



Current Events

Broadband internet in Parliament

Postal Meetings

② ITU - Preparations for the WSIS

③ European Union

④ Radiocommunications Committee

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INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION MEETS FOR FIRST TIME

The Interministerial Commission for Innovation and Knowledge (CIIC) met for the first time on 18 December, in Lisbon, with the agenda including presentation of the main government policy strategies and priorities regarding innovation and the information society.

At the encounter, it was announced that two of the government's main projects in this area will be realised by the end of 2003: the Citizen's Portal and the Electronic Purchases Transaction Portal. Another government aim is to assure widespread broadband internet access.

The CIIC, which meets quarterly, includes one representative of each ministry, along with Diego Vasconcelos, the head of the Innovation and Knowledge Mission Unit (UMIC); it is chaired by the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, José Luís Arnaut.

The Minister opened the proceedings, providing an overview of government

policy in the area and the tasks assigned to the CIIC. Diego Vasconcelos in turn outlined the powers and priorities of the UMIC, a body that is responsible for the Commission's secretariat.

UMIC co-ordinator Carlos Oliveira presented a number of e-Government structural projects, namely the national electronic purchase programme, which besides cutting costs will ensure increased transparency and efficiency in public administration and encourage economic competitiveness. Another Mission Unit co-ordinator, Alexandra Vilela, spoke on the subject of official innovation policy. UMIC has meanwhile made available, in electronic format, provisional 2002 data on main results of a survey of the Portuguese population's use of information and communication technologies. It is also preparing to move ahead with a second assessment of the websites of direct and indirect state administration entities.

SEE <http://si.mct.pt/site/?tema=514>

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=74137>

UMTS POSTPONED FOR A YEAR

Economy Minister Carlos Tavares has ruled favourably on the proposal by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) to postpone by one year the commercial launch of third generation mobile services (IMT2000/UMTS). The 30 December ministerial order specifies that UMTS should be implemented in Portugal one year later than planned, i.e., on 31 December 2003.

This second postponement of the UMTS launch is mainly due to the non-availability of dual equipment terminals (GSM/GPRS and UMTS), delays in carrying out interoperability tests and the shortage of service platforms.

According to recommendations of the ANACOM working group set up to study and plan for implementation of UMTS systems (and in order to speed service implantation), infrastructure-sharing incentives for support structures, accessory equipment and access network should be considered, along with

the creation of pilot networks to carry out testing.

Operators will maintain the level of operations stipulated in the licences as per the proposals presented in tender, particularly with regard to the development of information society projects, diverging only on the respective deadline. Also, in 2003 a zero-value tax on the use of UMTS service radio spectrum will be implemented, to encourage operators to begin activity before the launch date.

The insufficient development of third generation mobile networks is a reality in almost all European countries. A number of states have opted to postpone the launch of such service, namely Belgium, France, Italy and Spain. European UMTS only exists, experimentally, on the Isle of Man and in Monaco and the main cities of Austria.

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

REFERENCE INTERNET ACCESS OFFER

Following prior hearing of the interested parties, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved in a 26 December determination a decision on changes to be introduced by *PT Comunicações*, within 10 days, to its draft Reference Internet Access Offer (RIO).

The changes in question concern the interconnection prices applicable to internet access traffic (keeping those currently in effect) and the respective price for invoicing and coverage service (which should not exceed 1.32 euro centimes per call, from 1 January 2003), flat rates (maintaining the maximum prices set in the context of the 2001 Reference Offer) and primary ISDN accesses.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template15.jsp?categoryId=602>

LEASED LINES PRICE TABLE

In a 26 December determination, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided not to oppose the entrance into effect of the leased lines price table submitted by *PT Comunicações* (PTC) on 16 December. Evaluation of the price table did not reveal any incompatibility with applicable regulatory principles, besides indicating a substantial reduction in the net costs covered by that operator. A decision was also made to go ahead with re-assessment of whether the new discount system is in line with the applicable regulatory principles and with the conditions for promotion of healthy market competition, as well as with PTC's obligation to regularly submit relevant data on the subject to ANACOM.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=2983>

CURRENT EVENTS

LLU Reference Offer

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved on 26 December a draft decision on changes *PT Comunicações* (PTC) should include in its Reference Offer for Local Loop Unbundling (LLU). PTC is asked to revalue its proposed prices, to bring them into line with the principle of cost orientation, and to submit to ANACOM by 20 January a grounded price proposal. The modifications also concern responsibility for installation of subscriber filters, as well as information system development, test result verification and disclosure, active loops not used by subscribers, access to the local sub-loop, synchronisation between number porting and loop transfer, statements to be signed by final users, the request processing limit, the process of planning work to carry out on the network and statistical information. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template8.jsp?categoryId=35631>.

PTC transit service

According to the 12 December determination adopted by ANACOM, *PT Comunicações* should proceed within 10 days to modify its Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO 2002) with respect to the applicable conditions, including prices, for transit service with interconnection in simple and double transit. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template15.jsp?categoryId=610>.

Interconnection originating in mobile networks

With respect to the Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO 2001), ANACOM adopted on 7 November a determination that clarifies the meaning of its understanding of the interconnection conditions, especially the costs of invoicing and the coverage of traffic originating in mobile networks and destined for call services with shared costs provided by *PT Comunicações*. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=50329>.

Portability and ported number prices

Fixed telephone service providers have been notified of the probable outcome of the ANACOM decision dated 26 December, concerning public information on portability and the price of calls to ported numbers. Initially only mobile network operators had been notified. As a consequence, the deadline to consult interested parties has been extended. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template15.jsp?categoryId=618>.

Ported numbers

Some 69 459 telephone numbers had been ported by 31 December 2002, of which 63 572 belonged to fixed networks (63 427 geographic and 145 non-geographic). The number of ported mobile numbers reached 5 887.

Telecommunications price convention signed

The Directorate General for Trade and Competition, ANACOM and *PT Comunicações* (PTC) signed on 30 December the Price Convention for Universal Telecommunications Service. The convention establishes under terms of article 11 of Decree-Law no. 458/99 of 5 November the price regime applicable to the following aspects of universal service provision: fixed telephone service (FTS) in the subscriber mode; FTS in the public telephone mode; telephone directories and information service. It also determines PTC's social obligations with respect to retired customers and low-income pensioners, low-consumption residential customers and customers with special needs. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

Universal postal service in 2003

ANACOM approved on 6 December the proposal submitted by the *CTT - Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service) on the price-setting regime for non-reserved services included in universal postal service and on the price table for universal postal service, to be in force in 2003.

The corresponding Addendum to the Universal Postal Service Convention is meanwhile to be signed. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=4611>.

New postal licence

ANACOM has issued to Rangel Expresso S.A. an authorisation to provide non-reserved postal services not covered by universal service.

Laboratory closed

ANACOM's cable television laboratory has been closed in the wake of new legal provisions, particularly the terms of paragraph 2 of article 39 of Decree-Law no. 192/2000 of 18 August, which revoked the homologations for cable television equipment. The lab had tested equipment and assessed the respective conformity with technical installation requirements and technical specifications for equipment and material vis-à-vis the installation and distribution of sound radio and television signals.

2001 statistical yearbook

Telecommunications sector statistical data for the year 2001, compiled and disclosed by ANACOM, is available for consultation in electronic format, at <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=76093>.

Audiovisual policy

New government audiovisual options were presented by Presidency Minister Morais Sarmiento on 17 December. The establishment of a new regulatory body for the sector, with enhanced powers, is called for; this implies disbanding the High Authority for the Media (*Alta Autoridade para a Comunicação Social - AACS*) and the Media Institute (*Instituto da Comunicação Social - ICS*).

2003 - European Year of People with Disabilities

The official site dedicated to this European Union initiative is available at <http://www.eypd2003.org/>.

PT acquires basic network

Via *PT Comunicações* (PTC), *Portugal Telecom* (PT) has acquired, by means of an agreement made public on 11 December, ownership of the basic telecommunications network.

PT thus agreed to effect prior payment of future rents, under terms of the current concession contract, in exchange for ownership of the basic telecommunications network, the telex network and non-reversion of assets included in the concession at the end of same. The amount set for this acquisition corresponds to 365 million euros, including rent for the 2002 concession.

The state additionally commits itself to financing some traditionally loss-making services provided by PTC such as mobile maritime service, telex service and telegraph service. Television broadcasting service will also be financed by the state, should it register operational losses in the future.

See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730> and <http://www.telecom.pt/uk/asps/frameset.asp?url=../quemSomos/noticias/>.

Communications in Portugal

BROADBAND INTERNET IN PARLIAMENT

Expansion of the concept of universal telecommunications service to the broadband internet is the core of the draft law that the Left Bloc put forward for debate in Parliament on 4 December. If approved, it will introduce changes to Decree-Law no. 458/99 of 5 November, which sets the regime for universal telecommunications service, grounded on the principles of universality, equality, continuity and accessibility of prices. Its authors basically aim to ensure that the universal service provider for fixed telephone service allows broadband internet access "with no usage time limits and at economic prices."

The draft law was approved in its broad outlines by the votes of the Left Bloc, the Portuguese Communist Party and the Greens, and should be subject to a new vote in plenary session, after being reviewed by the Committee for Public Works, Transports and Telecommunications.

SEE <http://www.parlamento.pt/ingles/index.html>

CO-OPERATION

Training activities undertaken by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) in 2002 came to an end with a course on international relations and co-operation from 25 to 29 November. Among those participating were officials from the Angolan Communications Institute (INACOM), the National Communications Institute of Mozambique (INCM) and the Directorate General of Communications of East Timor's Ministry of Transports, Communications and Public Works.

Agenda items included ANACOM's participation in international organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the European Union, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and international satellite organisations, as well as procedures for ratifying international treaties and conventions. Participants also familiarised themselves with ANACOM's co-operation policy, and with the policy for image and external relations.

CAPE VERDE

Cape Verde's Multisector Regulatory Authority (ARM), set up in 2000, has been disbanded; it had been responsible for regulating the communications sector, among others. The government is expected in the mid-term future to establish the Cape Verde Communications Institute. Until such time, the Directorate General for Communications of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing will oversee regulation of the sector.

MEETING WITH MINISTER FROM GUINEA-BISSAU

Guinea-Bissau's Minister for Social Infrastructure, Domingos Pereira, was on official visit to Portugal from 17 to 20 December, and on 19 December was received by Dulce Franco, Assistant State Secretary to the Minister of Economy, who was accompanied by representatives of ANACOM.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA AT THE WORKPLACE

The National Data Protection Commission (CNPD) approved in its 29 October plenary session a set of principles concerning workplace privacy, particularly with regard to data handling by agencies providing employment, in telephone switchboards, email control and internet access. "The degree to which company means are used for private ends, the delimitation of handling conditions and the specification of the control forms adopted should be set out in the internal regulations, which according to law must be submitted for appreciation to the Workers Commission and approved by the Institute for the Development and Inspection of Labour Conditions," states the document, which was drawn up based on Law no. 67/98 of 26 October, concerning data protection.

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 147/2002** (I Series-B of the *Diário da República* of 26 December) - Approves specifications in the contract for the purchase and sale of the basic telecommunications network and the telex network, to be celebrated between the state and *PT Comunicações* (PTC), as well as specifications of the accord modifying the contract for the concession of universal telecommunications service to be celebrated between the state and PTC.
- **Administrative Rule no. 1535/2002** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 24 December) - Establishes six pre-franked supports for services provided by the *CTT - Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service).
- **Law no. 29/2002** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 6 December) - Constitutes the first modification of Law no. 91/97 of 1 August, which sets the general bases to be obeyed for the establishment, management and operation of telecommunications networks and the provision of telecommunications services.

The Council of Ministers (CM) of 20 December approved the Competition Law and adjusted national legislation in that context, particularly Decree-Law no. 371/93, bringing it into line with community law. The measure sets out the attributes of the recently established Competition Authority.

The 11 December CM approved a draft law that authorises the government to legislate on the expropriation regime for the basic telecommunications network. Also approved was a Decree-Law that changes the bases for concession of public telecommunications service, as well as a measure that amends Decree-Law no. 20-C/86 of 13 February, which establishes the possibility of a 50 percent price cut in the telephone subscription rate for the retired, pensioners and the handicapped with income equal to or less than the national minimum wage.

SEE <http://www.governo.gov.pt/en>

POSTAL MEETINGS

CERP PLENARY SESSION

The 27th plenary session of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 21 and 22 November. The working groups (WGs) on Economic Affairs, Regulatory Affairs, UPU Affairs and Standardisation, as well as the CERP/ PostEurop, CERP/ European Commission, CERP/ European Express Association (EEA) Contact Committees and the Management Committee, reported to the Committee plenary session.

In the context of implementing and transposing the community regulatory framework, the European Commission announced that Directive 97/67/EC had been implemented by all the member states.

Looking ahead to preparations for the next congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), in 2004, a document was presented that aims to co-ordinate the activities and agendas of CERP and PostEurop, namely with regard to presentation and analysis of the proposals.

Additionally, a forum was held on the theme topic of "the postal network", with contributions from Austria, Sweden and Ireland. They discussed developments in their markets concerning access and management of the postal network.

Germany presented a work undertaken in the context of the CERP web page, with respect to the structure, content and technical features, and specified that the page should be available by late March 2003 at www.cept-cerp.org.

Lastly, the member countries once again exchanged information on developments in their respective markets since the last plenary session.

COMMITTEE ON DIRECTIVE 97/67/EC

The third meeting of the Committee on Directive 97/67/EC took place on 29 November in Brussels, where the European Commission presented a long-awaited report on the state of implementation of the said postal directive. The report is based on a document submitted in 2001 at the Committee's second meeting, as well as on recent information vis-à-vis the four studies undertaken by the Commission during the years 2001 and 2002. The report was to be approved by the Commission and submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council by the end of 2002.

CEPT MEETINGS

ECC TG1

The third and last meeting of ECC TG1, the working group responsible for preparing reorganisation of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), which is part of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), took place in London on 10 and 11 December.

TG1 reviewed and discussed replies to a questionnaire sent out by the group; the structure to present to the ECC was also defined, as well as the proposal to modify the reference terms of the working groups.

The Group concluded that as its mission was over, there was no justification for another meeting.

The Commission presented two informative documents on exceptions and derogations from service quality norms and universal service obligations in the various member states and on publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC) of the national service quality standards for universal service now in force in each member state, in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of Directive 97/67/EC.

The Commission also reviewed the current situation on the state of transposition of Directive 2002/39/EC in the various member states, which were to apply it by 1 January 2003.

The Chairman of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) discussed the current situation of developments in the context of Commission mandates, mentioning that the Committee had already adopted 7 technical norms whose implementation is necessary, given that same are compulsory for the universal service provider.

The Committee unanimously approved adoption of the CEN EN 13850/2002 standard as "normal conditions" for independent performance control, in the sense of articles 16, 17 and 18 of the Postal Directive, by which the standard will be published in OJEC.

The Committee members approved the Commission's proposal to invite representatives of the 13 candidate countries for European Union membership to take part as observers in Committee meetings.

See http://www.anacom.pt/streaming/ReportCo.pdf?categoryId=49430&contentId=74368&field=ATTACHED_FILE.

EUROSTAT TASK FORCE

The first meeting of EUROSTAT's Statistical Task Force was held in Luxembourg on 4 December, where the Planistat consultancy firm, contracted in early 2002, presented a document on the regulatory framework for postal services in the European Union.

The future system for postal statistics was discussed. A set of information needs, separation of same and possible analysis variables were presented, with the aim of ensuring that EUROSTAT's postal statistics meet the real needs of users. ◀

NEW ERO CONVENTION APPROVED

The headquarters of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) in Copenhagen was the venue for the 17 December ceremony to sign the instrument to approve modifications to CEPT's current support office, the ERO - a vital step towards creation of the future European Communications Office (ECO).

Present at the ceremony to sign the document were representatives of most of the countries that are contracting parties to the Convention, among them Portugal.

Note that the future office - the ECO - will join the functions of the CEPT's two current support offices, the ERO for radiocommunications and the European Telecommunications Office (ETO), and in practice implies their merger, which derives from the two areas' current convergence.

SEE <http://www.cept.org>

SEE <http://www.eto.dk>

SEE <http://www.ero.dk> ▶

INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP

SMP WG

The Significant Market Power Working Group (SMP WG) met on 13 December in Rome, to debate issues under discussion in the context of the draft recommendation on relevant markets, namely concerning their respective definition, in the context of SMP evaluation, and practical questions related to market analysis. ▶

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WSIS

The Working Group (WG) of the Council of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) met in Lisbon on 11 and 12 December, and in accordance with decisions made at the 2002 Marrakech Plenipotentiary Conference (PP02) finalised the ITU's contribution to the WSIS Statement of Principles and Action Plan.

The meeting resulted in two contributions for the WSIS's Second Preparatory Committee (PrepCom2). The first consists of an edited version of the PP02 base document on the subject, in which the modifications needed for it to be forwarded to PrepCom2 were introduced. The second consists of a supplementary ITU contribution to the Statement of Principles and Action Plan for the summit's first phase, to be held in Geneva in December 2003. The document was drawn up based on a Canadian proposal sent to the meeting. This second contribution aims to highlight specific ITU action areas in the context of the entire WSIS process, respecting the framework provided by PP02.

The WG's meeting was chaired by the Russian Yuri Grin, with Ridha Guelloz of Tunisia as vice chair, and counted 24 representatives from nine countries: Finland, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United States of America.

Given the closeness of PrepCom2, to be held in the second half of February, the WG decided to meet again between PrepCom2 and the 2003 Council session in May, to finalise its recommendations to the Council on eventual actions to take by the Secretary General.

The meeting was closed by Saraiva Mendes, as host and president of the ITU Council, and as director of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). The Council presidency (the Portuguese delegation) later met with the two previous presidencies (American and Russian) to discuss ITU management reform.

STUDY COMMISSION 6/ ITU-R

Task Group (TG) 6/8 of Study Commission 6 (SC6) of the Radiocommunications Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-R) met in Geneva from 9 to 13 December. The group was set up to carry out technical planning studies for preparation of a report to be submitted to the first session of the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC04/05 - to be held from 10 to 28 May 2004 in Geneva), on revision of the 1961 Stockholm Agreement (ST61).

Planning will cover land digital radio broadcasting (DVB-T and T-DAB) in the 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz frequency bands, in a geographic area that will result from combination of the planning areas associated to the 1961 Stockholm Agreement and the 1989 Geneva Agreement, as well as some adjacent areas of other member states. At the meeting, Portugal submitted a document concerning Chapter 2 (Definitions) of the report.

STUDY COMMISSION 3/ ITU-T

Study Commission 3 (SC3) of the ITU's Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) and the respective Working Groups (WG 1/3 and WG 2/3) met in the same place on the same dates. It was SC3's fifth meeting during the current study period (2001-2004). Participants discussed a number of issues related to international communications, among them international internet connection and international traffic termination in mobile networks.

CPM - WRC03

The Conference Preparatory Group which is finalising preparations for the June-July 2003 World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) in Geneva, met from 18 to 29 November.

Participants in this Geneva preparatory meeting (CPM) approved a report that includes the result of studies undertaken by the Study Commissions of the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector between 2000 and 2002, and which provide the basis for proposals to be discussed at WRC03.

SEE <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/wrc-03/index.asp>

NATO

The Frequency Management Sub-Committee - Policy Working Group (FMSC PWG) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) met in joint civilian/ military session on 17-18 December in Brussels, with ANACOM represented in the Portuguese delegation.

The chairperson of the PWG stated that revision of the NATO Joint Frequency Agreement (NJFA) had been approved on 25 October; it will replace the previous NJFA version dating to 1994.

Also discussed was a German proposal to include a subject in the agenda of the conference that will follow the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03), concerning assignment of the 960-1215 MHz band to mobile service, with secondary status, exclusively for use by the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System/ Multifunctional Information Distribution System (JTIDS/MIDS). Germany aims with this proposal to encourage the necessary regulatory opening that will ensure some international recognition of JTIDS/ MIDS as a mobile service application. The system has been operating in the band in question on a basis of non-interference and non-protection, i.e., under terms of provision 4.4 of the Radiocommunications Regulation. The chair advised Germany to submit a proposal to WRC03.

The PWG proceeded to revise military positions on items under discussion in the WRC03 agenda. The chair stated that the report of the Conference Preparatory Group is already available and again called attention to the fact that March 2003 is still the deadline to finalise military positions on items to be discussed at WRC03. FMSC/PWG will next meet on 10-13 March at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

SPECTRU IS PUBLISHED BY

ICP - Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM)

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EUROPEAN UNION

8TH IMPLEMENTATION REPORT PUBLISHED

The conclusions of the recently published 8th Report on Implementation of the Telecommunications Regulatory Package reveal that the European Commission is paying close attention to the 15 member-states' transition to the new telecommunications regulatory framework. The so-called "99 Review" package is composed of five new directives and a decision on the management of radio spectrum and should be transposed into the respective national legal orders by 24 July 2003. The report, which analyses the sectorial condition of the European Union, also recalls various traditional problems affecting the sector, namely competitive conditions for local loop unbundling, leased line prices that are still too high, the need to improve certification of operators' cost accounting systems, non-uniform application of rights of passage, and enhanced innovation with respect to citizens with special needs. The telecommunications sector should grow by between 5 and 7 percent in 2002, less than the 9.5 percent registered the previous year. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/annual_report/8threport/index_en.htm. The state of the sector in Portugal is also reviewed at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/annual_report/8threport/finalreport/portugalfinal.pdf. See also <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=33487&contentId=76094>.

INVESTIGATION OF DEUTSCHE TELEKOM VENTURE

The Commission has decided to begin a probe of Toll Collect GmbH, a joint venture of Deutsche Telekom and Daimler Chrysler, for suspected distortion of competition in Germany. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1957|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

COMMISSION CLOSES LEASED LINES INQUIRY

Due to the average 40 percent reduction of prices in the last three years, the Commission announced that it has closed the leased lines inquiry launched in July 1999. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1852|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

LEASED LINES REPORT

The Communications Committee (COCOM) has produced a report on leased lines in 2001, which mainly analyses service quality based on three indicators: delivery time, repair time and service availability. At http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/leasedlines/doc/COCOM02-10%20final.pdf.

REFORM OF MERGER CONTROL

The European Commission adopted on 11 December a package that aims to reform competition policy in the Union, particularly with regard to merger control. Besides the proposal to modify the merger regulation, in effect since 1990, the package includes a draft of guidelines for the appraisal of "horizontal mergers" and a series of non-legislative measures aiming to improve Commission decision-making, among which creation of the post of Chief Competition Economist stands out. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1856|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

CONSULTATION ON DIGITAL TV PLATFORMS AND UMTS

A report on barriers to the widespread implementation of new information society applications and services, as a follow-up to conclusions of the Barcelona and Seville Councils (March and June 2002, respectively) is in public consultation until 15 January. The same report will be subject to a public hearing on 4 February; its final version should be adopted as a formal communication from the Commission. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1818|0|RAPID&lg=EN and http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/regulatory/publicconsult/index_en.htm.

INTERNET SERVICES CONVERGENCE

The Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, spoke on 12 December in Brussels about the convergence of internet services. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/02/628|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COPENHAGEN COUNCIL

Negotiations for the membership of 10 new states from eastern and central Europe have ended: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia will formally join the Union from 1 May 2004. The conclusions of the last European Council, held in Copenhagen on 12-13 December, at the end of Denmark's European Union presidency term, are available at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=DOC/02/15|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

EEUROPE 2005

In a November Communication to the European Parliament and to the Council, the Commission proposed new benchmarking indicators for the eEurope 2005 action plan. At http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/news_library/documents/benchmarking05_en.pdf.

EU AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Commission recently released an information brochure on the information society. "Towards a knowledge-based Europe - the European Union and the information society" is available at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/newsroom/documents/catalogue_en.pdf.

ELEARNING PROGRAMME 2004-2006

The Commission's draft eLearning programme for 2004-2006, budgeted at 36 million euros for the three-year period, was adopted on 19 December. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1932|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

ELECTRONIC WASTE

The European Parliament and the Council agreed on 10 October on the need to collect, reuse, and recycle electric and electronic waste throughout the EU, as well as to limit the use of hazardous substances in the production of new equipment. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1463|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

GUIDE FOR EU CITIZENS

"What can the European Ombudsman do for you?" is the title of the new guide for European citizens, recently published in the EU's 11 official languages. At <http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/guide/en/default.htm>. ◀

OJEC

- **Consolidated versions (2002/C325/01)** - Of the treaty of the European Union and the treaty establishing the European Community (2002). Published on 24 December.
- **eContent Programme Call (2002/C320/13)** - For proposals for indirect actions in the context of the programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content in global networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society (2001 to 2005). Published on 20 December.
- **Media Plus 2001-2005 (2002/C318/06 to 09)** - Call to submit various proposals in the context of the programme to encourage the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works. Published on 19 December.

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

NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT) - The recently presented Self-Regulating System for Electronic Commerce and Interactive Advertising (*Confianza on-line*), set up in the context of the Law on Information Society Services and Electronic Commerce, pays particular attention to the use of personal data and the protection of minors on the internet. More information at <http://www.lssi.es/HTML/ServerPages/home.php>.

SPAIN - Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT) - The new prices to practice by the incumbent Telefónica were approved in the 12 December session of the CMT Council. See http://www.cmt.es/cmt/document/c_prensa/2002/c20021212_01.pdf. A public consultation aiming to set the criteria for assignment of public national numbering plan resources to the provision of additional tariff services ends on 17 January. At http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_publica/index.htm. The most recent data on electronic commerce in Spain, for the third quarter of 2002, is available at http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/publicaciones/index7.htm.

SPAIN - Administración.es - The citizen's portal, at <http://www.administracion.es/marcos1.htm>, announces that the European Union's LIFE environmental programme has provided support of 1,090,000 euros for the *Tragamóvil* project, which selectively collects used cell phones for subsequent recycling. The community authorities have held it up as an example of efficient management for a kind of waste whose volume continues to rise. There are 300 collection points for electronic waste in Spain at present. The report may be consulted at <http://www.la-moncloa.es/web/docs/notas/o/2002/o1311023.htm>.

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) - The new president of ART is Paul Champsaur. He succeeds Jean-Michel Hubert, whose six-year mandate ended on 3 January, at the head of the French regulatory body. ART disclosed on 24 December an opinion on the draft law on the digital economy, which may be consulted at <http://www.art-telecom.fr/dossiers/internet/index-com-eco-num.htm>. The regulator also ruled on a dispute that opposed the operators Tele2 France and Orange France, concerning the conclusion of a mobile virtual operator agreement. See <http://www.art-telecom.fr/communiqués/communiqués/index-23-12-2002.htm>.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - The deadline to submit comments in the context of the consultation on local loop unbundling, specifically questions having to do with open space collo-

cation (co-mingling), is January 15. At <http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/broadband/llu/comi1202.htm>. Revised guidelines of the consumer protection policy, as well as a summary of complaints received by the regulator from April to September 2002, have been published. See http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/about_oftel/2002/cppr1202.htm and <http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/consumer/comp1202.htm>. OFTEL's draft management plan for 2003/2004, available at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/about_oftel/2002/manp1202.htm, is open to consultation until 31 January 2003. A guide to the new telecommunications regulatory framework may be consulted at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/eu_directives/2002/sepr1202.htm.

UNITED KINGDOM - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) - The new Communications Bill was published on 20 November. Since the respective draft was put forward in May, the measure has been subject to an extensive process of public consultation. It aims to create a super-regulatory body, the Office of Communications (OFCOM). OFCOM will mean the end of the current five entities with regulatory power in the United Kingdom: the Independent Television Commission, Radio Authority, Office of Telecommunications, Broadcasting Standards Commission and Radiocommunications Agency. See http://www.communicationsbill.gov.uk/press_notices/dcms203_02.htm.

GERMANY - Regulierungsbehörde für Telekommunikation und Post (RegTP) - Deutsche Telekom's local prices for 2003 have been partially approved. Additional information at http://www.regtp.de/en/aktuelles/start/fs_03.html. For technical reasons, the regulator has chosen to postpone the planned 1 December introduction of selection and pre-selection. The new provisional date in effect is 28 February; a consultation in that context was to be launched on 18 December. See http://www.regtp.de/en/aktuelles/start/fs_03.html.

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - Proposals for the new concession contracts for Fixed Switched Telephone Service, Universalisation Target Plans and Quality Target Plans are subject to public consultation from 27 December to 17 March 2003. See http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2002/release_27_12_2002.pdf.

RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The second meeting of the European Union's Radiocommunications Committee was held on 18 December, with the agenda focusing on the exchange of information and discussion on the use of licence-exempt frequency bands for public services (R-LAN), among other issues.

Following on previous debate in the Radiocommunications Committee (RSC) and the Communication Committee (COCOM), the European Commission presented a revised version of its draft recommendation on the supply of public services and networks by means of access provided by R-LAN systems. Despite registered improvements in this new version, various member states have stressed the need to include in the recommendation explicit reference to the technical limitations inherent to such systems, as their widespread use to supply public services may in extreme conditions degrade the quality of service provided. A clear majority argued that approval of a recommendation on this issue should await results of the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03). The Commission will thus have to reassess the matter.

The Committee ruled favourably on the Commission's action plan to revise/revoke the Directive concerning frequency bands for ERMES (European Radio

Message System), revision or revocation of which is covered by the co-decision procedure of the European Parliament and of the Council. The first meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG), scheduled for 17 January, should consequently discuss the political aspects of re-use of that band.

As various matters were deemed to require the attention of both the RSC and the Telecommunications Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee (TCAM), it was concluded that it was vital to ensure good interconnection between both of them; the Commission will prepare a document on this.

Following up on policy in the area of e-safety, the Commission consulted member states on the proposal for phased introduction, initially in the 24 GHz band, of automobile radars. Most recognised the importance of the initiative, but stressed that various aspects of the proposal would have to be clarified, namely identification of the definitive band to use in the second phase. A suggestion was also made to draw up a mandate for the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) to continue to study this proposal, which in any case originated in CEPT.

The RSC will meet again on 5 March.

GREEK PRESIDENCY - GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The two main priorities of Greece's European Union presidency term (first six months of 2003) are construction of an enlarged Europe and strengthened civil society structures.

"Our Europe, sharing the future in a community of values," is the presidency's slogan, referring to one of the most important ongoing projects in the Union, the enlargement to 10 new member states from eastern and central Europe in 2004. The signing of the respective membership treaties has been scheduled for 16 April, in a ceremony to take place in Athens.

Realisation of the Lisbon strategy, defined in June 2000, is particularly relevant to Greek priorities for the next six months: construction of an increasingly knowledge-based European economy will imply strong emphasis on research and development, education and training, as well as adoption of the European patent. It also implies effective transposition of the new telecommunications regulatory package, realisation of a European information society for all, financing of the eEurope initiative and successful European participation in the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Besides building a knowledge-based economy, the presidency has set out five other priority areas: enterprises and small businesses; integration of the energy, transports and financial services markets; employment; solidarity and enhanced social cohesion; and environment and quality of life.

Greece's current EU presidency term is its fourth since becoming a member in 1981.

See <http://www.eu2003.gr/en/cat/0/index.asp>.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

The Council of Ministers of Telecommunications met on 5 December in Brussels to discuss the situation of the sector in the 15 member states. The participants recognised the need to pay close attention to community governments and authorities, in order to maintain the possibility of fulfilling goals of the Lisbon strategy.

They particularly focused on the difficult financial situation currently faced by the incumbent operator in France, with the European Commission favouring the option for solutions that exclude state assistance.

The Council advocated the use of transparency when drawing up the contractual obligations of third generation mobile operators, as well as debate on flexible strategies for spectrum use and the sharing of network infrastructures. The member states' ministers defended the priority scheduling of the information society theme topic on the work agenda for the European Council this coming spring. The Commission was thus asked to present a report on the telecommunications sector, accompanied if necessary by appropriate legislative measures.

SEE <http://ue.eu.int/pressData/en/trans/73607.pdf>

SEE http://www.videnskabsministeriet.dk/cgi-bin/doc-show.cgi?doc_id=133290&doc_type=831&leftmenu=NYHEDER

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS (ITED)			
Certified Entities registered with ANACOM	Registration Date	Certified Entities registered with ANACOM	Registration Date
Projelteg - Projectos Electrotécnicos, Telefónicos e Gás, Lda.	03.01.2002	M.E.C.I., S.A.	25.07.2002
Guedes Fernandes - Construções e Técnicas, Lda.	17.01.2002	Fibnet, S.A.	25.07.2002
Electrificadora Santos Pereira, Lda.	31.01.2002	Dijoser, Lda.	25.07.2002
Metalúrgica Irmãos Borlido, Lda.	07.02.2002	Telecert - Certificação de Instalações de Telecomunicações, Lda.	25.07.2002
Telecvís - Telecomunicações e Electricidade de Viseu, Lda.	07.02.2002	Telenorte e Vez	
Pictelcais -		- Empreiteiro de Obras Públicas e Telecomunicações, Lda.	25.07.2002
Projecto, Instalação, Certificação de Telecomunicações, Lda.	21.02.2002	Electro R. André, Lda.	25.07.2002
Gabiforma - Formação, Serviços e Computadores, Lda.	21.02.2002	Leiricabo - Telecomunicações, Electricidade, Lda.	30.09.2002
Seita - Serviços, Engenharia, Informática, Telecomunicações e Automação, Lda.	22.03.2002	Somagil - Electricidade, Lda.	30.09.2002
Luís M. R. Sanches, Lda.	25.07.2002	Tricontacto - Instalações e Comércio de Material Eléctrico, Lda.	08.10.2002
Espaçofone, Lda.	25.07.2002	Geesate - Gabinete de Engenharia Electrotécnica, Lda.	06.11.2002
Ecovoltagem, Lda.	25.07.2002	Electro Antunes, Lda.	11.11.2002
		J.C.T - Instalações Eléctricas, Lda.	05.12.2002

IN JANUARY 2003

EU
- Informal internet group (21)

CEPT
- Ad hoc Presidency Group (9-10)
- Troika (14)

- Region B/ ITU Co-ordination Group (15)

ECC
- CPG PT4 (6-7)
- PT5 (9-10)

- SE37 (13-14)

- CPG PT1 (14-16)

- WGSE PT21 (15-16)

- PT1 (20-22)

- CPG PT2 e PT3 (20-24)

- WGFM PT22 (21-24)

- PT3 (22-23)

- WGFM (27-31)

- PT2 (30-31)

- Database Management System for Broadcasting (31)

IRG

- Contact Network (9-10)

- IRG/ ERG (22-23)

ITU

- ITU Management Revision Specialists Group (8-9)

- Council Troika (9)

Radiocommunications Sector
- RAG (27-31)

- Portugal-Spain Co-ordination meeting (15-17)

EVENTS

- **Scandinavian Telecoms 2003**

13-14, Stockholm

- **Policy Frameworks for the Digital Economy**

14-17, Hawaii

- **Security and Revenue Assurance for IP and Mobile Networks**

22-24, London

- **Hungarian Telecoms 2003**

29-30, Budapest