

●● Introduction

The statutory provisions approved by Decree no. 309/2001 of 7 December determine that ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ICP-ANACOM), as from January 2002, produce an annual report on its regulatory activities and produce a report on the state of communications and its activity of regulation and supervision.

In this year of 2009, the option for the presentation of these documents was maintained - which until the edition published in 2006 were grouped in three separate blocks: Regulation, Communications Situation and Activities of ICP-ANACOM.

The document presented here constitutes the Report on the State of Communications for the year 2009.

This document, which is descriptive in nature, sets out to characterize the Situation of Communications and explain its evolution over the course of the year being reported. In addition, the evolution seen over the previous five years is also outlined, to give a clear and comprehensive context to the presented facts, to the trends detected and to the emerging innovations.

The document structure is divided into two main units, electronic communications and postal services, and features statistical information collected directly from providers, through consumer surveys of a sampling nature and also through data compiled by national and international institutions that serve as references to development in Portugal. The section on electronic communications includes chapters on the telephone service at a fixed location, the mobile telephone service, the Internet access service (fixed and mobile) and subscription television. The first chapter of this section sets out to present the services and consumption of electronic communications in an integrated manner.

For the first time a section is presented on the development of high-speed networks.

As in the previous edition, and in order to facilitate the consultation of the elements on which this document is based, a Statistical Appendix is provided as part of the present report. This appendix sets out a set of historical statistics on the sector with reference to 2009 and the four preceding years. Up to 2005, this data formed part of the Statistical Yearbook, which has since been reformulated.