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ALTERATIONS TO THE ULL REFERENCE OFFER

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) has approved the changes to be introduced into the 2001 Reference Offer to the Unbundling of the Local Loop by PT Comunicações. The Institute's deliberation, taken on 28 June, gives the historic operator ten days in which to make the above-mentioned changes.

After this, PT Comunicações must establish conditions making it possible to offer services to the public based on separate unbundling of the local loop at the three exchanges that are currently open for testing purposes (the exchanges at Lumiar and Laranjeiras, in Lisbon, and Foz in Porto). On the same date, the 40 exchanges that the operators have classified as priorities must be available for unbundling of the local loop purposes. By 1 October, the 80 exchanges considered more important by the operators must also be progressively integrated into the reference offer.

The current deliberation maintains some prices unchanged in relation to the plan put forward in May, namely in the case of monthly leases of lines (€11.96, or 2,398\$00 for the lease of narrowband lines, and €13.78, or 2,762\$00 for the lease of broadband lines). Similarly, there have been no changes to the

prices set for installation, checking eligibility or intervention in the event of malfunction.

However, the deliberation does correct certain prices for the rentals of internal and external connections, access control and the co-installation rental (in this latter case, the price has been lowered).

PT Comunicações has ten days to present its pricing proposals for control tests, access to information and signal transport services and sixty days to present its pricing proposal for the shared access service.

All prices referred to in the deliberation are exclusively for the wholesale market. Besides making alterations to the Unbundled Local Loop Reference Offer, the deliberation also includes a series of recommendations namely with regard to virtual co-installation, access to intermediate points in the access network, management of the spectrum in the access network, access to information and co-installation of equipment and access to the exchanges, so that PT Comunicações immediately envisages that the offer will be subject to alteration in the future, with a view to promoting its progressively greater compatibility with the changing interests of the market.

PORTABILITY IN FORCE

Number portability for the fixed network, including direct access from the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) has been possible since 30 June.

With this decision, the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) is six months ahead of the 1 January 2002 deadline for the introduction of portability, set by the European Union and similarly established in article 31 of Decree-Law no. 415/98, of 31 December, which transposes the Interconnection Directive (97/33/EC, with the wording given by Directive 98/61/EC) to the Portuguese legal system.

This functionality represents important progress in the promotion of effective competition in the market, for it makes it possible to keep the same telephone number when the service provider changes and thereby ceases to be an obstacle.

Management of the data base of ported numbers is the responsibility of the consortium formed by CASE S.A. and PORT IT, S.A., which performs the role of Reference Entity. The contract of service provider was signed at the ICP headquarters, on 25 June, between the consortium, ICP and the providers involved, amounting to 15 in all.

Now, the Reference Entity must begin to perform the functions for which it was set up, in a neutral fashion, with the agreement of all the operators involved and after carrying out two market surveys.

Recently, in its deliberation of 28 June, the ICP approved the specifications for service providers with portability obligations, or, in other words, the principles and rules to be followed, the technical interface between networks and the processes to be introduced into providers' systems for the administrative support of portability and the interim interface.

DTTV APPLICATIONS UNDER ANALYSIS

The applications presented by both Oni Plataformas -Infocomunicações and Plataforma de Televisão Digital Portuguesa (PTDP) for the granting of a Digital Terrestrial Television (DTTV) network operator's licence were unanimously accepted by the Tender Committee, appointed by the Executive to analyse bids in keeping with the call for tender regulations.

The two applications were delivered to the head office of the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) on 15 June, with the bids being opened in public on 18 June.

Under the terms of the call for tender regulations, the Tender Committee will now analyse the bids, drawing up a list classifying the bidders and presenting a proposal for the licence award to the Government. The Committee has until 6 August to complete this task, although the deadline may be extended.

When the bids were opened, the bidder PTDP - Plataforma de Televisão Digital Portuguesa filed a complaint against the decision to admit the bidder Oni Plataformas-Infocomunicações to the tender. The complaint was analysed and subsequently rejected by the Tender Committee. This decision was accepted by the bidder that had filed the complaint.

SEE www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1681&ida=183

The portability specifications also apply to mobile operators, and portability in the mobile telephone network has been definitively set for 1 January 2002, in accordance with the Institute's decision of 4 June.

Communications in Portugal

CURRENT EVENTS

Service quality indicators at CTT

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) has approved the conclusions of the audit carried out into the service quality indicators (SQI) used at CTT - Correios de Portugal in 1999. Similarly, the reliability of the new SQI monitoring system introduced by CTT in January 2000 has been confirmed. The Institute made a number of recommendations to CTT, including updating the flow matrices for first and second-class post and correcting the monitoring of queuing times at post offices. According to the Basic Law for Postal Services - Law no. 102/99, of 26 July (article 8, paragraph 7) - the ICP is responsible for ensuring independent control of the quality of services effectively provided. More information is available on www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1691&ida=182.

Terrestrial frequencies awarded for UMTS

The frequencies for the terrestrial component of third-generation mobile services (UMTS) have been awarded by ICP to the operators licensed for this purpose, Telecel, TMN, Ony Way and Optimus. When the public call for tenders was held for UMTS, international studies were still in progress to identify the most suitable technical method for awarding these terrestrial frequencies.

Conteúdos.pt is launched

On 25 June, Mariano Gago, the minister of Science and Technology,

announced the launch of the call for tenders for Conteúdos.pt, which will be given 10 billion escudos for promoting the production of Portuguese content on the Internet until 2006. Integrated into the Operational Programme for the Information Society (POSI), Conteúdos.pt is aimed at both public and private organisations and its regulations may be consulted at www.posi.mct.pt/destaque/editais/002.jsp. The announcement was made at the opening session of the fifth commemoration of the National Multimedia Day, an initiative organised by the Association for the Promotion of Multimedia in Portugal (APMP), in which this year's theme was "The Content Industry and the Convergence Economy".

ITED Certifying Authorities

The certifying authorities registered at ICP, under the regime for Telecommunications Infrastructure in Buildings (ITED), can be found on the Institute's website at www.icp.pt/ited/ec.html.

Publicising of frequencies

Frequencies for the two-year period 2000/2001 may be consulted at www.icp.pt/publicacoes/manuais/pubfreq00_01/. As far as the sub-bands destined for the introduction of the TETRA system are concerned, the ICP has decided to revise the date (30 September 2001) originally set as the deadline for giving its authorisation, postponing the introduction of this system for another year, i.e. until 30 September 2002.

CONSULTATION ON TV AND CABLE BROADCASTING STANDARDS

25 June marked the end of the period set aside by the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) and the Instituto da Comunicação Social (ICS) for inviting comments by interested parties (cable network operators and television operators) on the proposal for a Decree-Law put forward by the ICP. The purpose of this law is to establish the regime applicable to the operation of conditional access systems and the user equipment associated with these, as well as the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access to illicit devices. This proposal thus promotes the complete transposition into Portuguese law of Directive 95/47/EC, of the European Parliament and the Council, of 24 October, relating to the use of standards for the transmission of television signals, and Directive 98/84/EC, of the European Parliament and the Council, of 20 November, relating to the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access. On the basis of the comments received, the ICP will reassess its proposal, which will then be submitted to the Infrastructure Ministry.

POSTAL BANK

Originally due to begin only in 2002, the Postal Bank, a joint venture between CTT - Correios de Portugal and Caixa Geral de Depósitos, has already been launched, after formal authorisation from the Bank of Portugal.

The new bank has an authorised capital of 6 billion escudos, 51 per cent of which is held by CGD and 49 per cent by CTT, and was formally set up on 22 June. The Postal Bank is geared towards private clients and, in its first phase, will operate with five branches installed in post offices. Besides the normal banking services, the bank will provide financial and property insurance, investment funds and equipment leasing.

Communications in Portugal

NEW REGIME FOR THE INTERNET

The new rules for Internet access were definitively established on 25 June, with the adoption of a deliberation taken by the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP). Essentially, this deliberation confirmed the earlier one of 21 February, which determined the inclusion of Internet traffic under the scope of interconnection, thereby moving from a revenue-sharing model based on the fixed telephone service to an interconnection model based on call origination charges.

Despite the 10-day deadline for ending negotiations for the corresponding interconnection agreements, set by an earlier decision of 31 May, only four agreements were signed, whilst a number of ISPs requested the ICP to intervene, so that this new decision covers specific aspects and is essentially centred around three separate points.

Firstly, it was decided that the Institute must intervene to ensure completion of the agreements, valid for the current year and signed between PT Comunicações and the interested parties, and that these are in conformity with one another within certain parameters. Thus, for example, PT Comunicações will provide ISPs with billing and charging services, although

neither of these services may exceed the maximum price of 1\$60 (excluding VAT) for each connection to the Internet (in metered offers and in calls made outside the off-peak period defined for flat rate offers). Besides, the conditions and prices set out in the deliberation of 21 February are to be applied from the date when the conditions necessary for the transition to the new regime were first met or else when met thereafter.

Secondly, the ICP will also analyse the contracts already signed in order to check their conformity and assess the need for intervention, in keeping with article 17 of Decree-Law no. 415/98, of 31 December.

Thirdly, an additional period to the transition period was established. This will end on 31 October 2001 and was granted for the transition to the new interconnection regime applicable to Internet access traffic. This aspect is dealt with in a draft decision, of which PT Comunicações has already been informed, so that it now has 10 days in which to express its opinion on this matter.

SEE http://www.icp.pt/interligacao/uk/interligacao_internet_8.html

SPECIAL NEEDS UNDER DISCUSSION AT APDC...

"The New Economy and Citizens with Special Needs" was the topic of yet another seminar held on 6 June and organised by the Portuguese Association for Communications Development (APDC). Accessibility and info-inclusion were the subjects discussed by representatives from a wide variety of different areas, including the European Commission, the Portuguese Government, the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP), operators and representatives from higher education, as well as members of the Portuguese Association of Disabled Persons and the National Rehabilitation Secretariat.

The current prospects and expectations of citizens with special needs were discussed in the light of the development of new communication platforms, especially the third mobile generation and digital television. The seminar included an analysis of the concrete problems still existing at the level of the Internet. There was clear evidence of a general determination to overcome existing difficulties by seeking to turn the Information Society into an inclusive reality and place it at the service of the many citizens with special needs.

... AND AT THE CONVERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM

The introduction of DTTV (Digital Terrestrial Television) should respect two fundamental principles: universality and accessibility. This was the unanimous view of those taking part in the meeting on DTTV and populations with special needs held on 29 May by the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP), under the scope of the Convergence and Development Platform.

The characteristics of the equipment and services associated with digital television were discussed by operators and manufacturers, as well as by various associations of citizens with special needs.

Whilst there have been highly positive developments at the level of equipment (adapted remote control, keyboards and special mouses, screen readers, speech synthesisers and Braille terminals, amongst others), there is frequently much concern about what happens in actual practice. For example, as those present at the meeting pointed out, there are problems with the recently launched interactive television, which is totally inaccessible to blind people, or the overuse of teletext in detriment to sign language (a considerable number of people with hearing disabilities have difficulties in reading). For this reason, there were various requests for more information and better publicity.

SEE <http://www.apdc.pt/>

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Decree-Law no. 192/2001** (I Series-A of the Diário da República of 26 June) - Approves the Basic Law for the Institute of Portuguese Cooperation.
- **Decree-Law no. 177/2001** (I Series-A of the Diário da República of 4 June) - Alters Decree-Law no. 555/99, of 16 December, which establishes the legal regime for town planning and building, with implications for Decree-Law no. 59/2000, of 19 April, relating to the regime for telecommunications infrastructure in buildings (ITED). This law is due to come into force 120 days after publication.
- The Council of Ministers (C.M.) of 21 June generally approved the draft proposal for a law authorising the government to legislate in matters concerning public institutes.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MARKET POWER

The draft guidelines relating to market analysis and the calculation of market power, based on article 14 of the proposal of Directive establishing a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (framework Directive), were the subject of a public hearing, organised by the European Commission and held in Brussels on 18 June. The hearing was attended by representatives of the operators, as well as others from industry, representative associations within the sector and national regulatory authorities (NRA).

The seminar was chaired by Commission's Competition General Director, being present also Commission's Information Society General Director, who made the opening speech.

The Commission stated that the aim of the guidelines published on 24 January, under the scope of the so-called 99 Review, is to support NRA in their task of defining markets and assessing the level of competition, creating as

well an important "behaviour code".

One of the Commission's aims is to bring competition laws in the telecommunications sector into line with the general Community laws on competition, namely by adapting the concept of Significant Market Power (SMP) to the concept of dominant position as expressed in the competition law. In this regard, the Commission explained the difference in the application of the two concepts (relevant market and dominant position) which the framework directive draws from competition law: in the latter case, the two concepts are applied *a posteriori* (ex post), whilst in the framework directive they are applied *a priori* (ex ante).

Those taking part in the hearing spoke especially about the undefined nature of the relationship between the absence of effective competition and dominant position and between the guidelines and competition law, as well as about the problems of updating the guidelines in the

light of the rapid evolution of markets and the application of the concept of dominance to local markets. Particular attention was drawn to the subject of joint dominance, one of the concerns most frequently expressed by mobile operators. In relation to this question, the Commission defended the idea that oligopolies are not in themselves bad, but simply that they must be regulated whenever such a situation is harmful to consumers. In reply to similar concerns expressed by television operators, the Commission said that the specificities of television broadcasting are recognised by Community law, restricting the regulatory package under analysis to electronic services and networks and not to content.

The Commission invited those taking part in the hearing to send in their written comments by the end of June, the date when the period of public consultation on this matter was due to end.

EUROPEAN UNION

ULL MAY GIVE RISE TO LEGAL ACTION

With the support of the European Parliament's Industry Committee, expressly given to him on 12 June, the Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, announced that the Commission was prepared to take legal action against Member States and operators who have not yet completed application of the Regulation on unbundling the local loop. So far, only nine of the 15 Member States have unbundled their local networks. See <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=PRESS-NEWSRP&L=FR&PUBREF=-//EP/TEXT+PRESS-NEWSRP+NR-20010620-1+0+DOC+SGML+V0//FR&LEVEL=2#SECTION10>.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF GOTHENBURG

The conclusions of the Swedish Presidency after the meeting of the European Council in Gothenburg, which was held on 15 and 16 June, recommend that the Council and European Parliament make every effort in the telecommunications sector to ensure that the regulatory package for telecommunications is approved by the end of 2001. The eEurope Plus Action Plan was also launched during the Council meeting, with the aim of accelerating the modernisation of economies through the use of Information Society technologies and tools. Further details can be found on www.eu2001.se/static/eng/eusummit/conclusions.asp and http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action=gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/852|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

SECURITY ON THE INTERNET

On 6 June, the Commission published a paper on "Network and Information Security: Proposal for a European Policy Approach", which can be consulted on http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/news_library/new_documents/index_en.htm.

ECTA REPORT

The European Competitive Telecommunications Association (ECTA) has just published a report on the sector, in which it defends a more active intervention on the part of the European Commission in the regulation of telecommunications. Further details can be found at www.ectaportal.com/ecta2001/regulatory/atlantic.htm.

IRG MEETINGS

MOBILE ACCESS WG

The regulation of access to mobile networks, particularly with regard to international roaming, access regimes, infrastructure sharing and interconnection prices was the main topic under discussion at the meeting of the Mobile Access Working Group (WG) of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), held in Vienna on 15 June.

SMP WG

A meeting was also held in Vienna of the Significant Market Power (SMP)WG on June 20. Discussion centred around those topics that are already being debated under the scope of the 99 Review, namely matters concerning the evaluation of SMP, the concept of effective competition and its applicability in the telecommunications sector, as well as the joint work being undertaken with other IRG working groups.

ULL WG

On 18 and 19 June, a meeting was held in Helsinki of the Unbundled Local Loop (ULL) WG, during which there was discussion of the conditions and prices of co-installation applicable to the reference offer to the unbundling of the local loop, the methodologies involved in the determination of the costs of shared access and the conditions relating to the specification of automatic systems for processing information requests. Certain matters were also identified that needed to be given greater emphasis in the document "Implementation principles and better practice in ULL", adopted on 24 November 2000 by the IRG. This document contains a series of guidelines relating to the implementation of the local loop reference offer.

Communications around the World

ITU MEETINGS

ITU COUNCIL

Reform of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and discussion and approval of the budget for 2002-2003 were the main themes of the meeting of the organisation's Council, which took place in Geneva from 18 to 29 June. This subject will be dealt with in more detail in the next edition of *Spectru*.

GROUP OF EXPERTS

From 2 to 4 May, there was a meeting in Geneva of the group of experts set up by the ITU Council to analyse the provisions of Chapter II of the ITU Convention ("Provisions of a general nature concerning conferences and meetings") and give their opinion on which provisions can be grouped together in a separate legal instrument.

The group concluded that, with the exception of the provisions regulating admission to conferences and meetings and the accreditation

of delegates, all others were of a procedural nature, and so there was no justification for submitting them to the ratification process normally applied to treaties.

The group therefore decided to recommend to the Council that these provisions be removed from the text of the Convention.

STUDY GROUP 3

The subject of "IP Telephony" was the main focus of attention at the second meeting in the current period of studies being carried out by Study Group 3 (SG3) in the telecommunications standardisation sector (ITU-R) and respective working groups 1/3 and 2/3, which took place from 11 to 15 June at the ITU headquarters in Geneva.

Other matters were also discussed, such as IP network interworking, international internet connection (Recommendation D.50) IMT-2000, termination renumbering in mobile networks

and changes to Appendices A, C and F of Recommendation D.140. The revision of the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITR) was also discussed and reporting groups were set up to work specifically on IP telephony and international internet connection.

MEETING OF REGULATORS

The ITU announced that the second Global Symposium of Regulators is to take place in Geneva on 3-5 December. The event will be organised by the Telecommunications Development Bureau (TDB) and, in addition to national regulatory authorities, it is also aimed at the administrations of Member States. The symposium will seek to operate as a support forum for the creation of regulatory bodies in developing countries, in keeping with the principles of the Valletta Action Plan. Enrolments will remain open until 15 September.

SEE www.itu.int

ETSI - TC ERM

The 14th meeting of the Technical Committee on Electromagnetic Compatibility and Radio Matters (TC ERM) of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) took place in Guernsey from 18 to 22 June. The matters discussed were aeronautic mobile, terrestrial mobile and maritime mobile services, as well as general subjects relating to radio matters and electromagnetic compatibility.

In particular, there was a discussion about the draft mandate from the European Commission for the creation of harmonised standards of electromagnetic compatibility for telecommunications networks.

As far as radio matters were concerned, there was discussion of ETSI's contribution to the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) and the strategic plans for the 862-870 MHz band and the ISM (Industrial, Scientific and Medical) 2.45 GHz band. A proposal for an increase in power from 10 mW to 35 mW in the 2.45 GHz band was rejected by a majority vote.

SEE www.etsi.org

EUTELSAT AND INTELSAT PRIVATISED

The privatisation of the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (EUTELSAT) and the International Organisation of Telecommunications Satellites (INTELSAT) will take place on 2 and 18 July respectively. This will lead to a new stage in the development of these intergovernmental organisations, which over the last two decades have coordinated two of the most comprehensive satellite systems at both a European and world level. In view of the new regulatory and market conditions under which both organisations are now operating, their privatisation was seen as the best solution for ensuring their respective survival and the continued fulfilment of their public service obligations.

In each case, privatisation will result in a residual intergovernmental organisation and a private company. The former will have as its main aims to supervise the private company's fulfilment of its obligations as a universal service and to ensure respect for the principles of healthy competition and non-discrimination. The latter will be responsible for the management of the respective spatial segments.

In the case of EUTELSAT, the intergovernmental organisation will keep the name of EUTELSAT and the private company will be known as Eutelsat S.A. The intergovernmental organisation of INTELSAT will change its name to ITSO and the private company will be known as Intelsat Lda.

SEE www.eutelsat.org

SEE www.intelsat.int/

COOPERATION WITH KENYA

On 25 June, under the coordination of the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) received a delegation of top officials from the Kenyan regulatory body in the communications sector, the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK). The aim of this visit was to give an idea of the organisational structure and main functions and responsibilities of the ICP, as well as to explain the legal framework, tariff and service quality systems of the Portuguese postal sector. The CCK delegation was likewise received by CTT-Correios de Portugal, with whom matters of a more operational nature were discussed.

The CCK was created in 1999 and has a body of non-executive directors who meet regularly to decide upon the most important matters in the communications sector, including postal services and telecommunications.

CEPT MEETINGS

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

An appraisal of the work carried out by both the group and the *Troika* was one of the most important points on the agenda at the fifth and last meeting of the Implementation Group (IG) of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), which took place in Cardiff in the United Kingdom on 12-13 June.

The IG is responsible for preparing the restructuring of the organisation within one year, in keeping with the guidelines set out by the CEPT Plenary Assembly.

The meeting also discussed proposed amendments, approved the final report to be presented to the Plenary Assembly and debated measures to speed up the process for ratifying the amended convention of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO), which will establish the European Communications Office (ECO).

ETO COUNCIL

The Administration Council of the European Telecommunications Office (ETO) also met in Cardiff on 11 June, essentially to decide upon certain questions relating to the merger between ETO and ERO, particularly the question of the future of the Council during the interim period, which will last until such time as the convention of the new ECO office comes into force.

The work plan for 2002 was adopted, together with the annual report and accounts for 2001-2002, the budget for 2002 and a possible financial plan for the period from 2002 to 2004.

ERC PT1

The fourth meeting of PT 1 (Project Team 1 on UMTS/IMT 2000 and Systems Beyond) of CEPT's European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) was held in Brighton in the United Kingdom on 12-13 June. As usual, matters dealt with included spectrum use, global circulation and compatibility. As far as spectrum use was concerned, discussions centred around a proposal from the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) to include the UTRA TDD (Universal Terrestrial

Radio Access-Time Division Duplex) variant relating to 1.28Mchip/s (the UTRA TDD base is 3.84 Mchip/s) in the ERC/DEC(99)25 decision (Harmonised utilisation of the spectrum for terrestrial Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) operating within the bands 1900-1980MHz, 2010-2025MHz and 2110 -2170MHz).

The discussion ended due to a lack of sufficient data, particularly in relation to relevant technical parameters for studies into shared use of the spectrum, which would allow for progress on alterations to the above-mentioned ERC decision.

In view of the global circulation of IMT-2000 terminals, it was clear that no obstacles would be raised by the European Union to the free movement of these terminals and it was agreed with manufacturers that this principle would be supported at the next WP8F meeting.

Some questions were raised regarding compatibility and coordination in connection with Appendix 4 of Recommendation ERC 01(01) - "Frontier coordination of UMTS/IMT-2000" which will be sent to the ERO for approval.

For its part, Germany will submit a document to WP8F, via PT1, which will include the necessary parameters for the studies into shared use under the scope of IMT-2000 (basically proposing new parameters for DECT, which so far have not been considered by WP8F).

ERC/WGRR

The Working Group on Radio Regulation (WGRR) of the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) met in Bergen, Norway, on 11-15 June and approved two reports.

The first document, ERC Report 111, is concerned with the regulatory procedures to be followed when reallocating frequencies to radiocommunications services.

ERC Report 110 focuses on false distress calls caused by improper triggering of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs).

Also important was the preparatory work for the next ITU World Radiocommunications Conference relating to the Maritime Mobile Service (SMM), Aeronautic Mobile Service (SMA-R) and Amateur Service.

This meeting also included a meeting of the Joint Group on Satellites and the Working Group on

Radio Regulation, which essentially analysed the Comprehensive Satellite Initiative (CSI) report, a document on the harmonisation of the regulatory principles and procedures applicable to the free movement and exemption from individual licences of land mobile stations (terminals) in CEPT countries.

This report will be submitted to the consideration of the ERC and ECTRA committees for approval and publication.

SEAMCAT SEMINAR

The presentation of the SEAMCAT (Spectrum Engineering Advanced Monte Carlo Analysis Tool), its potentialities and practical applications were the subject of a seminar sponsored by its Management Committee, which took place in Copenhagen on 7 June.

As SEAMCAT is a statistical simulation software based on the Monte Carlo method and allowing for the statistical modelling of different types of radiocommunications scenarios, it is a very useful tool for dealing with a wide range of aspects relating to spectrum engineering and compatibility problems between different radio systems. It also allows for greater efficiency in the analysis of the radio spectrum.

WGFM PT22

The definition of a common method among CEPT countries for measuring electromagnetic radiation was the only item on the agenda at the meeting of subgroup FM PT22 of the ERC's Working Group on Frequency Management (WGFM) - on electromagnetic radiation measurements - a common method - which took place in Brussels on 14-15 June.

The Portuguese delegation presented a document suggesting a two-phase approach, which was widely supported by the other countries. It was decided to proceed with an approach that would examine three cases, using this document as a basis. Portugal was made responsible for the preparation of Case 1, relating to the use of probes for the measurement of electromagnetic radiation.

SEE www.cept.org

SEE www.ero.dk

SEE www.eto.dk

NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT) -

The deadline for sending contributions relating to the public consultation on the shared use of decoders for digital terrestrial television was extended until 29 June. Further details can be found on www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_publica/pdf/descodificadores.pdf.

SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT) - The MCT has published an online leaflet supplying information on the appropriate use of mobile phones, particularly with regard to exposure to radioelectric emissions.

See www.sgc.mfom.es/.

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - 16 July has been set as the deadline for sending comments to the public consultation on the proposal for the general plan for authorisations of the specialised mobile service (SME). See [www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_20_06_2001\(3\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_20_06_2001(3).pdf).

The 67 contributions received during the public consultation about the type of digital TV to be adopted in Brazil are available at www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_29_06_2001.pdf.

Further comments can be sent until 23 July. Meanwhile, the public consultation on exposure to electrical, magnetic and electromagnetic fields, which closed on 4 June, received 52 contributions. See [www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_19_06_2001\(4\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_19_06_2001(4).pdf).

GERMANY - Regulierungsbehörde für Telekommunikation und Post (RegTP) -

In the light of the rules for the award of licences for third generation mobile communications in Germany, the regulator has published the principles for sharing infrastructures at www.regtp.de/en/index.html. The initiative is highly relevant, as Deutsche Telekom and British Telecom have just signed a cooperation agreement for the joint construction and management of UMTS network infrastructures. It is predicted that the two operators will reduce their project launching costs by 30% with this partnership.

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) -

Following the award on 31 May of two licences for third generation mobiles to the operators France Télécom Mobiles S.A. (FTM) and Société Française du Radiotéléphone (SFR), the French regulatory authority has proposed to the government that a new call for tenders be held by the first half of 2002 at the latest (at www.art-telecom.fr/dossiers/umts/res-umts-som.htm).

On 7 June, ART published the guidelines regarding the interconnection conditions of mobile operators with significant market power (www.art-telecom.fr/communiqués/communiqués/2001/20-2001.htm). As far as the unbundling of the local loop is concerned, the authority has already presented (at www.art-telecom.fr/publications/rec-pgs.htm) its recommendations as part of the consolidation of the spectrum management plan for the supply of broadband services in the local network and it has again insisted (at www.art-telecom.fr/textes/avis/01/01-521.htm) that the incumbent operator should publish a reference offer in line with the principles already laid down by ART.

FRANCE - Portail du Gouvernement Français - On 13 June, the French Council of Ministers discussed the proposed new legislation on the Information Society, known as LSI. The draft legislation is part of the government's action plan for the information society (PAGSI) and is already being studied by various bodies such as ART. The proposed changes would deal with such concerns as the access of citizens to digital information, responsibility for housing illicit sites, the legal framework applicable to e-commerce, electronic advertising and the right of reply on the Internet. See www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/fr/p.cfm?ref=25518.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OfTel) - The restructuring process of the five current United Kingdom regulatory bodies in the sector (OfTel, the Radio Authority, Radiocommunications Agency, Independent Television Commission and Broadcasting Standards Commission) to form one sole United Kingdom regulatory authority - the Office of Communications (OFCOM) - took another step forward with the announcement by the Queen that a new Communications Bill will be introduced during the current Parliamentary session. The constitution of OFCOM, which is due to enter into operation within two years, is the responsibility of the Towers Perrin consulting firm, who will be coordinated by a steering group comprising the chief executives of the five regulators plus representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The work is scheduled for completion by the end of August.

See www.ofcom.gov.uk/press/20jun01.htm.

On 28 June, OfTel launched a public consultation (at www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/licensing/2001/adva0601.htm) designed to evaluate the current deadlines for notification by the incumbent of price alterations and the regulatory obligations to maintain a published price list. On the previous day, the regulator announced four further measures to promote local loop unbundling by new operators. For more information, consult www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/pr43_01.htm.

IRELAND - Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) -

On 20 June, the Irish regulator launched two public consultations on radiocommunications. The first document seeks to consider the possibilities for the award of a fixed wireless access licence, following the launch last year of six FWA licences. The second relates to the availability of public mobile data services incorporating Bluetooth technology. Further details are available at www.odtr.ie/docs/pres200601.doc. On 5 June, ODTR published the latest quarterly report on the sector, covering the period from January to March 2001, which reveals that telecommunications represents 3 per cent of Irish GDP, while the new fixed network operators have achieved a market share of 20 per cent. (www.odtr.ie/docs/pres050601.doc).

SWEDEN - National Post and Telecom Agency (PTS) -

The Swedish regulatory authority has decided that the operator Telia shall reduce its mobile interconnection charge in keeping with principles of cost orientation (www.pts.se/dokument/getFile.asp?FileID=2273). Meanwhile, the process for analysing the five applications for new fixed wireless access (FWA) licences is already underway. These licences will be issued on 1 October. More information is available at www.pts.se/dokument/getFile.asp?FileID=2272.

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY – COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The so-called 99 Review package, which is due to be given its final approval by the end of the year, was once again in the spotlight at the Council of Ministers of Telecommunications, who met in Luxembourg on 27 June.

The Council reached a common position regarding the draft Directive on universal service and users' rights, whilst the draft Directive on the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy also obtained general political agreement, except for questions relating to unsolicited e-mail, which were sent to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER).

The draft decision on the creation of a regulatory framework for a radio spectrum policy also merited the agreement of Member States, who adopted a common position and now await the response of the European Parliament to its first reading during the month of July.

Regulation of the .eu top-level domain was also discussed and a common

position has been reached by the Council. Meanwhile, on 4 July, the European Parliament approved the proposal for a Regulation on the implementation of the .eu top-level domain on the Internet, as well as proposing legislation on the same proposal for a Regulation.

Amongst other matters dealt with was the subject of postal services, an area on which COREPER was encouraged to continue working. The Belgian presidency has already indicated that the postal question will be one of its priorities, stating in advance that it intends to comply with the timetable established by the European Council.

The Commission gave news of the latest developments in the area of third generation mobiles, particularly in relation to the decisions of various Member States about the possibility of sharing infrastructures.

The Commission also issued a Communication on information and network security within the framework of the eEurope Action Plan. ◀

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/01/247/0|RAPID&lg=EN

SEE <http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/pv2?APP=PV2&PRG=CALEND&FILE=010704&TPV=PROV&LANGUE=EN>

LICENSES IN 2001				
FIXED TELEPHONE SERVICE			PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS	
Licensed Service Providers	Date	Access Codes	Licensed Operators	Date
TeleMilénio - Telecomunicações, Sociedade Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.01.19	1073	Global Metro Networks Portugal - Sociedade de Telecomunicações, Lda.	2001.01.19
Companhia Portuguesa Rádio Marconi, S.A.	2001.02.02	1075	TeleMilénio - Telecomunicações, Sociedade Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.01.19
NetVoice - Comunicações e Sistemas, Lda.	2001.03.01	1025	CABLETEL - Serviços de Telecomunicações, S.A.	2001.03.08
CABLETEL - Serviços de Telecomunicações, S.A.	2001.03.08	1066	Belgacom Portugal, S.A.	2001.04.06
COLTEL - Serviços de Telecomunicações, Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.04.20	—	TVTel Grande Porto - Comunicações, S.A.	2001.04.12
REFER TELECOM - Serviços de Telecomunicações, S.A.	2001.06.21	—	COLTEL - Serviços de Telecomunicações, Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.04.20
			REN - Rede Eléctrica Nacional, S.A.	2001.05.17
			TCN (Portugal) - Instalação e Manutenção de Redes, Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.05.24
			REFER TELECOM - Serviços de Telecomunicações, S.A.	2001.06.21 ◀

IN JULY 2001

EU

- ONP Committee (4)
- Plenary Satellite Action Plan (9-10)
- Economic Questions Group/Telecommunications (5-6; 12-13; 19-20; 24)
- Economic Questions Group/Postal Services (23)

CEPT

- ERC
- Plenary (1-6)
- CPG PT1 (11-14)

IRG

- WG on Cost Accounting Issues (5-6)
- Contact Network (19)

ITU

- Preparation for the World Development Conference- WTDC (9)
- Project Team PP-02 (10-11)

UPU

- High Level Group (5-6)

ETSI

- Technical Committee on Access and Terminals - TCAT (3-6)

EVENTS

- *Global SLA Summit* - 9-12, London
- *SIM and Smartcard* - 9-12, London

SPECTRU IS PUBLISHED BY
Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP)

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