 percent in 2008. In Portugal internet access grew from 35 percent in 2006 to 46 percent in 2008, while broadband use rose from 24 to 39 percent during the same period. This data is included in the latest report on internet access and use in the 27 EU member States, Norway, Iceland and Croatia produced by the European Union's Statistics Office (Eurostat), based on surveys of individuals and homes with at least one person, with ages between 16 and 74 years old. The Eurostat study also shows that one third of respondents (32 percent) used the internet to make travel and hotel reservations, with higher incidence in countries such as Finland (58 percent), Luxembourg and the Netherlands (50 percent) or Denmark (47 percent). Regarding Portugal, the Eurostat numbers indicate that 22 percent of respondents used the internet to seek information about health, 20 percent for online reading of newspapers or magazines, and 18 percent to interact with public entities. (+info)

■ OJEU

Decision no. 1351/2008/EC – Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008, which establishes a multiannual community programme to protect children who use the internet and other communication technologies. Published on 24 December 2008.

Decision no. C(2008) 7871 – Of the Commission of 9 December 2008, which modifies the annexes of Directive 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning procedures used to award public contracts, with respect to the lists of adjudicating entities and public powers. Published on 24 December 2008.

(+info)

□ CEPT (EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS) MEETINGS ERO/ETO JOINT COUNCIL

The European Radiocommunication Office (ERO) and the European Telecommunications Office (ETO) held a joint meeting of their boards of directors last 9-10 December in Copenhagen. (+info)

□ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of the Independent Regulators Group was held last 4 December in Budapest, at the same time as the ERG (EU) plenary meeting. (+info)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ITU-R/STUDY GROUP 5 – WP 5A

The second meeting in the 2008-2011 study cycle of working party 5A (WP 5A) of ITU-R Study Group 5 (SG 5), on land mobile service except for IMT, amateur and amateur by satellite, was held from 28 October to 6 November 2008 in Geneva. (+info)

ITU-R/STUDY GROUP 5 – WP 5B

Geneva also hosted from last 29 October to 7 November the second meeting

in the 2008-2011 cycle of ITU-R SG5 working party 5B (WP 5B), on maritime mobile service, including the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS), aeronautic mobile service and radio-determination service. (+info)

EXCELLENCE CENTRE IN AFRICA

The standing committee of the Excellence Centre for the Portuguese and Spanish speaking African countries met last 4-5 December in Maputo, Mozambique. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

COCOM

The 33rd meeting of the Communications Committee (COCOM) took place last 10 December in Brussels. (+info)

RSPG

The 17th meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was held last 19

November in Brussels, and served to confirm the new president, Daniel Pataki of the Hungarian National Communications Authority (NHH). (+info)

ERG

Budapest hosted last 4-5 December a plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG), held at the same time as the IRG General Assembly. (+info)

□ UNITED NATIONS (UN)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

The Indian city of Hyderabad served as venue last 3-6 December for the third session of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a body set up in the wake of

decisions made during the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). (+info)

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

ICCP

The 56th meeting of the Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) Committee was held last 11-12 December in Paris. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANISATION (EUTELSAT)

SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY

Applications for the position of Executive Secretary of the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (EUTELSAT) may be presented until 28 February. The candidates, who must be subject to prior scrutiny by their respective countries, must possess a university diploma in law, economics, finance, telecommunications engineering, management or public administration or similar areas, as well as working experience in an international environment, preferably in

an intergovernmental organisation. Among other requirements, they should be familiar with the satellite communications market and be well informed about the subject of electronic communications regulation, including European space policy. Applications should be sent to: The Chairman of the Assembly of Parties EUTELSAT IGO, Tour Maine-Montparnasse, 33, Avenue du Maine, F-75755 PARIS CEDEX 15, France. (+info)

□ OFCOM (UNITED KINGDOM) AND ARCEP (FRANCE) SEMINARS

A seminar on regulatory strategies for active accesses in next generation access networks (NGAs) was held at the London premises of the United Kingdom's Office of Communications (Ofcom) last 5 December. The participants discussed subjects such as regulatory approaches for NGAs in the European context, adjustment of the imposition of the multicast obligation, ethernet active line access (EALA) and the importance of standardisation and, lastly, adjustment of the imposition of active/passive remedies in the scope of markets 4 and 5 of the Commission recommendation.

Paris meanwhile served as venue last 18-19 December for a workshop on regu-

latory aspects of access to conduits, held at the offices of the *Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes* (ARCEP). Case studies were presented by the CMT (Spain), ANACOM (Portugal) and ARCEP itself, concerning the regulation of access to conduits of the incumbent operators in the respective countries. Also discussed were aspects regarding the viability of access to existing conduits to install fibre optics networks, operational aspects deriving from the implementation of reference conduit access offers (procedures, transmission of information – database, how to deal with the lack of space, access price, etc.).

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM – Institut Belge des Services Postaux et des Télécommunications (IBPT)

• The regulator has placed in public consultation until 19 January its draft decision concerning the methodology for the division of responsibilities for the database of the social component of universal telecommunications service, as well as other specifically calculated tasks, in the years 2006 and 2007.

(+info, French only)

BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)

• Anatel plans to conduct by 30 January an operation to ascertain whether operators are complying with the new rules for telephone assistance exchanges set by Decree 6.523 of 31 July 2008. (+info, Portuguese only)

• The regulator has posted online the studies that precede publication of the public consultation with proposed modifications of the concession contracts for fixed telephony, envisaged for the first half of 2009. (+info, Portuguese only)

• With 2,256,779 new authorisations in November 2008, Brazil surpassed the number of 147 million mobile telephone service (MTS) subscribers. Some 119.5 million (81.29 percent) of total accesses are prepaid and 27.5 million (18.71 percent) correspond to postpaid modes. Between January and November 2008 new MTS subscriptions grew by 59 percent compared to the same period in 2007, raising to 76.33 percent the service's penetration rate, which in November 2007 stood at 61.2 percent. (+info, Portuguese only)

SPAIN – Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)

• The regulator has published the final decision on the regulation to apply in the next two years to markets 3 (call termination in individual public telephone networks at a fixed location) and 7 (voice call termination in individual mobile networks) of Recommendation 2007/879/EC. (+info, Spanish only)

• Following the analysis of market 2 (call origination in the public telephone network at a fixed location) of Recommendation 2007/879/EC, the CMT ruled that Telefónica should make available to the alternative operators a wholesale voice service by means of internet protocol (VoIP), with prices oriented to costs.

(+info, Spanish only)

• Fixed telephony portability rose 58.7 percent in October 2008 compared to the same month in 2007, for a total of 106,548 operator switches. As for mobile portability, some 338,361 numbers were exchanged, 5.9 percent more than in October 2007. Broadband grew by 14.2 percent in October 2008 compared to the same period in 2007, and totals 8.8 million connections.

(+info, Spanish only)

• The regulator has decided to lower by 19.9 percent the wholesale cost of unbundled access to the local loop, which now costs 7.79 euros per month.

(+info, Spanish only)

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

• Jean-Claude Mallet has been appointed the new president of ARCEP, replacing Paul Champsaur, whose six-year term has ended. (+info, French only)

• The French prime minister has approved the national plan for reusing frequencies freed up by the end of analogue broadcasting (the so-called digital dividend), as well as the process of shutting down the analogue system and switching to digital. (+info, French only)

• The regulator has released a report containing the first evaluation of the

involvement of local institutions in the electronic communications sector, to be submitted to the French parliament and government. (+info, French only)

• ARCEP has published the minutes of the seminar on "Investment, Innovation and Competition: towards ultra wide band", held in Paris last 13 October.

(+info, French only)

• The signatories of the Charter on access by the handicapped to mobile telephone service have reviewed the year 2008 and indicated prospects for 2009.

(+info, French only)

The NETHERLANDS – Onafhankelijke Post en Telecommunicatie Autoriteit (OPTA)

• The regulator has published additional research conducted by the Analysys Mason consultancy firm regarding the fibre optics business in the Netherlands, following on the study done by the company in July 2008, which was used as a contribution for the broadband and leased lines market analysis. (+info)

IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)

• The regulator has published the study, commissioned to TERA Consultants, on the methodology for charging the supply of local loop access (line sharing between the incumbent, Eircom, and alternative operators). (+info)

• A public consultation has been launched on the price for shared local loop access, and will run until 25 February. (+info)

• ComReg has launched a public consultation, until 20 February, on the mechanism for setting the price to apply when determining the premium to pay when switching from a wholesale Eircom service to another that does not imply any change in the customer/operator relationship (intra-migration). (+info)

• The regulator has placed in public consultation until 13 February its proposed regulation to apply to the market for the wholesale supply of (physical) access to network infrastructure (including shared or entirely unbundled access) at a fixed location – market 4 of Recommendation 2007/879/EC. (+info)

• The third quarter 2008 report indicates that broadband, including mobile accesses, grew by 6.7 percent in the quarter, for a total of 1.125 million subscribers. At the end of September 2008 the broadband penetration rate was 25.9 percent (including mobile broadband), a figure which drops to 19.7 percent when mobile accesses are not counted. (+info)

UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)

• The regulator has released the list of all cases it investigated per its duties to monitor and enforce rules meant to prevent consumer annoyance caused by silent and abandoned calls. (+info)

• The proposed revision of the prices per line the incumbent operator British Telecom can charge when activating pre-selection was placed in public consultation on 16 January. (+info)

• The regulator has published the guidelines along with its understanding, to be followed by communications suppliers, of how the law should be applied to extra charges consumers may have to pay on top of their the usual bill. (+info)

• The review of Ofcom's media literacy programme from 2004 to 2008 has been published. (+info)

SWITZERLAND – Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM)

• The Federal Council has renewed the mandate of the Interdepartmental Committee for the Information Society until the end of 2011. (+info)

□ NEW COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR RATES

The new price table for the communication sector took force on 1 January 2009, as per Administrative Rule no. 1473-B/2008 of 17 December, which sets the fees due to the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) as national regulatory authority for issuing declarations confirming the right to conduct the activity of supplier of electronic communications networks and services, allocate and reserve frequency usage rights and numbers, and use radio spectrum and numbers. This administrative rule also includes the amounts of ANACOM's fees for the use of amateur radio and personal radio/citizen's band services, instal-

lation of telecommunications infrastructures in buildings, provision of audiotext services and the exercise of postal activity. The new rates are based, simply put, on the following principles: orientation to costs and the need to ensure best use of resources (frequencies and numbers). The new model also allows for a transition period of two and five years – the latter for frequency usage by radio, audio and television broadcasting operators – with a view to ensuring the phased application of the new fees. (+info)

□ NUMBERING – FINAL DECISION ON RIGHTS TRANSFERRED TO SONAECOM

By determination dated 29 December 2008 ANACOM approved the final decision on the conditions associated to the number usage rights transferred from Optimus to Novis Telecom, in the wake of the authorisation decided on 24 October 2007, and on the transfer of number usage rights assigned to Telemilénio to Sonaecom's title. In sum, a decision was made that some numbering resources

should be returned to ANACOM; Sonaecom has been given deadlines of one or two years, according to the number blocs in question. Also approved was the report from the prior hearing concerning the draft decision (determination of 22 December 2008) originating the measures announced by this Authority. (+info)

□ ANACOM ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT – 5TH AUCTION

Under the "National Electronic Procurement Programme", ANACOM conducted last 9 December the fifth auction of electronic purchases for office material – stationery articles. Savings of 8,800 euros were achieved, i.e., 30.5 percent less than the opening price, which was 28,810.56 euros. The chosen auction type was the descending English, in which the lowest bid wins. Six previously chosen specialist companies took part, and 111 articles for consumption in 2009 were auctioned; the last bid was for the amount of 20,010.56 euros. The first such

auction was held on 8 July 2004, likewise for office materials – stationery articles and reprography. Some 118 articles were auctioned at the time, with an opening price of 43,376 euros and a last bid amount of 30,126 euros, for savings of 13,250 euros (30.55 percent). The auctions were next held on 13 December 2005, 7 December 2006 and 6 December 2007. Further auctions have yet to be scheduled, though plans call for the project to be extended to other areas during the course of 2009. (+info)

□ ANACOM SEMINARS – NEXT EVENT ON 26 JANUARY

Lisbon hosts this coming 26 January at 3:30 p.m. the next gathering in the ANACOM Seminars series. The event will include presentation of the paper on "Hidden Items in Per Second Billing", by Pedro Pita Barros and Steffen Heinz

Hoernig from the Faculty of Economics of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Participation in the seminar is free of charge, though subject to prior registration by sending an email to seminarios@anacom.pt. (+info)

□ CZECH REPUBLIC ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL

The Czech Republic assumed on 1 January the presidency of the European Union Council. At sector level, noteworthy in the Czech presidency's agenda is the intention to achieve during its six month term a compromise between the Council and the European Parliament regarding the telecommunications package,

in order to ensure timely completion of the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications and approval of the proposed revision of the GSM Directive and the roaming regulation. (+info)

■ IN JANUARY 2009

MEETINGS

CEPT

- Assembly
- WG ITU (22-23)
- WG ITU/ PT WTDC (27)

ECC

- CPG PTA (27-29)
- WG RA (27-30)
- WG SE (26-30)
- WG SE PT 42 (20-22)
- WG FM PT 45 (20-21)

IRG

- PT REM (Core) (9)

EU

- RSPG
- WG PUS (15)

ITU

- WTPF (group of experts) (26-27)
- Development Sector (ITU-T)
- TDAG (28-30)

IMSO

- Advisory Committee (27-29)

EVENTS

- IT & Internet Security Conference

Lisbon, 29

- BETT – The Educational Technology Source

London, 14-15

- IEEE Consumer Communications and Networking Conference

Las Vegas, 10-13