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PT DESTINATIONS, SCHEDULES AND GROUPS OFFERS

Taking into account the replies of entities interested in the 10 April draft decision on the set of offers titled "PT Destinos", "PT Horários" and "PT Grupos" (PT Destinations, PT Timeslots and PT Groups - see <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=64129>), and the understanding in the respective hearing report, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided in a 3 July determination that *PT Comunicações* (PTC) must remove the minute packets designated as "Amigos 1 para 1" and "Amigos 1 para 3" (Friends 1 to 1 and 1 to 3) from the "PT Grupos" offer.

PTC must also update the interconnection prices for outgoing international traffic and quarterly remit, with monthly discrimination, the usage levels of each of the packets it offers or eventually offers.

The "PT Destinos" offer consists of the offer of minute packets for calls in the PTC network within national territory and for calls to Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the United States and Canada.

The offer titled "PT Horários" - Night and Weekend, After Hours and Part Time - includes three distinct minute packets for local and regional calls within the PTC network.

Lastly, the "PT Grupos" offer - Friends 1 to 1, and Friends 1 to 3 - assigns minute packets for calls within the PTC network to the set of 1 or 3 destinations chosen by the user.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=117011>

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS STATIONS

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has subject to hearing a draft regulation that sets out the rules for the identification and signalisation of radiocommunications stations.

Launched on 18 June, this public consultation will help bring into line the obligations set by Decree-Law no. 151-A/2000 of 20 July regarding station identification and informative signalisation.

Comments for this consultation should be submitted by 1 September, preferably in electronic format, to regiser@anacom.pt.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730&pag=1>

INTERCONNECTION FOR ACCESS TO DATA TRANSMISSION SERVICES

In a 24 July determination, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the likely outcome of the decision on modifying the interconnection regime for access to data transmission services.

The ANACOM determination particularly envisages the passage of data transmission service traffic access to an interconnection model based on an origin payments framework, in which the service provider is responsible for setting the price applicable to final users.

PT Comunicações (PTC) must consequently include the new data transmission service access conditions in its Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO) by 15 September.

Under terms of articles 100 and 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, prior hearing of the interested parties has been effected; they have been given 15 days to submit comments.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730&pag=1>

ORLA OPEN TO COMMENTS

In a 24 July determination the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) began the process of public consultation on the document concerning the subscriber line re-leasing offer (ORLA - *oferta de realuguer da linha de assinante*), with the aim of encouraging competition in fixed communications.

ORLA consists of the wholesale offer at a set price of the right to invoice the *PT Comunicações* (PTC) telephone line and should enable providers of alternative services to PTC to establish their own retail offers that include line re-leasing with other services they provide.

The hearing process will continue until 26 September. The respective contributions should be sent in electronic format to orla@anacom.pt.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730&pag=1>

CURRENT EVENTS

Compulsory waiting period for pre-selection

PT Comunicações and other companies in which *Portugal Telecom* has a share, providers of fixed telephone service in direct access, are not allowed to undertake customer win-back operations for six months after the activation of pre-selection, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided on 17 July, following the prior hearing of interested parties with regard to the corresponding draft decision approved on 29 May. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

RIO and RUO updated

The Reference Unbundling Offer (RUO) and the Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO) of *PT Comunicações* have been updated and may be consulted via the link <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=115991>.

Distribution and diffusion of terrestrial television signal

In a 3 July determination, ANACOM approved the decision on terrestrial television signal distribution and diffusion service provided by *PT Comunicações* (PTC).

The ANACOM determination particularly obliges PTC to demonstrate that the tariff modification already carried out in 2003 represents a reduction (-14.06% of the nominal annual variation) vis-à-vis the price table in effect in 2002, and that PTC should proceed, valid from 1 June 2003, to effect an additional real reduction of the current prices of not less than 1.2 percent. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=117611>.

Ported numbers

Some 118 530 numbers had been ported by 31 July. Of that number, 15 106 pertained to mobile networks and the remaining 103 424 to the fixed networks (103 233 geographic and 191 non-geographic numbers).

Revocation of certifying entity registration shelved

ANACOM ratified on 10 July the order to shelve the administrative procedure concerning revocation of the registration of the certifying entity *Meira de Sá - Projectos, Engenharia e Serviços, Lda.*, in the context of the regime for the installation of telecommunications in buildings. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

New section on computer security

The ANACOM website has a new section on the security of computer

networks and systems, at <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=774&contentId=117096> (in Portuguese only).

Statistical indicator forms

The forms for statistical indicators that telecommunications service providers must quarterly submit to ANACOM are available at <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

Radio interface specifications approved

ANACOM approved on 10 July various technical specifications of radio interferences as per article 30 of Decree-Law no. 192/2000 of 18 August, which are undergoing the process of notification to the European Commission. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=36141>.

Visit to the ANACOM labs

A group of students and teachers from the Alto Lima Professional School in Ponte de Barca visited in July the ANACOM laboratories in Barcarena. The students, who are attending the vocational course on 'Electronics Technique - Audio, Video and TV', were introduced to services provided by the laboratories, namely the process of calibrations in the electric area, electromagnetic compatibility trials and radiocommunications equipment testing, as well as the evaluation of electromagnetic environments.

In the part focusing on the Monitoring Centre, ANACOM's activity in the operational area of radio spectrum management was explained, with tangible real time examples of some of the most common interference, monitoring and distance measurement situations.

2003 Microsoft software prizes awarded

The winners of the 6th Microsoft Software competition are announced at <http://www.microsoft.com/portugal/msdn/concurso/default.msp>. ANACOM once again sponsored the prizes, which this year received 113 candidatures, in the Universities category.

2003 Minho Campus Party

The 2003 Minho Campus Party gathers for the third consecutive year hundreds of cybernauts in the Viana do Castelo Exhibition Pavilion from 30 July to 3 August. This "real meeting of virtual communities", as the organisers call it, is promoted by the Minho Industrial Association, which seeks to encourage the sharing of experience among computer enthusiasts. See <http://www.minhocampusparty.com/>.

MAGNA CARTA ON COMPETITIVENESS

The Magna Carta on Competitiveness and the Competitiveness Report were presented at the Lisbon Congress Centre on 23 July. The documents had been drawn up by the Portuguese Industrial Association (AIP) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Effective competition in the telecommunications market, widespread broadband access to the internet at competitive prices and the extensive application of new information technologies are some of the sectorial aspects highlighted in the said documents. Additional information at <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=120032>.

The European Commission has also released its most recent report on competition policy in 2002. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=117495>.

NATIONAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE

The National Broadband Initiative was presented by the government on 10 July, at Lisbon's Belém Cultural Centre, and aims to encourage the widespread use of broadband internet services by citizens and companies.

The Innovation and Knowledge Mission Unit (UMIC), which co-ordinates government efforts to enhance information society services, has already launched specific actions on Community Networks, Broadband Incubators and Broadband Content.

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has associated itself to these and other initiatives of UMIC, by means of a collaboration protocol signed by the two bodies on 28 March. To that end, see <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>.

By means of the Community Networks action, UMIC has called for manifestations of interest, by 31 October, from local governments and associations of municipalities, with the aim of connecting all neighbourhood districts in 15 needy counties by means of community broadband networks.

The Broadband Incubators action aims to set up five incubation centres for broadband internet applications, contents and services companies; manifestations of interest will also be accepted until 15 October.

Regarding Broadband Content, financing tenders have been opened that seek to create 500 innovative projects in the context of producing Portuguese language services, content and applications for the broadband

internet. This action is launched in articulation with the Broadband Content notice from the Information Society Operational Programme and ends on 15 October.

Additional information on this initiative may be requested via bandalarga@umic.pcm.gov.pt.

See <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=117776>;

<http://www.unic.gov.pt> (in Portuguese only).

INFORMATION SOCIETY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME IN ACTION

Also within the scope of the National Broadband Initiative, the Management Office of the Information Society Operational Programme (POSI) has opened a tender for the creation of Broadband Points.

The goal of this measure is to double by 2005 the number of public and private spaces for public broadband access to the internet.

The tender is in effect from 24 July to 31 October.

Lastly, the deadline to submit candidatures for POSI's Axis III - Open State, which encompasses central public administration bodies and services, has been extended until 30 September.

See <http://www.posi.pcm.gov.pt> (in Portuguese only).

CO-OPERATION WITH BRAZIL

In the context of co-operation with Brazil, an 18 July meeting enabled the sharing of experience on the different ways of supporting consumers practiced by the *Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações* (ANATEL) and the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM).

Given the interest and opportunity to share experience in the areas covered by the meeting, which counted the presence of the Director of User Relations Assessment and the (Universal Service) Obligations Control Manager of ANATEL, it is likely that the same issues will be on the agenda of the 8th ANACOM-ANATEL Co-ordination Committee meeting, to be held on 10-11 November in Brazil. See <http://www.anatel.gov.br> (in Portuguese only).

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Association for Promotion and Development of the Information Society (APDSI) presented on 11 July a study on "Basic Processes - public administration in the information society". See http://www.obercom.pt/01obercom/01_english.htm.

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Decree of the President of the Republic no. 44/2003 and Resolution of Parliament no. 65/2003** (I Series-A of the *Diário da República* of 2 August) - Ratifies and approves for membership, respectively, the Agreement to Modify the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the European Telecommunications by Satellite Organisation (EUTELSAT), adopted and confirmed by that organisation's 26th Assembly of Parties, held in Cardiff on 18-20 May 1999.
- **ANACOM Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 29 July) - Discloses the publication on the *PT Comunicações* website of the respective reference interconnection offer (RIO) and reference internet access offer (RIO).
- **ANACOM Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 23 July) - Concerning technical conditions for the exercise of sound radio broadcasting activity. Administrative Rule no. 121/99 of 15 February ceases to be valid with publication of this notice, under the terms envisaged by article 5 of Decree-Law no. 126/2002 of 10 May.
- **ANACOM Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 23 July) - On radio licences. Replaces the notice dated 17 February 2003.

The Council of Ministers (CM) of 10 July approved the new framework of the Economy Ministry's General Secretariat and Management Office.

The same CM endorsed a resolution that creates the Programme for Incentives and Modernisation of the Economy, which replaces the Economy Operational Programme in the context of the third Community Support Framework.

Also approved were guidelines for the reform of public administration, appointment of the official responsible for the mission to monitor various stages of that same reform process and establishment of the respective advisory council.

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

EUROPEAN UNION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Only five countries had adopted the new regulatory package by 25 July, the date set for transposition of the new regulatory framework for electronic communications. Finland was the first, having transposed the so-called 99 Review on 23 May, and is accompanied by Denmark (4 June), Sweden (5 June), the United Kingdom (17 June) and Ireland (21 June). Italy was expected to follow suit on 31 July. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1121|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

RECOMMENDATION ON CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

The European Commission adopted on 23 July a recommendation in the context of article 7 of the Framework Directive of the new regulatory framework for electronic communications, which sets out three specific procedures: notifications, time limits and consultations. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1089|0|RAPID&lg=EN. The full text of the recommendation may be consulted at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/l_190/l_19020030730en00130018.pdf. The speech on this issue by the Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, at the 15 July workshop in Brussels, is available at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/366|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

DECISION ON LEASED LINES

Under terms of article 18 of the Universal Service Directive, the Commission endorsed on 24 July a decision on the minimum set of leased lines with harmonised features and respective standards, which aims to simplify regulation in this area. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1114|0|RAPID&lg=EN. The full text of the decision is available at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/l_186/l_18620030725en00430045.pdf.

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER

The Commission recommendation of 25 July concerning the process of locating individuals who, in the context of 112 emergency services, make calls in electronic communications networks, is available at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/l_189/l_18920030729en00490051.pdf.

GALILEO ENDOWED WITH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

The two management bodies of Galileo were presented on 31 July: the Supervisory Authority and the Centre for Safety and Reliability. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1141|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

STRUCTURAL FUNDS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

In the wake of an extensive consultation of the regions, guidelines for the use of structural funds for investment in the communications sector were published on 28 July. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1128|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

COMMUNICATION ON OPEN DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The Commission adopted on 9 July a communication on the interoperability of information society services, with the aim of promoting open technological platforms for third generation mobile networks and digital terrestrial television. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/978|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE OPEN TO CANDIDATURES

The deadline to receive proposals for the Regions of Knowledge pilot action, budgeted at 2.5 million euros, is the middle of September. At

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1139|0|RAPID&lg=EN and <http://www.cordis.lu/era/regions.htm>.

LAWSUITS FOR DELAYED TRANSPOSITION OF LEGISLATION

The Commission plans to send grounded opinions to 11 member-states, among them Portugal, for delayed transposition of the directive on author's rights and associated rights in the information society, whose deadline for introduction was 22 December 2002. The same is applicable to Austria, France and Greece in the case of the second postal directive (2002/39/EC). Greece has also failed to comply with that of the first postal directive (97/67/EC). At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1005|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display.

QUALITY OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE

The European Commission hosted on 3 July in Brussels a workshop which saw presentation of main conclusions of a study on universal postal service quality in the European Union, adjudicated by the Commission to the WIK company. The study's conclusions highlighted the extension and thoroughness of the regulation of universal postal service quality in Portugal. Also presented were preliminary conclusions of a study by the same company on the postal network of European Union member countries and candidates for membership.

UMTS INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING IN GERMANY

The Commission again decided in favour, on 16 July, with regard to third generation mobile infrastructure sharing in Germany, a practice it holds does not distort competition. At the end of April the Commission endorsed a similar decision with respect to the United Kingdom. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1026|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

STATE OF THE SECTOR IN EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

The third report on the state of the telecommunications sector in the ten countries from eastern and central Europe that are expected to join the European Union on 1 May 2004 has recently been released. The report was drawn up by IBM Business Consulting Services. See http://europa.eu.int/information_society/newsroom/news/telecoms_service_report/index_en.htm.

ASSISTANCE TO THE BELGIAN POSTAL SERVICE APPROVED

The Belgian government intends to inject 297.5 million euros into the national postal operator La Poste/De Poste, a measure approved by the Commission on 23 July. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1084|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

GERMANY IN COURT OVER RADIO BROADCASTING

The European Commission holds that the German government is acting in a discriminatory manner with respect to the granting of radio licences in the Rheinland-Pfalz region, and has decided to refer the case to the Union's Court of Justice. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1103|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

COMMISSION ATTACKS SPAM

At a time when spam, i.e., unsolicited commercial electronic mail, represents more than half of global electronic traffic, the Commission has intensified efforts to combat same, specifically via the so-called opting-in, which requires previous receiver consent, as envisaged in the directive on privacy and electronic communications. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1015|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display= and http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/147|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

FAQS ON VAT IN DIGITAL SERVICES

The new rules on the application of VAT in services supported by electronic networks, in effect since 1 July, are explained at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/142|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

CHIEF COMPETITION ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Lars-Hendrik Roller will from 1 September assume the office of Chief Competition Economist in the Directorate General for Competition, for a non-renewable period of three years. Information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1027|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

WANADOO FINED FOR ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION

Wanadoo Interactive has been fined 10.35 million euros for abuse of dominant position in the ADSL market. The France Telecom subsidiary practiced prices below costs for three years. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1025|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

BROADBAND WORKSHOP

Brussels was the venue for a 15 July workshop on broadband; a similar initiative on the same subject has been scheduled for 28 October. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1016|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

E-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

The second European conference on electronic government, held on 7-8 July at Lake Como in Italy, saw approval of a ministerial declaration that

includes a number of measures aiming to speed the development of online government. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/959|0|RAPID&lg=EN. Erkki Liikanen's speech at the meeting may be consulted at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/347|0|RAPID&lg=EN. The European eGovernment prizes were also awarded on the occasion. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/954|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

R&D PACKAGE

The package of financial and regulatory measures aiming to boost investment in trans-European networks and in research and development projects is called the Initiative for Growth. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/960|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

EUROPEAN TELEPHONE AREA CODE DEBATED

The European telephone area code 00 3883 was the subject of discussion at a meeting held on 24 June. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/888|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AUDIOVISUAL

A public hearing on the audiovisual sector was held in Brussels on 1-2 July; a consultation on the sector is also under way until 12 August. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/923|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

OJEU

- **Recommendation (2003/561/EC)** - Of the European Commission, dated 23 July 2003 and concerning notifications, time limits and consultations envisaged in article 7 of Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 7 March 2002, vis-à-vis a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. Published on 30 July.
- **Recommendation (2003/558/EC)** - Of the European Commission, dated 25 July 2003, concerning the processing of caller location information in electronic communication networks, for the purpose of location-enhanced emergency call services. Published on 29 July.
- **Decision (2003/548/EC)** - Of the Commission, of 24 July 2003, concerning the minimum set of leased lines with harmonised features and respective standards mentioned in article 18 of the Universal Service Directive. Published on 25 July.
- **Call (2003/C164/05)** - To submit proposals for indirect RTD actions in the context of the specific programme for research and technological development titled "Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area". Published on 15 July.
- **Decision (2003/511/EC)** - Of the Commission, of 14 July 2003, on the publication of reference numbers of generally recognised standards for electronic signature products, in accordance with Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Published on 15 July.
- **Decision no. 1151/2003/EC** - Of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 16 June 2003. Modifies Decision no. 276/1999/EC, which adopts a multi-annual community action plan to encourage safer internet use by combating illegal and harmful content in global networks. Published on 1 July.
- **Resolution (2003/C149/EC)** - Of the Council, of 13 May 2003, on development of an overall European space policy. Published on 26 June.
- **Statistics (2003/C131/13)** - Concerning technical regulations disclosed in 2002 and vis-à-vis the procedures of Directive 98/34/EC, of the European Parliament and of the Council. Information provided by the Commission, in accordance with article 11 of the same directive and concerning an information procedure in the area of technical standards and regulations, and of rules for information society services. Published on 5 June.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE 2003

The nearly 2 300 delegates who attended the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) reviewed the Radiocommunications Regulation (RR) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and defined at technical and regulatory level the guidelines for future use of the radio spectrum and satellite communications.

WRC03 is the most relevant international forum of the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R) and was held in Geneva from 9 June to 4 July.

The four weeks of work witnessed approval of the draft agenda for the next WRC, to be held in 2007. Numerous subjects were also debated, among them: questions in the context of satellite radionavigation service, vis-à-vis safeguarding development of the major European project known as the Galileo system; overall harmonisation of frequency bands for usage in situations of public protection and disaster response (PPDR); overall assignment of the 5 GHz band to wireless LANs; the third mobile generation, specifically IMT-2000 and future systems; high altitude platforms (HAPs) such as IMT-2000 system base stations; implementation of the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS); introduction of digital technology in short-wave radio service; revision of planning for channels and frequencies in the mobile maritime service frequency bands in MF and HF, taking into account the use of new digital technology; amateur service; realignment of frequency band assignments to amateur and amateur by satellite services and to radio service around 7 MHz; the internet aboard airplanes; internet by satellite in the 13.75-14 GHz band; high density applications of fixed satellite service (HDFSS); earth stations on vessels to operate in fixed satellite service; analysis of study results in reply to resolution 539 on pdf limit values for N-GSO BSS (sound) in the 2630-2655 MHz band; and aspects related to the appropriateness of assignments between 4 and 10 MHz to radio broadcasting service. For more detailed information, please consult <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=116035>.

COUNCIL OVERSIGHT GROUP

The third meeting of the ITU's Council Oversight Group (COG) was held in Paris on 16 July. The group was set up during the 2003 session and is composed of representatives from 10 of the member states represented in that organisation, two for each ITU administrative region and including the three that comprise the *troika*, currently Portugal (holding the presidency), Kenya (next presidency) and the United States (previous presidency). The COG's remaining members are Brazil, Bulgaria, Korea, Iran, Russia, Senegal and Switzerland.

As the group's aim is to oversee and orient the putting into practice by the ITU secretariat (executive body) of some of the main decisions stemming from the said Council session, specifically preparation of a revised budget proposal and implementation of the short term recommendations, participants in this COG meeting studied documents presented by the secretariat and concerning questions held to be priority at previous meetings: preparation of the revised budget and implementation of short term recommendations on ITU information systems and on the organisation of telecom fairs, as well as the need to present

a plan for staff cuts and other ways to reduce costs.

The group considered that the work carried out by the ITU secretariat did not reach the expected level, taking into account the upcoming extraordinary Council session scheduled for late October; there was thus a need to put forward more tangible proposals.

Also presented at the meeting was a reformulated budget proposal, which should be analysed by the Group of Specialists (GoS) and subsequently submitted to the COG.

The next meeting will be held in Geneva on 17 September, during the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society.

WSIS PREP COM

The inter-session meeting of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was held in Paris on 15-18 July and marked by conclusion of the Statement of Principles to be approved at the WSIS of heads of state, to be held in Geneva this coming 10-12 December.

Beyond the Statement of Principles and an Action Plan, WSIS is expected to approve documents which at this meeting, held at UNESCO headquarters in the French capital, further elaborated the components on the right to communication, intellectual property rights, internet governance and security.

The preparatory process will be resumed in Geneva from 15 to 26 September (PrepCom3), with the conclusion of preliminary work on documents to submit to the WSIS.

In its final documents, the Summit is expected to deal with a broad range of issues, including cyberspace questions such as security and spam, infrastructure development and the financing of universal access, as well as the use of information and communications technology (ICT) services and applications to pursue the millennium development goals. As the head of the High Level Committee for Organising the Summit, Yoshio Utsumi (also the ITU secretary-general), recalled, the inclusion principle must always be kept in mind: "no human being should be left behind in the information society".

ITU-T STUDY GROUP 3

The sixth meeting of Study Group 3, which operates in the context of the ITU's Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T), as well as the respective working groups (WG 1/3 and WG 2/3) during the current study period (2001-2004), was held from 16 to 20 June in Geneva.

Among issues on the agenda were IP (Internet Protocol) telephony, international internet connections, international mobile communications accounting and the proposed revision of the International Telecommunications Regulation.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

The ITU has challenged all administrations to fill out a questionnaire on its operational bulletin, the responsibility of the Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T). At <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=116981>.

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

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NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT) - The Council of Ministers adopted on 11 June an action plan for development of the information society. *España.es* is budgeted at 1 billion euros and will be in effect for two years (2004-2005). See http://www.mcyt.es/grupos/grupo_carrusel.htm?http://www.mcyt.es/asp/ministerio_informa/prensa/np11-07-03.htm . Following the example of the United Kingdom and France, Spain introduced on 30 June a system that enables mobile telephones to be blocked in case of robbery, and which is operational throughout its national territory. Additional information at http://www.mcyt.es/asp/ministerio_informa/prensa/np30-06-03.htm . The Ministry has also released the first annual report on fixed telephony service quality, combining information on the 7 biggest operators, who together account for about 98 percent of all telephone lines. At http://www.mcyt.es/asp/ministerio_informa/prensa/np19-06-03-2.htm .

SPAIN - Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT) - The CMT published on 10 July a resolution proposing to the incumbent that the latter should modify its Reference Interconnection Offer. At http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/interc/index.htm . The summary of the CMT's 2002 annual report is available at http://www.cmt.es/cmt/document/c_prensa/2003/c20030716_01.pdf .

FRANCE - Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de l'Industrie - The government approved in the 31 July Council of Ministers a draft law on electronic communications and audiovisual services. See http://www.telecom.gouv.fr/telecom/index_ce.htm .

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) - The conditions to renew the GSM licences of the three current mobile operators are the subject of the public consultation launched by the ART, open until 6 October. At http://www.art-telecom.fr/publications/ref_autogsm/index-consulpub.htm . The regulator released on 31 July a technical and economic study on "Pan-European GPRS roaming". See <http://www.art-telecom.fr/publications/index-etud-gprs.htm> .

BELGIUM - Institut Belge des Services Postaux et de Télécommunications (IBPT) - An IBPT consultation in the context of postal services distinct from universal service ended on 31 July. See http://www.bipt.be/bipt_E.htm .

LUXEMBOURG - Institut Luxembourgeois de Régulation (ILR) - The UMTS licence granted to LuXcommunications SA, the only candidate for the tender launched in May, was signed on 15 June. Details at <http://www.etat.lu/ILR/content.html> .

LUXEMBOURG - Ministère de l'Economie - The Innovation and Research Portal was launched on 2 June, at <http://www.innovation.public.lu> .

FINLAND - Ministry of Transport and Communications - Finland was the first of the 15 member states to transpose the new regulatory package on electronic communications. The new measures were signed by the president of the republic on 23 May, and took force in two phases,

on 1 and 25 July. More information at <http://www.mintc.fi/www/sivut/english/default.html> .

NORWAY - Norwegian Post and Telecommunication Authority (PT) - In the context of transposing 99 Review, PT maintains in public consultation until 1 September new draft laws. At http://www.npt.no/servlet/page?_pageid=308&_dad=adm&_schema=PORTAL30 . The deadline for the submission of applications for the granting by auction of two third generation mobile licences ends on 29 August. See http://www.npt.no/pt_internet/eng/resource_management/frequency_management/licences/3G-auction03/3g.html .

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - The new 99 Review rules have been transposed into British legislation. Details at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr46_03.htm and http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr41_03.htm . Also in this context, OFTEL has made available at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/whats_new/publications.htm a number of documents and specific guidelines that regulate the new legislative framework.

IRELAND - Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) - The Irish regulator announced on 25 July a series of measures aiming to effect transposition of the new regulatory package for electronic telecommunications. At <http://www.comreg.ie/publications/default.asp?ctype=5&nid=101059> . The date 25 July also saw the introduction of mobile network portability (at http://www.comreg.ie/whats_new/default.asp?ctype=5&nid=101062).

ComReg recently launched two public consultations on revision of the operator pre-selection function (until 14 August, at <http://www.comreg.ie/publications/default.asp?ctype=5&nid=101036>) and on the applicable rates for diffusion services in the context of future regulation of electronic communications services and networks (ended on 23 July, available at http://www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/publications/ComReg0378.pdf).

ESTONIA - Estonian National Communications Board (ENCB) - Estonia is the second Baltic state to begin the process of awarding third generation mobile licences, in a two-phase process: the three current GSM operators obtain the respective UMTS title by paying 4.5 million euros, by 1 August. A fourth licence will subsequently be granted in auction. See <http://www.sa.ee/atp/eng/index.html?id=1711> .

MOROCCO - Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT) - The new draft law for telecommunications and postal services is being debated by the government. At <http://www.anrt.net.ma/> .

JAPAN - Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications - The 2002 White Paper on information and communication technologies in Japan is available at <http://www.johotsusintokei.soumu.go.jp/whitepaper/eng/WP2002/2002-whitepaper.pdf> .

APT FORUM

"Key Policy and Regulatory Challenges for the Asia-Pacific" was the theme topic of the third forum on telecommunication policy and regulation (PRF03) of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), held in Thailand from 10-12 July.

The meeting's agenda included subjects such as the most recent developments in global and regional regulation, broadband, access and competition, interconnection, spectrum management, internet pricing, including matters such as the domain name system (DNS) and intellectual property rights, consumer protection and regional co-operation.

Representation of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) was assured by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), which currently holds the presidency of that organisation.

SEE <http://www.aptsoc.org/seminar/meeting-2003/policy-forum/default.htm>

INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

PLENARY SESSION

The plenary session of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) was held in Vienna, Austria, on 9 July, with participants extensively debating the issue of remedies, measures that the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) may adopt in the context of the new regulatory framework for electronic communications, should there be a breakdown in market functions.

In this area, the plenary session opted to prepare, together with the European Commission, a report seeking a pragmatic approach, taking into account national specificities. The launch of a second public consultation on remedies was held to be premature.

Also debated and approved was the revised text of the joint consultation on bitstream access, launched by the IRG and by the European Regulators Group (ERG) and in force until 31 August (see http://www.erg.eu.int/documents/index_en.htm#bitstream).

The plenary session likewise endorsed the Principles of Implementation and Best Practices with regard to detailed invoicing (at http://irgis.anacom.pt/site/en/areas_doc.asp?id=277).

Also studied were matters such as pre-notification (it was agreed that

this practice should remain informal and voluntary), added value short messages and international roaming (an issue for which the NRAs should adopt harmonised procedures as soon as possible).

In the context of the co-operation established between the IRG and the Latin-American Forum of Telecommunications Regulatory Bodies (REGULATEL), and specifically with regard to the community @lis programme, the Secretariat called attention to the existence of budget concerns, regarding the execution thereof, on the part of the European Commission, and reported that the annual meeting between the two bodies should take place on 2-3 December in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic.

The next IRG plenary session has been provisionally scheduled for 19-20 November.

WG RA

A meeting of the working group on Regulatory Accounting (WG RA) was held on 7-8 July in Malta, where participants debated issues basically related to incremental cost models and accounting separation. See <http://irgis.anacom.pt/site/en/>.

EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP (ERG)

FL-LRIC (Forward Looking - Long Run Incremental Costs) cost models are the subject of a public consultation launched on 30 July by the European Regulators Group (ERG), with the aim of drawing up a common position on this matter. The consultation is open until 7 September; the resulting common position should be published in November. The consultation document results from an adaptation of the principles of implementation and best practices adopted by the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) in November 2000.

SEE http://www.erg.eu.int/whatsnew/index_en.htm

CEPT - INTER-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND THE 29TH RCC COUNCIL

At the invitation of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) and in the context of Portugal's current presidency of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) represented the organisation at the round table dedicated to interregional co-operation and at the 29th session of the RCC Council. This high level event was held in St Petersburg from 29 June to 1 July, during commemorations of that city's 300th anniversary.

The round table focused on the theme topic of interregional co-operation and was chaired by the Russian minister for computers and communications. It resulted in a commitment to narrow relations between the various regional telecommunications and postal organisations represented there, in order to speed up the decision-making process vis-à-vis events on a global scale. Specifically, a decision was made to undertake joint actions in areas such as the development of information and communication technologies (ICT), the preparation of positions for events and conferences in the context of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Universal

Postal Union (UPU), the implementation of bilateral and multilateral projects relevant to those organisations and the training of human resources.

The 29th session of the RCC Council counted participation of the officials (ministers or state secretaries) responsible for the portfolios of communications and computers in the countries of the former USSR, and particularly observers from the various regional organisations present at the round table. Topics considered included preparation of the next UPU congress (Romania, 2004) and the regional conference to revise the digital radio plan (Geneva, May 2004), and adopted various measures aiming to ensure development of the communications services market and improve the quality of those services.

The meeting was attended by representatives of practically all the regional organisations with powers in the area of posts and telecommunications: besides CEPT and the RCC, the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the League of Arab States, and the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU).

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

SEE <http://www.caemc.ru/ecrc/>

IN SEPTEMBER 2003

EU

- Informal Council of Ministers (3-5)
- Telecommunications Group (11, 19, 22 and 25)
- COCOM (17)

IRG

- WG Regulatory Accounting (28-29/8)
- Contacts Network (11-12)

CEPT

- Assembly (9-10)

ECC

- ERO Frequency Information System - Management Group
- EFIS-MG (4-5)
- PT5 (15-16)
- ERO and ETO Councils (29-30)

ITU

- COG (17)
- Development Sector
- Study Group 1 (2-5)
- WG WSIS ITU (10-11)

Radiocommunications Sector

- TG 6/8 (15-17)
- WG 6E (22-26)

Other

- PrepCom 3/ WSIS (15-26)

NATO

- NATO/FMSC (2-5)

Satellites

- WG IMSO (30/9-3/10)

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