

P 2 : NATIONAL NEWS

P 3 : DIGITAL DIVIDEND – ANACOM WORKSHOP ON 16 APRIL

P 3 : ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURES

P 5 : EUROPEAN UNION

P 8 : INTERNATIONAL ROAMING QUESTIONNAIRE

P 8 : ACCESS AND INTERCONNECTION – RIO 2009 APPROVED

■ PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

ADJUSTMENT OF THE NNP TO MESSAGE-BASED VALUE ADDED SERVICES

By determination dated 1 April, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided to launch a public consultation on the draft decision concerning adjustment of the National Numbering Plan (NNP) to value added services based on message sending, due to the modification of Decree-Law no. 177/99 of 21 May determined by Decree-Law no. 63/2009 of 10 March, which established new rules for such services. Interested parties are asked to submit comments by 30 April, preferably by e-mail to consulta-sva-mensagens@anacom.pt. At stake is the extension of ANACOM's action with respect to audiotext to information society services provided by messages supported by electronic communication services, especially in the areas of activity registration, allocation of number use rights and supervision. (+info)

MODIFICATION OF THE QUALITY OF SERVICE REGULATION

ANACOM approved last 25 March the draft modification of the Quality of Service Regulation (Regulation no. 46/2005 of 14 June) applicable to companies that provide the service of access to the public telephone network at a fixed location and telephone service publicly accessible at a fixed location. Interested parties are asked to submit comments by 30 May, preferably by e-mail to reg.qualid.servico@anacom.pt. The specific aim of this draft modification is to ensure that the Regulation effectively provides users with access to information about service quality that is up-to-date, clear and comparable, thus enabling the choice of a provider that best suits their needs. (+info)

DIGITAL DIVIDEND

ANACOM decided last 25 March to launch a public consultation on the digital dividend which will run until 13 May. All interested parties are asked to submit their comments, preferably by e-mail, to consulta.dividendo@anacom.pt. The Authority aims to collect contributions from various market players (operators, manufacturers and users, among others) vis-à-vis the potentials of this spectrum resource, so as to take into account different perspectives in an eventual future decision on the digital dividend. The consultation document concentrates on the following topics: the digital dividend's expected impact; co-ordination or harmonisation of that use at European level; its distribution in various services/applications; the possibility of adopting technological and service neutrality criteria; and the procedures for making available/allocating spectrum and the respective calendar. (+info)

FEE SETTLEMENT AND COLLECTION REGULATION

The draft Regulation on the launch, settlement and collection of fees due to this Authority was likewise approved on 25 March and is under consultation until 18 March. Comments should be sent, preferably by e-mail, to regulamento_taxas@anacom.pt. This draft Regulation derives from the fact that this matter is not encompassed by Administrative Rule no. 1473-B/2008 of 17 December, which is limited to setting the amounts of the fees, the period of respective settlement and, in the specific case of fees due for the activity of supplier of publicly accessible electronic communication networks and services, the sending to ANACOM of a statement indicating the amount of relevant profits directly related to the practice of the activity obtained in the previous calendar year. (+info)

NFAP 2008 – ANNEX 6

Also by determination dated 25 March ANACOM approved the draft revision of the National Frequency Allocation Plan now in force (NFAP 2008), including a new annex 6 which contains the frequencies and respective usage conditions for the various amateur categories, as well as the statute on amateur services and satellite services. Given the substantial market impact from the introduction of annex 6 of the 2008 NFAP, this annex will be under consultation until 29 April. Comments should be submitted, preferably by e-mail, to qnaf.anexo6@anacom.pt. (+info)

NEWS

PORTABILITY – DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST

In the wake of the request by PT *Comunicações*, TMN and PT Prime to suspend the effectiveness of article 1 of Regulation no. 87/2009 of 18 February (new Portability Regulation), the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) declared last 4 March that it would be seriously harmful to the public interest to postpone application of the provisions in the said article. This Authority considered that to postpone or suspend the entrance into force of those rules would be unacceptable, holding that the effective inability to fulfil the obligations in question within the set deadlines was not demonstrated, nor were any negative consequences for the market in general or consumers in particular. (+info)

PUBLIC PAYPHONE SERVICE – PRICE TABLE

By determination dated 11 March, ANACOM decided not to oppose the proposed price table for the public payphones of fixed telephone service submitted by PT *Comunicações* (PTC) on 11 February, notwithstanding the outstanding transparency obligations. The price table in question sets for calls made on the mainland a price per pulse of 0.0583 euros and an initial cost of two pulses for fixed-fixed calls (local, national and VoIP) and of seven pulses for fixed-mobile calls. In the autonomous island regions the initial price in pulses is maintained, but the cost per pulse is set at 0.0614 euros. This PTC price table has also been submitted to the ANACOM Advisory Council, as legally required. (+info)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES

As it was verified that FELCOURIER – *Distribuição de Encomendas Nacional e Internacional*, Lda., had failed to comply with the obligation to send to ANACOM within the legal deadline statistical information for the third quarter of 2006 and the annual postal services questionnaire for 2007, a single fine of 550 euros was imposed for the combined practice of two administrative offences. As the company did not judicially contest this decision, nor voluntarily pay the respective fine, the case was relegated to the Lisbon Criminal Court of First Instance last 18 February for execution. (+info, Portuguese only)

As FOXIL – *Gestão de Transportes*, Lda., was verified to have not sent to ANACOM the statistical information on the fourth quarter of 2005 and the first, second and third quarters of 2006, it was fined 800 euros. As the company did not judicially contest the decision nor voluntarily pay the fine within the set deadline, the case was relegated last 18 March to the Lisbon Criminal Court of First Instance for execution. (+info, Portuguese only)

MOBILE SERVICES – STATISTICAL INDICATORS

ANACOM approved in a determination dated 25 March the draft decision on the new statistical indicators that mobile service providers must send to this Authority every quarter, which was submitted to the prior hearing of interested parties. A decision was also made to revoke the current set of mobile service indicators from the moment when the new indicators begin to be reported by the providers. This decision is namely due to new international solicitations which ANACOM must respond to, and to technical and commercial innovations that have taken place since the formulas now in force were approved and those anticipated for the near future, and with the advantages of integrating information gathered on mobile services in various ambits. It also results from operators' solicitations and suggestions vis-à-vis roaming traffic details and network indicators. These indicators do not cover those services which from the regulatory standpoint are classified as telephone service provided at a fixed location (for example, offers supported by GSM/UMTS frequencies) and whose statistics are reported in their own specific questionnaires. (+info)

PRESENTATION OF 20TH ANACOM SEMINAR AVAILABLE

The presentation on “The Work of the Communications Consumer Panel” by Roger Darlington, a founding member of the Communications Consumer Panel (previously the Ofcom Consumer Panel) in the United Kingdom, has been posted online. It was given during the 20th ANACOM Seminar, held last 27 March in Lisbon. The presentation in question is the exclusive responsibility of the author, and neither binds ANACOM nor conveys any position thereof. (+info)

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – DECLARATIONS ISSUED

By order dated 28 February, ANACOM issued the declaration allowing the company PORTEUPHONY – *Comunicações, Unipessoal*, Lda., to offer a telephone service publicly accessible at a fixed location. (+info)

INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS – DEVELOPMENTS

By determination dated 18 February, ANACOM approved the draft decision cancelling the registration of the telecommunications infrastructures in buildings certifier Amorlux – *Projectos e Instalações Eléctricas*, Lda. The provisional registration suspension measure is maintained until the date of the final decision. On 26 February a decision was made to maintain the registration of the certifier Televis – *Telecomunicações Electricidade Unipessoal*, Lda.; the provisional registration suspension measure was consequently lifted.

(+info, Portuguese only)

USE OF GEOGRAPHIC NUMBERS – CLARIFICATION

Following the reception of a request to provide explanations about the use of geographic numbering in private multi-site networks, specifically in scenarios involving a switch to IP technologies with fewer interfaces with the public network, ANACOM understood that it was incumbent to explain that besides the geographic numbers corresponding to those interfaces – network termination points (NTPs) – other geographic numbers may be used. But this is only so long as the public network operator offering the access assures for each of them the conditions for using those geographic numbers. Nomad-use numbering may be employed as an alternative, as it also allows more flexible personal mobility.

(+info)

ANACOM PUBLIC SPEECH

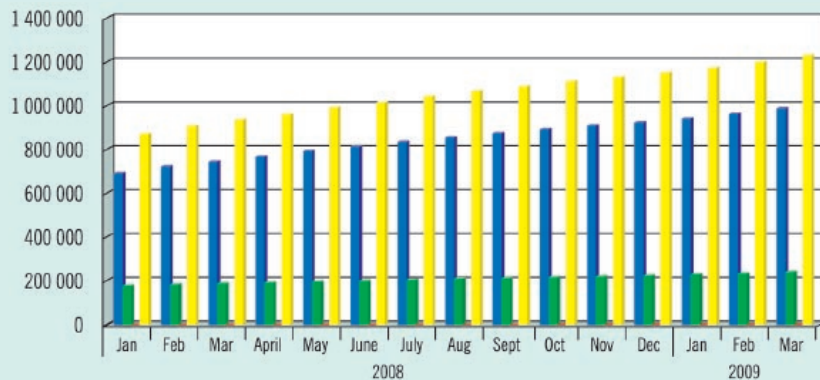
ANACOM took part in the first “Postal Regulatory Dialogue” organised by the US Postal Regulatory Commission with a view to encouraging more information sharing and good practices among postal regulators. Other participants besides ANACOM in this initiative held last 4-5 March in Washington were the regulators from China, Ecuador and Japan, as well as representatives from the European Commission. The event was an opportunity for the agencies represented to provide information about their postal reforms and the challenges they face as postal regulators. (+info)

b-on ARRIVES IN CAPE VERDE

Professors, researchers and students from the University of Cape Verde will henceforth be able to access the Online Knowledge Library known as “b-on”, which has been functioning in Portugal since 2004 under the responsibility of the UMIC-Knowledge Society Agency, with technical and operational management by the Foundation for National Scientific Computing (FCCN). The access to “b-on” results from a co-operation protocol signed last 13 March by ANACOM, the Cape Verdean university, UMIC and the FCCN. (+info)

■ PORTED NUMBERS

	2008												2009		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FTS	686 915	718 491	740 597	762 153	788 388	807 578	830 621	850 459	868 029	887 877	903 509	918 953	934 473	956 626	981 964
MTS	178 331	183 233	188 603	191 838	196 583	200 708	205 443	209 774	212 406	215 924	219 497	223 335	229 272	234 011	240 394
NGS*	754	768	767	773	779	803	816	823	852	865	876	885	888	896	907
TOTAL	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	1 164 633	1 191 533	1 223 265



■ FTS - Fixed Telephone Service
 ■ MTS - Mobile Telephone Service
 ■ NGS - Non-Geographic Services *
 ■ Total

* The Non-Geographic Services (NGS) whose numbers can be ported are the following: Free Call for the Caller Service (800), Shared Costs Call Service (808, 809) and Universal Access Service (707).

□ ANACOM WORKSHOP ON THE DIGITAL DIVIDEND – 16 APRIL

Lisbon's Belém Cultural Centre serves as venue on 16 April for a workshop on the theme topic of "The Digital Dividend: market challenges and public interest objectives". The event organised by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) is to be attended by national (including representatives from the

mobile operators and from the three main television networks) and international experts, who will present their views about the subject in question. Participation in the workshop is free of charge, although interested parties must register previously by filling out the electronic form posted on the ANACOM website. (+info)

□ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURES – NEW LEGAL SYSTEM

The Council of Ministers approved last 26 March the decree-law that sets out the legal system governing the construction, access and installation of electronic communications networks and infrastructures. The respective communiqué reports the creation of a centralised information system to register infrastructures, the determination of the legal system applicable to telecommunications infrastructures in housing estates, developments and condominiums (ITUR),

and modification of the system for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings. Also approved was a proposed law authorising the government to legislate on the open access system for infrastructures able to house electronic communications networks, the municipal fee local authorities may charge for use of the public or private domain, and modification of the system for contesting ANACOM acts envisaged in Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February. (+info)

■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 26/2009** (Series I – *Diário da República* of 17 March) – Establishes the base methodology for the switch to the digital terrestrial television broadcasting system and the termination date for terrestrial analogue television system emissions.
- **Decree-Law no. 63/2009** (Series I – D.R. of 10 March) – Proceeds with the third amendment of Decree-Law no. 175/99 of 21 May, which regulates audiotext service advertising, and the second amendment of Decree-Law no. 177/99 of 21 May, which regulates the system governing the access and practice of the activity of audiotext services provider, extending the system governing those services to value added services based on message sending.
- **Decree-Law no. 62/2009** (Series I – D.R. of 10 March) – Proceeds with the first amendment of Decree-Law no. 7/2004 of 7 January, which transposes into the national legal order Directive no. 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June, concerning certain legal aspects of information society services, particularly electronic commerce, in the internal market.
- **Decree-Law no. 53/2009** (Series I – D.R. of 2 March) – Determines the rules applicable to amateur radiocommunications and amateur satellite services, as well as the system for granting certificates and special authorisations to amateurs and for licensing commonly used stations.
- **Rectification Declaration no. 667/2009** (Series II/Part C – D.R. of 3 March) – Rectifies Order no. 28305-A/2008 of 4 November, which recognises the FCM – *Fundação para as Comunicações Móveis*, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, no. 214, supplement, of 4 November 2008.

□ **NEW POSTAL STATISTICS INDICATORS APPROVED**

By determination dated 11 March, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) defined the set of statistical items that the postal service providers must quarterly submit to this Authority. The aim of this decision is to “gather traffic, financial and postal network indicators that specifically enable the development and use of postal networks and services to be gauged, as well as the

relative position of the providers in the liberalised area and their evolution over time”. ANACOM set a 30-day deadline for implementing these indicators; the providers must regularly submit the statistical information in question beginning in the (calendar) quarter after the one in which the implementation period ends. (+info)

□ **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE RECORDS – FINAL DECISION**

By determination dated 18 March, ANACOM approved the conclusions from the public consultation on the development of a system to register electronic communications infrastructures. This Authority considers that the intent of said consultation has been met; the associated analysis and contributions received were taken into account in another consultation by this Authority on the regulatory approach to next generation networks, which ended last February. Likewise

borne in mind were the contents of Council of Ministers Resolution no. 120/2008 of 30 July and the public consultation on the draft decree-law that will determine the system applied to the construction, access and installation of electronic communications infrastructures, launched by the government last 6 March. Under the scope of this system it will be ANACOM’s responsibility to conceive, manage and maintain a centralised information system. (+info)

□ **PT GROUP WHOLESALE OFFERS – PUBLICATION OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS APPROVED**

ANACOM resolved last 11 March to approve the PT Group’s publication of the performance levels for the quality of services (QoS) of the reference unbundling offer (RUO), the leased lines reference offer (LLRO), the reference conduits access offer (RCAO), the PT ADSL Network wholesale offer and the subscriber line resale offer (SLRO). The information addressed to end users should be posted on the PT Group’s website, with very visible and easily identifiable indication, while that addressed to beneficiaries of the offers should be provided over an extranet or, in the case of duly grounded impossibility, by e-mail. ANACOM also provided explanations about a number of aspects, specifically about the meaning of some QoS indicators and the scope and extent of the information

provided to end users. It was also made clear that “each company/internal department of The PT Group which does not use the wholesale offers concerned, but which provide services encompassed by said offer or are provided with services according to said offers, information shall be published on the respective levels of service, using the indicators set out in the reference offers”. ANACOM also accepted that the PT Group can begin providing the information in question as from October 2009, and not July 2009, for those indicators currently sent to this Authority. For the other indicators the information should be published one quarter later. (+info)

□ **EXEMPTION FROM SENDING STATISTICAL DATA ON LEASED LINES – UNDERSTANDING**

By determination dated 25 March, ANACOM understood as fulfilled, by the operators’ delivery of the information officially requested on 10 March, the obligation per terms of the determination dated 2 November 2006 to send informa-

tion for 2008 concerning the statistical data leased lines providers must send to the regulator for effects of defining relevant markets and assessing significant market power. (+info)

□ **CO-OPERATION WITH SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE**

The second training action on “Universal Access Strategies” was held in São Tomé last 23-26 March – an initiative carried out per the 2009 training plan of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Excellence Centre for the

Portuguese and Spanish speaking African countries. The event followed the “Regulation in Telecommunications” workshop held last 16-20 February in Maputo, Mozambique. (+info)

□ **TERRESTRIAL ANALOGUE TV EMISSIONS END ON 26 APRIL 2012**

Council of Ministers (CM) Resolution no. 26/2009 took force on 18 March. It establishes the basic methodology for the switch to the digital terrestrial television broadcasting system and sets 26 April 2012 as the deadline for the end of terrestrial analogue system television emissions. It will be up to ANACOM, per its spectrum management powers, to publish the detailed plan for the end

of emissions by each emitting or relay station. The CM also decided to set up a group to monitor the transition to digital television (known as GAM-TD), chaired by an ANACOM representative, which will join the efforts of the players most directly involved in the analogue/digital switchover. (+info)

□ **EUROPEAN CONSUMER DAY**

The 10th anniversary of European Consumer Day was celebrated last 10 March – a highlight was the annual conference on the subject organised by the European Economic and Social Committee in collaboration with the European Commission and the Czech EU Presidency. At national level, noteworthy were the decisions by the 11 March Council of Ministers, which approved five instruments on consumer protection, with the following goals: enhanced consumer rights vis-à-vis essential public services by call centres, specifically forbidding waiting periods on line of more than 60 seconds and making compulsory

the availability of a service cancellation option; creation of a telematic network to process and manage complaints made by consumers in complaint books; reinforced security for children in play and recreation spaces; definition of rules for consumer credit contracts between 200 euros and 75,000 euros, which among others stipulates a system for maximum rates; and the modification of savings/retirement products, eliminating or capping at 0.5 percent the cost of product transfers to other financial entities. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – 14TH REPORT

Portugal has once again become the European Union (EU) member State with the highest number of subscribers who use an alternative operator for direct access, besides having some of the lowest prices for unbundled access in the entire EU, indicates the 14th report on implementation of the electronic communications regulatory package. This European Commission (EC) report published last 25 March provides an overview of the European telecommunications market and the situation of competition in the Union's 27 countries. According to this document, broadband mobile accesses attained a penetration rate of 12.1 per 100 inhabitants in January 2009, placing Portugal among the countries with the highest penetration rates. The Commission also notes that wholesale mobile termination rates are below the Union average. It also highlights the positive effect of the Portugal Telecom spin-off, especially in the broadband market, and the growth of mobile service penetration in Portugal (14.63 percent) in the last year – in October 2008 the penetration rate was 136.9 per 100 inhabitants, well above the European average (118.9 per 100 inhabitants). The EC also considers as positive aspects the prices for voice mobile services, which are within the European average, the steps taken vis-à-vis new access networks and the notification of markets 4 and 5. (+info)

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURES

The European Commission (EC) disclosed last 30 March its strategy for protecting critical information infrastructures (CII) in the European Union (EU) space, by publication of the Communication on "Protecting Europe from Large Scale Cyber-Attacks and Disruptions: enhancing preparedness, security and resilience". The Commission identifies therein five pillars upon which its action plan is based: preparation and prevention – ensure preparedness at all levels; detection and response – provision of adequate primary warning mechanisms; mitigation and recovery – strengthened EU CII defence mechanisms; international co-operation – international promotion of EU priorities; and criteria for the ICT sector – support future implementation of the Directive on identifying and designating European critical infrastructures (ECI). The EC also indicated that these action lines are conducted in parallel and per what is set out in the European Programme on Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP), in which one of the key factors is the aforementioned ECI Directive, as well as the Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network (CIWIN). (+info)

COUNCIL OF TELECOMS MINISTERS

A Council of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Ministers was held last 30-31 March in Brussels, where the participants achieved a consensus on the need to adopt implementation measures for access to new technologies and to enhance efforts with respect to ICT research and development. The ministers particularly agreed that public and private investment in both infrastructures and personnel training should be strengthened, and presented a number of measures that are currently under way or planned for the respective States. The Council urged the European Commission (EC) to defend e-inclusion in gene-

ral and e-accessibility in particular as a central concern, so as to encourage the Council to keep it a priority in European information society policy to follow after the i2010 initiative and in the next European action plan for special needs. Portugal also informed the Council about the holding of the World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF-09) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) this coming 22-24 April in Lisbon. (+info)

VIVIANE REDING WANTS ONE-DAY OPERATOR CHANGE

In a video message released last 23 March, the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, urged the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to be ambitious in the last stretch of negotiations on the new rules to enhance competition and consumer rights in the single market for communications services, namely in the market for mobile telephony and internet access. Viviane Reding defended the possibility that all Europeans should be able to switch mobile or fixed telephone operators in one single day, as already occurs in Ireland and Malta, versus 38 days in Poland or 15 days in Italy. (+info)

IRG AND ERG (I/ERG) MEETINGS – DEVELOPMENTS

In the scope of the General Assembly of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) and the plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG) held last 26-27 February in Berlin, a Declaration was adopted on the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications. It calls on European institutions to reach a rapid and effective agreement on the telecoms package during its second reading in the European Parliament. In the declaration, the two groups consider that to strengthen the ERG it is of utmost importance for it to be fully integrated in the regulatory framework, and that its role and responsibilities should be determined in a regulation and reflected in the respective operational provisions of the directives. The I/ERG also reiterated the importance of upholding the current regulatory balance, which provides sufficient flexibility for the national regulatory authorities to adopt solutions that overcome the competition problems identified in the national market analyses. Lastly, these groups' support for the policy agreement obtained by the Council in November 2008 is stressed. (+info)

Also in the scope of the plenary meeting, the ERG published the reports approved in session and concerning the promotion of tariff transparency, competition impacts and regulatory aspects of fixed-mobile convergence, and the discussion on applying margin squeezing tests to bundled offers. The group also covered the subject of next generation access networks in Europe, considering that the current regulatory framework supplies the necessary instruments for encouraging investment in the new networks while at the same time maintaining the level and balance of the competition. The ERG also decided to adjust its 2009 working plan, pushing back the work on tariff transparency until the provisions of the new universal service directive are adopted as a co-decision, besides approving the 2008 Annual Report, which will be presented to the Commission and to the European Parliament, as well as to the Council. (+info)

□ LISBON HOSTS WTPF ON 22-24 APRIL

The fourth World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF-09) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will be held this 22-24 April in Lisbon, at the invitation of the Portuguese government. The venue for the event in the Lisbon Congress Centre; it will be preceded by a meeting of the Group of Experts

that has been preparing the Forum and by a strategy debate on information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the context of the current economic crisis, both to be held at the same location on 20 and 21 April. (+info)

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

EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY

The CEPT Assembly held an extraordinary session last 19-20 March in Copenhagen. Following the approval of Recommendations 14 and 15, the working group on ITU Affairs (WG TIU) became a committee and was renamed the Committee for ITU Policy (Com-ITU). The new tripartite co-chairmanship began operating at the end of this Assembly, and is composed of the heads of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) and Com-ITU. Besides the co-chairmanship, members may also convene assemblies in the future if 60 percent of the States so desire. However, the Assembly will henceforth be of a residual nature and only meet in case of need. (+info)

ASSEMBLY/WG ITU (Com-ITU) – PT1, PT2 AND PT3

The WG ITU project teams 1, 2 and 3 charged with preparing for the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, to be held in 2010, met consecutively last 16-18 March in Copenhagen. (+info)

ASSEMBLY/WG ITU (Com-ITU) – PT WTDC-10

Geneva hosted last 26-27 March the second meeting of the project team of the new Com-ITU charged with preparing for the next ITU World Telecommunications Development Conference (PT WTDC-10). (+info)

CERP – PT POLICY

The project team (PT) on Policy of the European Committee for Postal Regulation

met last 2 March in Oslo. (+info)

CERP – PT POSTAL SERVICE CONSUMERS

The first meeting of the CERP project team devoted to matters of interest for postal service consumers met last 5 March in the German city of Bonn. (+info)

ECC CPG PTC

The fourth meeting of CPG PTC, the group preparing European positions for the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11), which functions within the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), was held last 16-20 March in Bucharest. (+info)

ECC TG4

Prague served as venue last 3-6 March for the 12th meeting of ECC TG4. (+info)

ECC WG FM PT 46

The fourth meeting of project team 46 of the Frequency Management working group (WG FM) was held last 4-5 March in Nicosia. (+info)

CONFERENCE ON CR AND SDR

The first CEPT conference on cognitive radio (CR) and software defined radio (SDR) was held last 12-13 January on the premises of the German regulator BNetzA in Mainz, Germany. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

RSPG – DIGITAL DIVIDEND SUBGROUP

The RSPG working subgroup on the digital dividend held its second meeting last 18 March in Dublin. (+info)

CONTACT NETWORK OF SPAM AUTHORITIES

The 14th meeting of the Contact Network of Spam Authorities (CNSA), comprising

national authorities involved in the fight against unsolicited communications (spam), was held last 18 February in Brussels. (+info)

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

The second meeting of the European Commission's Group of Experts on Consumer Complaints was held last 12 March, also in Brussels. (+info)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ITU-R/STUDY GROUP 1 – WP1A AND WP1B

The second meetings of working parties 1A and 1B (WP1A and WP1B) since the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) were held from 25 February to 4 March in the South Korean capital Seoul. (+info)

AFRICA EXCELLENCE CENTRE – TRAINING ACTION

The second training action of the ITU Excellence Centre for the Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries in Africa planned for 2009 was held last 23-26

March in the capital of São Tomé and Príncipe. The programme content centred on Universal Access Strategies. (+info)

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE AFRICA EXCELLENCE CENTRE

Lisbon hosted last 12-13 March a meeting between donor countries and beneficiary countries of the ITU Excellence Centre for the Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries in Africa. (+info)

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

ICCP

The 57th meeting of the Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) Committee was held last 11-13 March in Paris. (+info)

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

WG TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

The working group (WG) on Technical Co-operation held a meeting last 5-6 March in Panama, chaired by Costa Rica. (+info)

WG FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The working group on Future Development (WG FD) held a meeting last 16 March in Lisbon, chaired by Portugal. (+info)

□ SATELLITE ORGANISATIONS

EUTELSAT – CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Paris hosted last 10-11 March a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (EUTELSAT IGO) – its last meeting before the upcoming May ordinary session of the Assembly of Parties. (+info)

ITSO – ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 10th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (ITSO) was held last 10-11 March in Washington, attended by representatives from 15 AC parties and five other parties. (+info)

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)

- The regulator wants to continue requiring Deutsche Telecom (DT) to allow provider pre-selection and call-by-call in its telephone network, according to a recently released regulation proposal. **(+info)**
- BNetzA published in March a decision allowing DT's competitors to develop and supply broadband connections to the so-called white spots, rural areas that have inadequate or no internet access service coverage. **(+info)**

AUSTRALIA – Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

- The regulator recently published a report titled "Trends in Communications and Media Technology, Applications and Use", providing an overview of trends and developments affecting the information and communications technology sector, specifically with respect to infrastructures, applications, and social and economic aspects, with a view to anticipating developments over the next five to ten years. **(+info)**

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

- The decision by IBPT to introduce UMTS services in the 880-915 MHz and 925-960 MHz bands has been published. **(+info, French only)**

BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)

- The regulator has launched four public consultations on fixed telephone service (FTS). Public consultation (PC) 11 of 27 March concerns the five-year review of concession contracts for FTS provided on a public basis from 2011 to 2015. PC 13 of 30 March places under discussion the General Plan of Targets for Universal FTS, also for the 2011-2015 period. PC 14 of 30 March submits to public appreciation a proposal concerning the General Plan of Quality Targets for FTS. Comments regarding these three consultations may be submitted until 1 June. As for PC 12 of 30 March, it contains a proposal to revise the calculation rule for the Telecommunications Services Index (TSI) applied when readjusting and updating the figures associated to the provision of telecommunications services, about which comments may be submitted until 4 May.

(+info, Portuguese only)

- Anatel has placed in public consultation until 27 April the proposal for additional allocation of the 12.2-12.7 GHz and 17.3-17.7 GHz radio frequency sub-bands to be used on a primary basis by telecommunications services that use space capacity (via satellite). **(+info, Portuguese only)**
- At the end of February the number of mobile telephone service (MTS) subscribers stood at 152.3 million, of whom 124.3 million (81.59 percent) used prepaid modes and about 28 million (18.41 percent) postpaid modes.

(+info, Portuguese only)

CANADA – Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

- The regulator has launched a public consultation until 30 April to gather opinions and ideas on internet traffic management practices. **(+info)**

SPAIN – Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)

- The setting of a cap on the price variation for access to the public telephone network at a fixed location for residential and non-residential clients of Telefónica (incumbent operator) during financial year 2010 has been placed under public consultation. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- Fixed telephony portability accounted for 113,671 numbers in February – a record in the use of this function. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- Mobile telephone service (MTS) gained 229,903 more subscribers in January, raising to 51.12 million the total number of MTS users, which grew by 3.1 percent over the same month in 2008. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- The regulator calculates at 75.34 million euros the cost of universal telephone service in 2006, which is provided by Telefónica. **(+info, Spanish only)**

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

- During a meeting to go over the development of fibre optic networks in France, specifically with regard to infrastructure sharing, a number of Arcep documents were published, outstanding among which is the report on the development of fibre optic networks in the first phase of the experimentation and assessment work conducted per the regulator's orientations. **(+info, French only)**

IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)

- The regulator has published a report on the performance levels of Eircom in the provision of universal telephone service (US) in the third quarter of 2008, with respect to compliance with legally imposed objectives and to other US indicators not covered by legal obligations. In May 2009 ComReg will publish the report concerning the fourth quarter of 2008. **(+info)**

- ComReg has decided to free up additional spectrum for the operation of broadband services in fixed wireless access local area (FWALA) networks in part of the 3.6-3.8 GHz band, as well as the E and J channels in the 3.5 GHz band, for an available total of 128 MHz. This decision increases by nearly 70 percent the spectrum available for broadband via FWALA. **(+info)**

UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)

- Nearly half of British homes are choosing to subscribe to television services that supply them with new channels, with satellite and cable options driving the growth of digital TV, the most recent "Digital Progress Report" reveals. The document refers to the fourth quarter of 2008 and indicates that 17.7 million houses have access to digital terrestrial television (DTT). The paid satellite TV services of BSkyB reached 9.2 million homes (United Kingdom and Ireland), while cable TV gained 44,500 customers during the quarter, for a total of 3.6 million houses. **(+info)**

- The regulator has announced that for the fifth consecutive year it was able to reduce its operating budget, which will be 136.8 million pounds (nearly 151 million euros) in the 2009/2010 period. **(+info)**

□ ITU INDEX ON DEVELOPMENT OF ICTs

Sweden leads the new index on the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) recently released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). According to the study, which covers the period from 2002 to 2007 in 154 countries, the Swedes are followed by South Korea, Denmark, the Netherlands, Iceland and Norway. These are in turn followed by the high

performance countries in Europe, Asia and North America. The less developed countries remain at the bottom end of the index with limited access to ICT infrastructure, including fixed and mobile telephone service, internet and broadband. **(+info)**

INTERNATIONAL ROAMING QUESTIONNAIRE – RESPONSES BY 28 APRIL

The European Regulators Group (ERG) has approved the most recent specification model for data on roaming in the European Union's public mobile telephone networks, covering the period from 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009. The questionnaire should be filled out and sent to ANACOM by 28 April, to the e-mail address dee.stats@anacom.pt. The model in question is the fourth of a set of questionnaires approved by the ERG for the national regulatory authorities to gather information from mobile operators. (+info)

2009 RIO APPROVED

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* approved by determination dated 11 March the reference interconnection offer (RIO) of PT *Comunicações* (PTC) which will be in force in 2009. This decision sets at 3.18 euros the activation of pre-selection and maintains the prices for call origination and termination currently in effect per the 2008 RIO. Regarding number portability, a decision was also made to keep the current prices. The 2009 RIO likewise maintains

the 2008 price caps for the service of invoicing, coverage and risk of non-collection. ANACOM also decided to begin a thorough investigation of the services of invoicing, collection and risk of non-collection, portability and pre-selection. Should the results of that investigation indicate significant variations vis-à-vis the conditions currently in force, then such changes as deemed necessary will be determined, with retroactive effects from 1 January 2009. (+info)

REPORT ON FIXED TELEPHONE SERVICE QUALITY IN 2008

ANACOM published last 7 April a report on the quality of service (QoS) of fixed telephony in 2008, containing data on QoS from the various companies that provide the service of access to the public telephone network at a fixed location and telephone service publicly accessible at a fixed location (FTS). The information in question was provided to ANACOM by the FTS providing companies,

and encompasses the performance goals for 2008 as well as the quarterly QoS levels calculated for each company in 2008, in accordance with the following QoS parameters: supply time for the initial connection, number of faults reported per access, and fault repair time. (+info)

450-470 MHZ TENDER – CANCELLATION OF ACT ALLOCATING FREQUENCIES TO RNT

By determination dated 1 April, ANACOM approved the draft decision on cancellation of the 7 January 2009 act allocating the frequency usage right to RNT – *Rede Nacional de Telecomunicações* for the provision of terrestrial mobile service publicly accessible in the scope of the tender to allocate a frequency

usage right in the 450-470 MHz band. This draft decision, submitted to the prior hearing of RNT, also involves the loss, to this Authority's favour, of the provisional collateral put up by the company. (+info)

CASTELO BRANCO TO HAVE REGIONAL TV VIA INTERNET

The "Localvisão TV" regional television project for Castelo Branco, meant to provide regular web TV emissions in that district, was publicly presented last 3 April. The project results from a partnership between the Castelo Branco Cyber-centre Association and Localvisão TV, and aims to promote and raise awareness about the Castelo Branco region in the country and around the world, with

a view to serving as a point of convergence for emigrant communities. Like the other Cyber-centres whose establishment was promoted by ANACOM and the Foundation for the Dissemination of Information Technology, the Castelo Branco Cyber-centre seeks to stimulate among young people and economic players in each reach region the use of ICTs and multimedia applications. (+info)

IN ABRIL 2009

MEETINGS

CEPT

- ECC
- CPG PTD (14-15)
- WG FM PT45 (15-16)
- CPG-2011 (21-23)
- PT1 (27-29)

IRG

- PT Review (2)
- PT Remedies (20)
- PT End Users (28)

EU

- RSPG
- Wireless Broadband Group (3)
- Co-ordination of EU Spectrum Group (6)
- Digital Dividend Group (7)

High Level Seminar E-comm (15-16)

Postal Directive Committee Working Group (1)

Telecoms Council Group (3, 8, 22 and 27)

R&TTECA (23)

ECANB (24)

Postal Directive Committee (27)

COCOM (29)

Ministerial Conference on Critical Infrastructures (27-28)

ITU

Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (UIT-T)

- TSAG (20-30)

Radiocommunication Sector (UIT-R)

- WP4B (22-29)

- WP6A (27-4/05)

UPU

Postal Operations Council (2-3)

WTO

Services Workshop (6)

UPAEP

Consultative and Executive Council (20-24)

AICEP

General Assembly/Forum (26-30)

EMERG

Contact Network (29)

EVENTS

- *4th World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF-09)*
Lisbon 22-24

- *"Electronica 2009" Competition (ANACOM sponsorship)*, Aveiro, 22

- *Public presentation of the study on "Practice Communities in the Digital Space"*, Lisbon, 21

- *APDC dinner debate (ANACOM sponsorship)*, Lisbon, 16

- *Workshop on "The Digital Dividend: market challenges and public interest objectives"*, Lisbon, 16