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ANACOM FORMALISES COLLABORATION WITH UMIC

The president of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), Álvaro Dâmaso, and the head of the Innovation and Knowledge Mission Unit (UMIC), Diogo Vasconcelos, signed on 28 March a collaboration protocol that aims by means of common actions to assure that the Portuguese people have widespread access to the information society.

The protocol encompasses an annual action plan that lists the actions to undertake, aiming to stimulate both supply and demand. The actions are framed in the National Broadband Initiative and include the continual updating and survey of existing communications infrastructures; incentive for the diversified supply of electronic communications network infrastructures; the promotion of diversified supply of access services, particularly in broadband - secure, with quality and at sustainable prices; a survey of the state of the Portuguese contents industry; the promotion of attractive and catching national multimedia content; the fight against info-exclusion, by publicising and by training in information and communication technologies; and information on broadband benefits.

Compliance with the protocol will be overseen by a monitoring commission comprising one ANACOM representative and two from the UMIC, which should draw up an annual activities report. The protocol is annually renewable for a maximum period of three years.

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

CONSULTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF POSTAL SERVICES

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) launched on 26 March a consultation to ascertain user needs with regard to development goals of the public postal network and the minimum service offers, in the context of services granted in concession to the CTT - *Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service).

Contributions to the consultation, namely concerning the availability of the public postal network and diverse indicators still to be defined, will be taken into consideration in elaboration of the pact to be signed by ANACOM and the CTT, under terms of clause no. 15 of the Concession Contract for Universal Postal Service.

The consultation document, which includes four questions, was sent to consumer representative organisations, and to the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities, the National Association of Neighbourhood Councils (*Freguesias*), the National Secretariat for the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities, business associations and postal service providers. However, any other entity or private individual may also provide comments in the scope of this consultation.

The deadline to receive comments ends on 30 April; same should be submitted, preferably by electronic means, to the following address: redcpp@anacom.pt.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=4611>

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

RUO AND RIO

By determination of 21 March, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the probable outcome of its decision on the modifications to introduce in the Reference Unbundling Offer (RUO) and the Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO). Under terms of articles 100 and 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, interested parties have 15 days to comment in writing on same.

The ANACOM determination namely sets the applicable prices for full and shared access, for equipment collocation, for internal and external connection, for signal transport service and for interconnection components. It also establishes procedures, service quality levels and compensations for non-compliance applicable in this context.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template8.jsp?categoryId=35631>

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template15.jsp?categoryId=610>

PORTABILITY

Definitive acceptance of the portability solution was accomplished on 12 March with the signing of the respective Act by representatives of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), the Reference Entity and the providers of telecommunications services.

Note that the portability solution, whose implementation, management and maintenance is the responsibility of the Portability Reference Entity, is the service platform provided by that entity, the operator portability support in Portugal.

CURRENT EVENTS

Reference Interconnection Offer 2003

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved on 21 March the modifications *PT Comunicações* must introduce within 10 days in the Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO) for 2003. Highlights include the determination of interconnection prices to be in force from 1 March 2003 and the applicable conditions for special services, invoicing service, collection and non-collection risk and service quality. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template15.jsp?categoryId=610>.

Modifications to introduce in the *PT Comunicações* RUO

By determination of 13 March, and after prior hearing of the interested parties, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the modifications *PT Comunicações* must introduce in the Reference Unbundling Offer (RUO) for the Local Loop within 10 days. The modifications to introduce in the RUO include those related to the installation of subscriber filters, the development of an information system, access to the local sub-loop, synchronisation between number porting and loop transfer, statements to be signed by end users, forms, service quality and statistical information. For more information, consult <http://www.anacom.pt/template8.jsp?categoryId=574>.

Cancellation of DTT licence

ANACOM proposed to Economy Minister Carlos Tavares on 13 March the cancellation of the licence granted to *Plataforma de Televisão Digital Terrestre* (PTDT). Given the impossibility of widespread supply of DTT equipment and services, the consortium recognised that the rights and obligations inherent to the licence had lapsed. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

ECPs for WRC03 approved

By determination of 21 March, ANACOM approved the signing of most of the European common proposals (ECPs) to be submitted by the European side, headed by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), to the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) of the International Telecommunications Union, which will be held in Geneva from 9 June to 4 July.

Inclusion of personal data in telephone directories

ANACOM has approved the probable outcome of the decision on the inclusion of subscribers' personal data in telephone directories and the information service of fixed telephone service. Interested parties have been informed of the draft, for their comments. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=97136>.

Portability requests

PT Comunicações has a time limit of 30 days, counting from the date of notification of the respective 13 March ANACOM determination, to implement the conditions that prevent denial of portability requests by suspension of contract. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=95089>.

Ported numbers

By the end of March some 94 746 numbers had been ported, 85 611 from the fixed network (85 432 geographic and 179 non-geographic), as well as 9 135 mobile numbers.

Online services in text version

Besides the graphic version, the online services section of the ANACOM website now has a text version, thus complying with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd priority accessibility requirements in accordance with the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). See <http://www.anacom.pt/txt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

Public network status for TVI

ANACOM recognised in a 20 February decision the TVI television network's application for the status of public telecommunications network. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=92753>.

Competition Authority operational

Abel Mateus, Eduardo Lopes and Teresa Piedade took office on 20 March respectively as president and members of the recently-founded Competition Authority, whose statutes were approved by Decree-Law no. 10/2003 of 18 January. For its part, the new Competition Law is still undergoing parliamentary discussion.

APRITEL elections

The president of Oni Telecom, Pedro Norton de Matos, has replaced Paulo Azevedo of Optimus at the head of the Association of Telecommunications Operators (APRITEL).

APDSI approves activity plan

The General Council of the Association for the Promotion and Development of the Information Society (APDSI) met on 25 March and approved the 2003 activities plan, which envisages various studies, namely on the future of the broadband market in Portugal, fighting exclusion by means of the information society and the development of electronic democracy in Portugal. Plans also call for the holding of an Arrábida Meeting: to rethink the information and knowledge society in 2003. The APDSI's General Assembly met on 17 March and approved the new members of the General Council.

Special needs and new technologies

The seminar on "New Technologies and People with Disabilities" was held at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Vila Real (UTAD) on 14 March, in the context of commemorations of the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003, and saw presentation of the main lines of government policy on that issue. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>. Meanwhile, the High Authority for the Media (AACS) adopted on 27 February a determination to the effect that media-provided content should take the disabled into account.

150th anniversary of Portuguese stamps

The speech by the Assistant State Secretary of the Minister of Economy, Dulce Franco, at the ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the first Portuguese stamp (held at the Portuguese Communications Foundation - FPC), is available at http://www.min-economia.pt/port/index_n03.html (only in portuguese). On the occasion, the FPC inaugurated the exhibitions "150 Years since the First Portuguese Stamp" and "Philatelic Merit Show".

ANACOM CO-OPERATION

WITH CAPE VERDE

The Cape Verdean Minister of Infrastructures and Transports, Manuel Inocêncio de Sousa, was received by the President of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) Board of Administration last 26 March.

The high level meeting resulted in a renewed commitment to furthering co-operation in communications, based on a protocol formalised nearly 10 years ago.

The government of Cape Verde aims in the near future to set up a Communications Institute, which will be responsible for telecommunications, the postal sector and new information technologies; ANACOM is likely to collaborate in this process.

The Directorate General of Communications, with which ANACOM regularly works, currently oversees regulation of the sector.

WITH MOLDOVA

The subject of numbering was thoroughly studied at a meeting between ANACOM and a delegation from Moldova comprising officials from that country's regulatory authority (National Regulatory Agency in Telecommunications and Informatics - ANRTI), the incumbent telecommunications operator (MOLDTELECOM) and one of the mobile operators (MOLD-CELL).

The main goal of the meeting was to learn about Portugal's experience in this area, particularly the transition to the new National Numbering Plan, which took place on 31 October 1999. Moldova is preparing to implement a similar change from November 2003.

The meeting was held on 5-7 February in Lisbon.

SEE http://www.anrti.md/index_en.htm

LOWER PRICES FOR POSTAL SERVICES

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has released a study on price evolution from 1993 to 2003 and international comparisons for 2003, whose aim is to present the evolution of prices for priority mail (known in Portugal as *correio azul* or blue mail) and non-priority mail ('normal mail') service provided in that period by the CTT - *Correios de Portugal*.

The study also compares values of the national and international base prices (prices of normal letters weighing up to 220 grams) practiced in the European Union during the current year.

The results of this work indicate the following conclusions: the average price of mail, both priority and normal, dropped by 5.9 percent in real terms from 1993 to 2003; the average price of normal mail dropped by 4.2 percent

in real terms from 1993 to 2003; and the average price of priority mail dropped by 25.2 percent in real terms from 1993 to 2003. In overall terms, there has been a gradual trend towards price rebalancing during the same period.

The values of the national and international base prices practiced in Portugal are less than the EU average. In national service, Portugal's non-priority mail prices are substantially less than the average European prices (-29.0 percent). Regarding priority mail, the prices are also less, though closer to the European average (-10.4%). In international service, compared with the European average, the price differences for non-priority mail in Portugal are -2.2 percent, -3.9 percent and -10.7 percent in the segments EU, Other European Countries and Rest of the World, respectively.

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

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 36/2003** (I Series-B of the *Diário da República* of 12 March) - Determines the adoption of various tangible measures aiming to generalise the practice of acquiring goods and services by electronic means in public administration and in the business sector; mandates the Innovation and Knowledge Mission Unit to proceed with the respective implementation and monitoring, working closely with other entities.
- **ANACOM Notice no. 1590/2003** (II Series of the D.R. of 5 February) - Delegates powers in ANACOM's Department of Spectrum Management and Engineering.
- **Administrative Rule no. 115/2003** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 31 January) - Modifies the annex to Administrative Rule no. 381/2000 of 28 June, which approves maritime equipment subject to the provisions of Decree-Law no. 167/99 of 18 May.

The Council of Ministers (CM) of 27 November approved a Decree-Law that under terms of the legislative authorisation granted by Law no. 6/2003 of 6 March regulates the regime governing expropriation, for public interest reasons, of the basic telecommunications network or the property thereof. The measure envisages establishment of an expropriation mechanism that allows state re-appropriation of the basic network, in case of justified public interest and with parliamentary authorisation. The 19 March CM approved the Final Acts of the Regional Administrative Conference of Members of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) belonging to the European radio area, held in Geneva in 1985, which contain the protocol that amends the 1961 Stockholm regional agreement on the European radio area. At the same meeting, the government approved a resolution redefining the conditions for installation of the Integrated System of Portuguese Emergency and Security Networks (SIRESP), and also adopted various tangible measures required for implementation of same.

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

CEPT MEETINGS

CEPT ASSEMBLY

The first Assembly under the Portuguese presidency of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) was held on 6-7 March in Almancil, in southern Portugal's Algarve region.

The Assembly covered a number of issues which resulted in useful discussion, particularly on the co-ordination of European candidates for positions in international organisations, preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and definition of a procedure for co-operation with other regional organisations.

The co-ordination of European candidates has been one of CEPT's biggest challenges since the September 2001 Bergen Assembly. However, and even though it is a rather controversial issue, due to both the national sovereignty aspects involved and the clear differences in approach between the postal and telecommunications sectors, a procedure was approved which encompasses a set of recommendations that set out a methodology for such co-ordination. The process now approved will culminate with an Assembly decision that should be publicly disclosed, particularly to countries that are not CEPT members, and include the positions envisaged for European candidates and the identification of same. This procedure will be incorporated in the CEPT rules of procedure.

The Assembly also decided to set up a monitoring mechanism to enable CEPT to observe and react to proposals submitted in the context of the WSIS and its respective preparatory process, namely regarding those that may directly impact on CEPT's work. This task will be undertaken by the ITU WG.

Regarding co-operation with other regional organisations, the Assembly approved a procedure in which the presidency plays the central role in co-ordinating co-operation with other regional organisations, and should be informed of all contacts with other CEPT bodies. Also in this context, a procedure was approved on the exchange of authorisation letters, which reciprocally provide information on each organisation's representatives in the other's meetings.

Other topics debated at the Assembly were preparation for the ITU's World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03), which will be held in Geneva in June and July, the Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), to be held in Romania in 2004, the Tampere Convention on the availability of telecommunications resources in emergency situations and assistance operations, and the disclosure of information on CEPT.

CEPT is the subject of a new section recently created on the ANACOM website, at <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=59549>.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (ECC)

The fifth meeting of CEPT's Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) was held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 10-14 March.

Participants in the meeting approved an ECC decision on the availability of frequency bands for the introduction of 200 kHz Wide Band Digital Land Mobile PMR/PAMR (Professional - Private - Mobile Radio/ Public Access Mobile Radio) in the 400 MHz and 800/ 900 MHz bands.

Also approved was an ECC recommendation on the implementation and use of Calling Line Identification (CLI) within CEPT countries.

The session also saw presentation and approval of the general activities reports and working plans of all the groups and three reports from the project teams PT2, PT3 and PT4 on mobile access, operator portability implementation in the countries' mobile networks and evolution of the decision on accounting rates.

The new ECC structure presented by Task Group 1 was subject to approval. The ECC is hence to comprise six working groups and one project team: WG FM (Frequency Management), WG SE (Spectrum Engineering), WG RA (Regulatory Affairs), CPG (Conference Preparatory Group), WG NNA (Numbering, Names and Addressing), WG IA (Interconnection and Access) and PT1 (Project Team IMT-2000 and Systems Beyond).

PT1 was maintained without changes, as it is a specific group with a given time mandate. Taking into account these pretexts and given that it has carried out its duties very efficiently, a decision was made to neither modify it nor integrate it in another group; its function should be reassessed after WRC03. This new structure will give the ECC the desired energy, in line with the reorganisation of CEPT.

Lastly, the level of decision implementation was updated, with good progress registered in this area, a result of the efforts undertaken by the working groups.

The next meeting of the ECC has been scheduled for 13-17 October in Denmark.

ECC SE WG PT7 AND WE WG PT37

The groups of Spectrum Engineering SE 7 and SE 37 (studies on the use of Code Division Multiplex Access - CDMA - in PMR systems) met in London on 11-13 March. Various documents were presented, namely the reports of the chairpersons of the Editing Groups, while some of their tasks were also concluded. Issues concerning data traffic have yet to be finalised.

Also noteworthy was the presentation of documents from the manufacturer Nokia, which provided its point of view, going so far as to question the methods used in the studies carried out by the groups.

CPG PT1

At the invitation of the Hungarian administration, a meeting of PT1 (Regulatory Questions) of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) was held in Budapest on 10-12 March. The highlight of this meeting of PT1 was the treatment of items 1.11, 1.19 and 1.30 of the WRC03 agenda.

PT1 proceeded to revise the brief for item 1.11 (possible extension of the allocation of mobile by satellite, land-space service, with secondary status in the 14-14.5 GHz band, to allow operation of aeronautical mobile satellite service, as stipulated by Resolution 216, Rev. WRC00). CEPT defends removal of the limits currently imposed on Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Service (AMSS) in the band in question and the elimination of Resolution 216. The brief recognises that administrations operating fixed

service or radio-astronomy service systems in those bands may ensure system protection by means of a footnote that transcribes the conditions of recommendation ITU-R M.[AMSSS] or refers to the relevant part of same. Given that the text will be submitted to the Radiocommunications Assembly (RA03 - to be held in Geneva from 2 to 6 June) for approval, the CEPT administrations were asked to support its approval.

The brief for item 1.19 (misapplication of the non-GSO FSS limits in the Article 21 tables) was modified in order to reflect the new notation of the Radiocommunications Regulation (eliminates the letter S before the designation of appendices, articles, numbers, provisions or footnotes) and to include the positions of the new Inter-American Commission on Telecommunications (CITEL) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) on

this item, which are entirely identical to the CEPT position.

Lastly, and under terms of item 1.30 (possible modifications of the procedures for prior publication, co-ordination and notification of satellite networks, in reply to Resolution 86-PP-98, Minneapolis), PT1 drew up a European common proposal (ECP) in which it proposes that the date to put into service a satellite network, in the case of launch failure, should be extended. The time limit will be extended from the date launch failure occurs if the administration in question has complied with all necessary requirements in the context of the procedure of due diligence. During the said extension period all rights inherent to protection of the system as published in the Advanced Publication Information (API) are maintained.

This was the last meeting of this project team.

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

TDAG

The eighth meeting of the Advisory Group (TDAG) of the Development Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-D) was held in Geneva from 19 to 21 March.

TDAG is responsible for advising the director of the Development Bureau (BDT) on priorities to set and strategies to formulate, as well as on the preparation and implementation of ITU-D's budget and operational plan.

One of the aspects highlighted at the meeting was the ITU's current difficult financial straits and the impact of same on implementation of the programmes in the Istanbul Action Plan approved at the 2002 World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC02), as well as results of the last Plenipotentiary Conference (PP02).

ITU-D's contribution for the Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was another relevant aspect of the meeting, in which the director of the summit's executive secretariat reported on the work's progress.

As in meetings of advisory groups in the other two ITU sectors (Radiocommunications and Standardisation), TDAG closely studied the PP02 results related to operational planning for 2003, taking into account the newly introduced approach that will take force in January 2004 and which implies introduction of a 'sliding' 4-year operational plan.

The ITU's financial plan was likewise studied, along with its impact on ITU-D activities. The need to reduce burdens was considered, with the inevitable introduction of cutbacks in ITU-D activities. In this context, various measures were proposed to change the current working methods

of the Study Groups; the possibility of alternative means for financing and partnership projects with private entities was also considered.

With the aim of contributing to implementation of the ITU-D Operational Plan for 2003, the Brazilian administration reported that it aimed to organise a number of seminars and training activities on telecommunications regulation and policy for the less-developed Portuguese-speaking countries and in others from Latin America. In some of its aspects the project may be developed in partnership with ANACOM, as previously considered at bilateral level.

WP 6E

A meeting of WP 6E (land radio), which functions in the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R), was held in Geneva from 17 to 21 March.

The group approved various new recommendation proposals, namely concerning the following: the indication of technical specifications for digital sound radio systems in bands below 30 MHz - a proposal that aims for the ITU to adopt the Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) standards; presentation of the technical bases for digital sound radio planning in the VHF band; necessary requirements for the protection of radio systems against interference caused by radiation from wireless telecommunications systems and industrial, scientific, medical and low-power equipment; and maximum permissible values for public exposure to electromagnetic fields created by the equipment used in radio installations.

SEE <http://www.itu.int/>

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EUROPEAN UNION

LISBON STRATEGY DEBATED

The Lisbon strategy (see http://europa.eu.int/comm/lisbon_strategy/index_en.html) was in focus at the last European Spring Council, held on 21-22 March in Brussels. The Council conclusions are available at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/03/900|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDS WIRELESS BROADBAND

The European Commission published on 20 March a Recommendation in which it asks the Member States to facilitate the use of radio local area networks (R-LANs) to access electronic communications networks and public services. This Recommendation is among the more generic goals of encouraging multiple broadband platforms as a way to access information society services. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/418|0|RAPID&lg=EN and http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/l_078/l_07820030325en00120013.pdf.

EGNOS/ GALILEO MERGER

The Commission on 20 March formally went ahead with the proposal to integrate EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) and Galileo. EGNOS was founded in 1994 and is considered the pioneer satellite radionavigation system in Europe. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/417|0|RAPID&lg=EN. Meanwhile, a Galileo briefing session was held on 18 March in Brussels. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/139|0|RAPID&lg=FR and http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/372|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

NEW INFORMATION SOCIETY WEB PAGE

All European Union activities concerning the information society have been brought together in one new web page, at http://europa.eu.int/pol/info/index_en.htm.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS

The third edition of the European Report on Science and Technology Indicators was released on 17 March. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/389|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP

END USERS WG

The working group (WG) on End Users of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) met on 21 February in Lisbon at the invitation of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), with debate focusing on the respective working programme.

Participants reviewed the work undertaken to date by the sub-groups set up in the context of the Principles of Implementation and Best Practice (PIBs), which cover the subjects of service interruption, barred calls, detailed invoicing, universal service obligations - designation mechanisms and price transparency.

The group should also contribute towards assuring PIBs for sanctions, in the scope of implementation of the new regulatory framework and in wake of the newly-established Helsinki virtual group (Helsinki WG). This group is comprised by the chairpersons of the IRG's five WGs (Fixed Market, Mobile Market, Implementation, End Users and Significant Market Power) and has taken on the responsibility of gathering contributions and studying competition issues in the various relevant markets identified in the recent European Commission Recommendation. The End Users WG will be given the task of studying competition issues in retail markets.

CONSUMERS WEBSITE

World Consumer Day on 15 March witnessed the creation of a new website for consumer-related issues, available at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers>.

PLOTEUS PORTAL FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The PLOTEUS portal was launched on 5 March and is dedicated to education and training. Available at <http://www.ploteus.net>. See also http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/306|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

STANDARDISATION GUIDELINES

New standardisation guidelines adopted on 28 March should stimulate the Union's standardisation activities. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/456|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

MARKET ABUSE

Directive 2003/6/EC on market abuse has been complemented by the Commission's publication of three new working documents on this issue. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/345|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

INNOVATION POLICY

Entrepreneurial innovation is the theme topic of a Communication adopted by the Commission on 11 March. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/357|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

EU-JAPAN REGULATORY REFORM

Brussels was the venue on 5 March for a high-level meeting in the context of dialogue for EU-Japan regulatory reform. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/324|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

COMPETITION COUNCIL

The Competitiveness Council of Ministers was held on 3 March in Brussels and approved a political agreement on the future community patent. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/47|0|RAPID&lg=EN. The ministerial meeting's agenda may be consulted at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/45|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

BROADBAND SEMINAR

A high level seminar on broadband was held on 27 March in Brussels, where the German regulator presented a document on competition in the broadband market. Participants also discussed access prices and various studies that put forward different ways to competitively promote broadband penetration rates.

CONTACT NETWORK

The 13-14 February Berne meeting of the Contact Network was chaired by the Dutch regulator OPTA. Its main goal was to prepare the IRG for the next meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG) on 28 March. Noteworthy on the agenda was debate on the latest version of the draft recommendation on procedures deriving from article 7 of the Framework Directive, with the chairperson of the Implementation WG recommending its acceptance. Also, additional information was provided about content of the broadband seminar that took place on 27 March in Brussels.

POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Advisory and Executive Council of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP) met on 18-19 March in Montevideo, where the respective working groups reported on their activities.

The Council approved the Union's draft budget for 2004 and took note of the accounts for fiscal year 2002.

The proposals by Argentina and Nicaragua on their debts to the Union were debated; the Council decided to have the General Secretariat oversee the signing of agreements to amortise the debt with those countries, in the usual manner.

Lastly, the Council reported that the Postal Authorities Forum will be held in May 2004 with the aim of assessing activities in the areas of reform and modernisation, and those carried out in the framework of the Madrid Declaration recommendations, as well as to study subjects that will be debated in the UPU Congress and which are particularly relevant for the UPAEP.

UPU REORGANISATION WG

The working group (WG) on Universal Postal Union (UPU) Reorganisation met in Montevideo on 17 March, along with the working sub-group on Future Development of the UPAEP.

The WG decided to propose to the Council the expansion of its mandate

to cover issues concerning the UPU's strategy planning, so that the UPAEP can take part and transmit its opinion in that field and intervene in drawing up the future Bucharest proposal, which will be discussed and presented at the UPU Congress in 2004.

The group also decided to set up an *ad hoc* group comprising Brazil, Canada and Spain, which will draw up an action plan based on the strategy plan approved in the UPU's Postal Operations Council when it meets in April 2003.

SUBGROUP ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UPAEP

This subgroup focused on reformulation of the UPU Acts, namely the introduction of a two-year budget cycle beginning in 2006 and the consequent modification of the Union's financial management system and strategy plan, and on modification of the timing of congresses, with the proposal to hold such meetings every four years, and adjustments needed in the term length of elected positions in the General Secretariat.

Also concluded were two questionnaires, one for the member states, on reform and reorganisation of the UPAEP and the Union's role in the region, and the other addressed to the Restricted Unions.

Lastly, the sub-group decided to propose maintenance of the *status quo* regarding the election of Management Committee members, a subject debated since the Panama Congress in 2000.

SEE <http://www.upaep.com.uy/>

NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT) - The draft version of the new Telecommunications Law was approved by the government on 7 March. At http://www.setsi.mcyt.es/indic_legisla/igt/A_133-01.pdf. On 18 March the Spanish government approved the national plan for internet domain names corresponding to the '.es' country code. See <http://www.setsi.mcyt.es/index.htm>.

SPAIN - Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT) - Invoicing of electronic trade increased by 83 percent in 2002, with commercial transactions on the internet moving 233 million euros, the CMT announced in a 28 March press release. At http://www.cmt.es/cmt/document/c_prensa/2003/c20030328_01.pdf.

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) - In reply to a request from the Competition Council, the ART has released its opinion on the alleged anticompetitive practices of the mobile operator Orange France, which the competition accuses of overpricing. Details at <http://www.art-telecom.fr/textes/avis/index-02-901.htm>.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - On 17 March OFTEL placed five documents in public consultation. They concern the revision of rules applicable to various markets, in the context of application of the new regulatory framework. See http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/eu_directives/index.htm and http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr11_03.htm. With consumers in mind, the British regulator has also drawn up a list of FAQs on 99 Review, which may be consulted at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/eu_directives/2003/spfaq0303.htm, as well as a statement on dispute resolution, at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/eu_directives/2003/eud0203.htm. It recently launched two consultations on emergency services; the hear-

ing on applicable prices for the number 999 ended on 2 April. At <http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/pricing/2003/bt9990303.htm>.

A second consultation aiming to review the current access codes for emergency services is under way until 21 April. At <http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/consumer/2003/dqs0303.htm>.

IRELAND - Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) - A consultation on Telephone Numbering Mapping (ENUM), launched by ComReg on 26 March, ends on 2 May. At <http://www.comreg.ie/fileupload/publications/ComReg0336.pdf>. Meanwhile, the deadline to submit comments in the context of another consultation on the revision of numbering for access to audiotext services ended on 28 March. See <http://www.comreg.ie/fileupload/publications/ComReg0327.pdf>.

GERMANY - Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts (RegTP) - German strategy for spectrum management is the theme topic of the consultation presented by the president of RegTP on 18 March. The deadline to submit comments is 1 June. See http://www.regtp.de/en/aktuelles/start/fs_03.html.

NORWAY - Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority (PT) - Two of the four UMTS licences still to be granted should soon be auctioned, the government has announced. Details at <http://www.npt.no/eng/system/html/index.html>.

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - ANATEL has announced that it will soon launch two public consultations, on the standards for certification of lightning rod cables and antennas for land mobile and fixed services. See [http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2003/release_28_03_2003\(7\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2003/release_28_03_2003(7).pdf).

GREEK PRESIDENCY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

The creation of the European Network and Information Security Agency was one of the theme topics discussed at the first Council of Ministers of Transports, Telecommunications and Energy of the Greek Presidency, which was held in Brussels on 27-28 March.

The agency should become operational by the end of 2003. To speed its launch, the Commission committed itself to setting up an interdisciplinary and temporary working group which should be operational by 1 June. The Council has in turn reached agreement on the MODINIS programme for 2003-2005, which is meant to monitor and implement eEurope 2005.

The first day of work was dedicated to the Telecom Council, which reached political accord with respect to a future common position on the draft Directive on the reuse and commercial exploitation of public sector documents.

The Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, discussed the situation of electronic communications in Europe (see http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/158|0|RAPID&lg=EN), while the presidency asked the telecommu-

nications ministers to comment on the introduction of the new sector regulatory framework, broadband strategies and third generation mobile communications.

The presidency also reported that construction of the knowledge society will benefit from three upcoming conferences: eInclusion (11-12 April, Crete), eGovernment (2-3 May, Athens) and eHealth (22-23 May, Brussels).

The preparation of two important world meetings to be held in 2003 in Geneva - the ITU's World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) in June and July, and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) - was also discussed.

Europe's Galileo satellite radionavigation system was discussed on the second day of the Council, dedicated to transports, specifically the state of negotiations with China and the system's integration in its precursor, EGNOS.

SEE <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom/loadbook.asp?BID=87&LANG=1>

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/75|0|RAPID&lg=EN

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/67|0|RAPID&lg=EN

EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP

The European Regulators Group (ERG) met in Brussels on 28 March. The group, set up in the context of the new telecommunications regulatory framework, approved a draft recommendation from the European Commission on the process of notification, deadlines and consultations envisaged in article 7 of the new Framework Directive, which should be applied from 25 July.

The said draft recommendation will be debated in April in the Communications Committee (COCOM), with its adoption by the Commission expected in June.

The ERG agreed to study the possibility of preparing a common position

with regard to access to debt, which is vital for the development of broadband applications and services.

Based on the Commission's guidelines for market definition and market analysis, the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) produced a common interpretation on the concept of significant market power (SMP), which should soon be published on the ERG website.

The group unanimously elected its new vice-presidents, respectively the president of the Finnish NRA (FICORA), who will assume duties until 30 June, and the president of the Belgian regulator (BIPT), from 1 July 2003.

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/460|0|RAPID&lg=EN

SEE <http://erg.eu.int/>

IN APRIL 2003

EU

- Informal Group on international affairs (7-8)
- Spectrum Committee (8)
- Communications Committee (10)

CEPT

- Troika (7-8)
- CPG PT4 (7-10)
- 4th ATU administrative council (8-10)
- Ad hoc group on ITU management revision (23)
- ITU WG (24-25)

ECC

- SE PT7 (9)
- PT1 (14-16)

CERP

- Regulatory Affairs WG (1)

ITU

- Radiocommunications Sector
- WP 9B (7-17)

Development Sector

- Council WG on WSIS (14-15)

Standardisation Sector

- SG2 (28/4-4/5)

UPU

- Postal Operations Council (1-11)

EVENTS

- *Intelligence in Next Generation Networks*

31/3-3/4, Bordeaux

- *Oracle Workshops for Public Administration 2003*

1-2, CCB, Lisbon

- *Presentation of School and Educative Content Projects*

7, Lisbon, FPC

- *The European Telecoms Forum 2003*

7-8, Rome

- *Workshops on Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications*

8-10, Castelo Branco

- *European Broadband Communications 2003*

9-11, Prague

- *Electronic Commerce and SMEs - Instruments of Efficiency and Internationalisation*

10, Lisbon

- *eInclusion Conference*

11-12, Heraklion, Crete

- *Seminar in the context of the study on "Assessment of Member State measures aimed at fulfilling certain general interest objectives linked to broadcasting, imposed on providers of electronic communications networks and services, in the context of the new regulatory framework"*

25, Brussels

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