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□ NEW RANGE ASSOCIATED TO VoIP SERVICE

The Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) approved on 23 February 2006 the opening of a new range of non-geographic numbering, the '30' range, for the exclusive use of nomadic Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, thus setting it apart from telephone service provided at a fixed site. This decision follows approval of the report from the public consultation launched on 4 November 2005 on the regulatory approach to VoIP services and contains this Authority's understanding of the issue and the analysis of the answers received. For the '30' range it was decided that portability should be implemented by the providers of nomadic VoIP services and that the quality of service regulation, approved in due time by ANACOM (Regulation no. 46/2005, published in the

Diário da República of 14 June), applies to companies that provide VoIP service at a fixed site. Besides this, all the providers of nomadic VoIP services who hold numbering from the national numbering plan (NNP) should, when in national territory, assure the routing of VoIP calls to emergency services, i.e., to the 112 number. The providers of VoIP services at a fixed site must also submit to ANACOM quarterly statistical information identical to that requested from the other providers of telephone service at a fixed site; as for the nomadic VoIP providers, a form for submitting statistical information on the respective activity will be prepared and submitted to the consultation of interested parties. (+info)

□ FWA OPERATORS' USAGE RIGHTS

Also on 23 February, ANACOM approved the recovery and reconfiguration of the usage rights for FWA frequencies. Those rights only cover currently allocated spectrum with a view to maintaining same; additional spectrum requests are not considered. This Authority determined the settlement and coverage of the fees for 2004, 2005 and 2006; each operator is subject to the fees correspon-

ding to the geographic areas for which it holds frequency usage rights. The settlement and coverage should nevertheless only take place after issuance of the respective titles, which were submitted to prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of and per the effects of articles 100 and 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure. (+info)

■ PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

ENUM (ELECTRONIC NUMBERING) SERVICE

ANACOM launched a public consultation on ENUM (Telephone Numbering Mapping or Electronic Numbering) service in the wake of a determination dated 23 February. The deadline to respond to this consultation – 40 working days – is 3 May. Comments should be submitted, preferably by electronic mail, to enum@anacom.pt. The aim of this consultation is to assess the market's openness to the ENUM protocol and to work out an action plan for its introduction in Portugal, identifying the services and applications which via ENUM could be stimulated or additionally offered, as well as the administrative management model and the most appropriate and efficient technical implementation solutions and the availability to conduct tests and/or set a pilot period and its scheduling. (+info)

TELEVISION BROADCASTING LICENCES

By determination of 17 February, ANACOM also launched a public consultation on the renewal of rights to use the frequencies allocated to SIC and TVI to conduct the activity of television broadcasting. Interested parties should submit comments by 23 March; same should be addressed to renovacao.dutelevisao@anacom.pt. Note that the television licences are valid for a period of 15 years; the respective companies had requested that ANACOM grant the renewals. The maximum time period for the right to use the frequencies of SIC and TVI will be determined in line with the legal limit, conditioned by any changes introduced in the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP). ANACOM must also determine the conditions that objectively justify association to the renewal of those rights, according to the principles of non-discrimination, proportionality and transparency. The possibility of eventual recovery of the rights to use the frequencies granted to SIC and TVI on the date set by law for the end of analogue system emissions (switch-off) is the subject of a specific question. (+info)

(+info) In order to facilitate the consultation of information, the links have been replaced with this new designation

■ CURRENT EVENTS

CTE 210 COMMISSION BEGINS WORK

The National Technical Commission for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CTE 210) for electromagnetic compatibility has been reactivated and has already begun work. This commission analyses work originating in the technical committees of European and international bodies in the context of electrotechnical standardisation – the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). (+info, Portuguese only)

COMPANIES INVOICING THE RIGHTS OF WAY FEE

Information about the companies that invoice the municipal fee for rights of way (TMDP – *taxa municipal de direitos de passagem*) is available on the website of the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM). This information results from compliance with the regulation for the procedures of covering and conveying the TMDP to municipalities (Regulation no. 38/2004 of 29 September), which stipulates that all companies subject to TMDP should communicate to ANACOM the date when they will begin billing their customers for that fee, with reference to the municipalities covered. (+info)

SUSPENSION OF CERTIFYING ENTITIES

By order of 23 December 2005, issued under the delegation of powers referred to in Notice no. 5523/2005 of 1 June, provisional suspension was approved for the registration of the certifying entity CERTINAC – Empresa de Certificação de Instalações de Telecomunicações, for a three-month period from 9 January, the date of notification. (+info, Portuguese only)

On the same legal grounds the registration of the Braga activity group of the certifying entity PT Comunicações (PTC) was also provisionally suspended, likewise for three months, counting from the notification date of 10 January. These provisional measures were decreed as part of the administrative processes under way in this Authority. (+info, Portuguese only)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES

As part of its sanctioning and oversight duties, ANACOM has filed a number of administrative offence cases concerning the market for telecommunications terminal equipment. (+info, Portuguese only)

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

ANACOM has deactivated the explanations form for electronic commerce. Interested parties should henceforth use the “Form for Claims/Information Requests/Comments and Suggestions” available on all pages of the ANACOM website. (+info)

LIST OF SPECIAL INDICATORS FOR AMATEUR SERVICE

To answer the requests submitted by amateurs and amateur associations, ANACOM will at the beginning of each year provide a list of special call indicators assigned to amateur stations during the previous year. The list for 2005 is now available for consultation. (+info, Portuguese only)

ITED – NEW TRAINING ENTITIES

ANACOM has designated the Portuguese Electrotechnical Institute (IEP) and SGO-Tecnologia e Formação as training entities for telecommunications infra-

structures in buildings (ITED – *infra-estruturas de telecomunicações em edifícios*). Approved by determination of 2 February 2006, these designations enable the said entities to conduct the activity of ITED training, allowing them to administer authorised courses for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings to electricians, regarding the installation, planning and design of same. The designations are valid for three years from the date of the respective approval; the IEP and SGO must compulsorily maintain the conditions verified on the designation date. (+info, Portuguese only)

The webpage on frequently asked questions on ITED has been updated, as well as the information on active ITED technicians. (+info, Portuguese only)

NEW POSTAL OPERATORS

ANACOM has granted Eurocourier – Serviços de Transporte; Felcourier – Distribuição de Encomendas Nacional e Internacional; HMJ – Envio Rápido de Encomendas; Flash Transportes Unipessoal; Transportes Ochoa; Consigo pelo Mundo Transporte e Entrega de Documentos, Unipessoal and LHSTUR – Transportes Urgentes, Estafetagem authorisations to provide postal services not reserved and not covered by the scope of universal service. (+info, Portuguese only)

PORTED NUMBERS

There were a total of 376,357 ported numbers at the end of February, of which 295,502 are fixed telephone service (FTS) numbers, 80,456 pertain to mobile telephone service (MTS) and 399 to non-geographic services (NGS). (+info)

COMPETITION AUTHORITY

The most recent edition of the *eConcorrência* newsletter is now available for consultation. A highlight is information about the Sonaecom proposal to acquire exclusive control of Portugal Telecom by means of a general public acquisition offer. (+info, Portuguese only)

MEDIA REGULATOR FEES APPROVED

The Council of Ministers has approved the decree-law that establishes the model for financing the Media Regulator (ERC – Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social). Part of the ERC budget originates in transfers from the State Budget and from an annual amount taken from the net revenues of ANACOM calendar years delivered to the State. Another part is from its own revenues deriving from the fees paid by media outlets. (+info, Portuguese only)

NATIONAL CYBER-CENTRES MEETING

The ordinary general assemblies of the Cyber-Centres located in Guimarães, Guarda, Covilhã, Castelo Branco and Beja were held on 25 February in Lisbon, where, besides voting on the report and accounts for the 2005 financial year, the activity plans and budgets for 2006 were debated. The participants also considered ways to endow the Cyber-Centres with new strategy orientations. Given that the Cyber-Centres must be self-supported after the first three years of activity, the local partners, ANACOM and the FDTI have been suggesting that the respective executive directors implement a number of new initiatives and methodologies that will decisively contribute to the associations' goals and ultimately to those of its target population, i.e., young people, small and medium sized businesses, associations, the elderly and citizens in general.

RENEWAL OF VODAFONE GSM LICENCE

By determination of 23 February, ANACOM granted the request submitted by Vodafone Portugal to renew the right to use frequencies to provide land mobile service in the GSM 900/1800 system, renewing it for a period of 15 years, until 19 October 2021. The conditions governing use of the renewed rights were submitted to the prior hearing of Vodafone Portugal, under the terms and effects of the provisions of articles 100 and 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure. Also approved was the final report from the general consultation procedure on the renewal of the usage rights granted to Vodafone Portugal and TMN to provide

land mobile service in line with GSM 900/1800, launched in the wake of the determination dated 15 July 2005, which analyses the responses received and grounds ANACOM's options. As per the analysis, the renewal of the usage rights granted to Vodafone Portugal and TMN will be based on a number of items and should specifically continue to assure, at the very least, the supply of voice, data transmission (SMS) and GPRS-supported (with WAP access and MMS service) services, as well as call routing and voice mail, without jeopardising the supply of other mobile services supported in the GSM 900/1800 networks. (+info)

2005-2006 NFAP APPROVED

ANACOM approved on 17 February 2006 the latest version of the national frequency allocation plan (NFAP) produced under article 16 of the Electronic Communications Law (Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February). Besides a number of small editorial corrections, the NFAP was updated in the wake of publication of Directive 2005/82/EEC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2005, which revokes Directive 90/544/EEC of the Council concerning the frequency bands designated for the co-ordinated Community introduction of a pan-European radio messaging system (ERMES). The 87.5-108 MHz

frequency band was also included in wireless audio systems for very low power micro-emitters (non-licensed applications that should operate on a non-protection and non-interference basis), following the recent agreement at CEPT level regarding the values to authorise for such applications. Taking into account recent requests to use the TETRA system and anticipating eventual additional spectrum requests for that system, the availability of 50 channels in the 410-430 MHz bands for electronic communications systems not available to the public was envisaged. (+info)

LLU MARKET MONITORING

By determination dated 7 February, ANACOM approved the decision on the information that must be gathered to monitor the market with respect to local loop unbundling (LLU). PT Comunicações and the service providers and operators (SPOs) benefiting from the reference unbundling offer (RUO) must thus submit to ANACOM the relevant information on a monthly basis, and by the end of the month following the one referred to in same. The first information package should concern April 2006, meaning that the information on the month of April should be sent in by the end of May 2006. This does not jeopardise PTC's

submission of the quarterly report on the quality levels provided in the scope of RUO and the compensations incurred as per the provisions of the determination dated 8 November 2005. The interested parties were heard; the comments received, respective analysis and grounds for the prior hearing report are an integral part of this determination. Indeed, ANACOM deems it vital to have access to updated and detailed information from the various operators involved, assuring if necessary rapid intervention with the imposition of corrective measures and protecting end users' interests. (+info)

ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IN MOBILE PHONES

As numerous complaints have been received concerning the irregular provision of entertainment content downloading services for mobile telephones, specifically call signals, games, graphic displays and other information data, ANACOM deemed it necessary to explain that the respective responsibility for same is exercised in the activity domain of the companies that offer electronic communications networks or services, and does not bear on the content of the transmitted communications. It is thus beyond ANACOM's powers to oversee the content transmitted by means of electronic communications networks and services, specifically the entertainment content in question, nor to oversee contracts signed

by means of the said networks and services. It was thus suggested that the corresponding complaints be submitted to those institutions empowered to oversee such claims, to wit, the Economic and Food Safety Authority (ASAE – Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica) – which replaced the former Inspectorate General of Economic Activities – and the Consumer Institute. As the circumstances described in such communications may indicate illegal practices of a criminal nature, their reporting to the above mentioned institutions does not exclude the possibility that a claim can be filed with the public prosecutor or police authorities. (+info, Portuguese only)

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Law no. 7/2006** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 3 March) – Second modification of Law no. 4/2001 of 23 February, which approved the Radio Law;
- **Declaration no. 4/2006** (I Series-A of the *Diário da República* of 15 February) – Co-opted designation of a member for the Regulatory Council of the Media Regulator (ERC - Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social);
- **Law no. 2/2006** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 14 February) – Establishes the Listener's Ombudsman and the Television Viewer's Ombudsman for public radio and television services;
- **Resolution of Parliament no. 5/2006** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 7 February) – Election of four members for the Regulatory Council of the Media Regulator (ERC – Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social).

(+info)

■ PORTABILITY – INFORMATION SERVICES

When the operators of telephone service available at a fixed site (FTS) and mobile telephone service (MTS) have tariff plans that may charge a higher price for a call to a ported number than before portability must maintain a telephone service providing information on the price of voice, data and short message calls to ported numbers. According to information received by ANACOM, the following information services are currently offered by the providers covered by the Portability Regulation:

Providers	Information service access numbers
Vodafone	16.91.0 – Toq customers
	16.91.2 – GSM customers
	16.91.5 – Voice customers 1091
Optimus	1242
TMN	800 96 20 29
PT Comunicações	16200
PT Prime	16249
COLTEL	16780
AR Telecom	16307
Netvoice	
WTS	

□ eTEN PROGRAMME – NATIONAL INFORMATION DAY

The National Information Day to publicise the European eTEN programme has been scheduled for 15 March, at 2 p.m. at the Hotel Mercure (Av. José Malhoa) in Lisbon – an event organised by ANACOM. Among its goals is to publicise the terms and conditions for taking part in this community programme (with

tender open until 19 May), and to stimulate the involvement of Portuguese entities in same. Participation in the event is free of charge; it is nevertheless necessary to sign up by telephone (217 212 352) or by means of the email address eten@anacom.pt. (+info)

□ POSTAL SERVICES – COMMENTS ON THE EC PUBLIC CONSULTATION

ANACOM has submitted to the European Commission its comments on the public consultation launched on 10 November 2005 on the future of postal services. The comments now publicised concern the second part of that consultation, which covers a number of detailed questions on various issues impacting on the postal sector. The Commission aims to use this consultation to assess the

opportunity for initiatives in the postal market, with a view to assuring the provision of modern postal services. The EC must present by 31 December 2006 a report and a proposal confirming, or not, the 2009 date for full achievement of the internal market for postal services. (+info)

■ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – 11TH REPORT ON THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

POSITIVE EC ASSESSMENT OF THE MARKET

The EC highlights as main conclusions of the 11th report on European Electronic Communications Regulation and Markets that competition benefits consumers and that the scenario for innovation and investment at the level of each member State is positive, and also that the regulatory framework assures that citizens are supplied with basic services at affordable prices. The report, which reflects the situation at 1 December 2005, presents the community panorama from various angles, specifically: the independence of the national regulatory authorities (NRAs); the NRAs' powers; the resource paths implemented by the NRAs; economic regulation, especially local loop unbundling, interconnection and cost accounting systems; and rights of way. By means of a market analysis based on data from 1 September 2005 (1 October for broadband), the EC highlights the following conclusions: broadband grew at a good pace – the average penetration rate in the European Union is 11.5% – and there are more operators and lower prices; there are signs that mobile voice communication has reached maturity; international roaming prices remain high; and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) communications are frankly increasing. Regarding consumer interests, the 11th report focuses on various relevant aspects, specifically: developments in the scope of universal service and concerning special social needs; consumer regulation, especially steps taken at the level of portability and operator selection and pre-selection; directory services, with the Commission concerned about the fact that a number of countries, among them Portugal, do not have complete telephone directories and/or information services; and 112, the European single emergency number. (+info)

CLARIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION ON VODAFONE PORTUGAL

ANACOM has asked the European Commission (EC) to correct the relevant mistakes concerning a Portuguese operator, Vodafone Portugal, which among other, smaller errors are contained in the 11th Implementation Report on the regulatory framework for electronic communications, published on 20 February. In volume 2 of the Report, on pages 49, 50 and 51, the packages 'Total 270' and 'Total 30' indicated in the respective graphs were commercially withdrawn by Vodafone Portugal more than a year ago. The data that should therefore be taken into account is that resulting from the 'Best Plan' launched on 12 October 2004. Based on that data, Vodafone Portugal would significantly improve its relative position; the changes would also have repercussions on the three references to Portugal on pages 26 and 27 of volume 1 of the 11th Report. (+info)

□ EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL ADOPTS DATA RETENTION DIRECTIVE

The European Union's Justice and Home Affairs Council has adopted the Directive on the retention of data from electronic communications, which modifies Directive 2002/58/EC. The new legislation harmonises the operators' obligations in this area, with the purpose of prevention, investigation and detection of serious criminal offences such as terrorism and organised crime. The providers are obliged to retain communications data for a period ranging from six to 24 months; it is up to each member State to determine the remaining retention period within those limits. Such obligations apply to communications data from corporations and individuals and does not cover the content of same. The member States have 18 months after the Directive takes force to implement the new rules. **(+info)**

EC COMMENTS ON MARKET REVIEWS

The European Commission (EC) adopted on 6 February a Communication on Market Reviews under the EU Regulatory Framework – consolidating the internal market for electronic communications, which aims to assess the performance of the consulting mechanism under article 7 of the Framework Directive, as well as the experience acquired to date regarding its application. In the scope of this evaluation, which refers to 30 September 2005, the EC reveals the following: 16 member States have identified one or more relevant markets as being non-competitive and have adopted measures aiming to boost competition in same; five member States have identified partial competition in one or more of those markets and have taken steps to correct that situation; and nine member States had still not provided notification of their analysis with regard to any of the 18 relevant markets. Some 123 of the analysed markets (152 out of a total of 450) were not competitive, 19 were entirely competitive and 10 were partially competitive. **(+info)**

COMMUNICATION ON INTERACTIVE DIGITAL TV

The European Commission has published a Communication on analysis of the interoperability of interactive digital television services – COM(2006)37 – following the Communication on same adopted on 30 July 2004 – COM(2004)541. The Commission considers as a main conclusion that market evolution has confirmed that there is no justification for requiring throughout the European Union the use of standards for interactive television, in so far as such measure would not significantly contribute towards the growth of interactive digital television in the EU and might even negatively affect the market. **(+info)**

FUTURE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES – PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The Information Society and Media Directorate General of the European Commission has launched a series of public consultations in the process of producing the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), with the aim of determining which research areas can be supported by the Programme on Future and Emerging

Technologies (FET) – the EC's main instrument for financing scientific investigation and technological development. The deadline to respond to those public consultations is this coming 31 March. **(+info)**

INTERNATIONAL ROAMING PRICES DEBATED

A public consultation launched by the European Commission on the proposed regulation on international roaming services prices, for later submission to the European Parliament and to the Council, is under way until 17 March. This EC initiative was discussed on 8 February by the European Commissioner for Information Society and the Media, Viviane Reding, at the 16th meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG). She stressed the fact that the high prices European consumers pay for international roaming services are an obstacle for the electronic communications market within the European Union (EU). **(+info)**

2006 REVIEW – CONTRIBUTION OF THE ERG AND THE IRG

In the scope of the public consultation launched by the European Commission on revision of the five Directives of the Council and of the European Parliament which constitute the regulatory framework for electronic communications currently in force, as well as the Recommendation on relevant markets (2006 Review), the European Regulators Group (ERG) and the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) have sent in their contribution, which is available for consultation. **(+info)**

eTEN – TENDER 2006/1

The EC has launched a call to submit proposals for common interest projects in the area of trans-European telecommunications networks. Publication of this tender is one of the main actions under the eTEN Working Programme for 2006, which was adopted on 3 February. The proposals – to be submitted without fail by the candidates by 4 p.m. (Brussels time) on 19 May 2006 – can include one of the following action types: initial establishment or validation in the market. Those actions should refer to one or more of the following theme topics identified in the eTEN Working Programme for 2006: online public administration, online health, info-exclusion, online learning, trust and security, and support services for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). **(+info)**

EITO – 2006 REPORT PUBLISHED

The most recent issue of the annual report of the European Information Technology Observatory (EITO) has been published. EITO 2006 is divided into three parts: in the first the performance of the so-called new economy (e-economy) is examined, along with the market for information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Europe, and includes a text by the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, and another by EITO chairman Bruno Lomborghini; the second covers the industry of broadband-associated services and the European context in that area; while the third contains statistical data from the report. **(+info)**

□ EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP (ERG)

The 16th meeting of the ERG was held on 8 February in Paris, where international roaming costs was the main topic considered. **(+info)**

□ CEPT (EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS) MEETINGS

ECC TG3

Copenhagen hosted on 13-17 February the 13th meeting of the ECC TG3-UWB (ultra wide band) working group. [\(+info\)](#)

ECC WG SE

The 43rd meeting of the Spectrum Engineering working group (WG SE) was held on 6-10 February in Vilamoura, Portugal. [\(+info\)](#)

ECC WG RA

The Regulatory Affairs working group (WG RA), which covers regulatory issues associated to electronic communications, met for the seventh time in Luxembourg on 6-9 February. [\(+info\)](#)

ECC PT7

The seventh meeting of project team PT7 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), which focuses on policy and strategy questions, was held on 14-15 February in Valletta, Malta. [\(+info\)](#)

CPG PT1

Project team PT1 of CEPT's Conference Preparatory Group (CPG07) met for the seventh time from 27 February to 1 March in Chateau de Betzdorf, Luxembourg. [\(+info\)](#)

CPG PT4

Project team PT4 of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) met for the eighth time in the Danish city of Mainz, from 31 January to 2 February 2006. [\(+info\)](#)

WG RRC06

The fifth meeting of the WG RRC06 was held from 31 January to 2 February in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana. This group's mission is to cover issues concerning preparation of the second session of the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC06) for planning digital terrestrial broadcasting in the III, IV and V bands. [\(+info\)](#)

□ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

PLENARY SESSION

The IRG plenary session was held on 8-10 February in Paris. [\(+info\)](#)

□ EU MEETINGS

TELECOMS GROUP

The Council's Telecommunications Group met in Brussels on 24 February to discuss the European Commission communication on analysis of markets. [\(+info\)](#)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (COCOM)

The 20th meeting of the Communications Committee was held on 15 February in Brussels. [\(+info\)](#)

EXPERT GROUP ON EMERGENCY ACCESS

The first meeting of the Expert Group on Emergency Access set up under COCOM was held on 16 February in Brussels. [\(+info\)](#)

SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP (RSPG)

Brussels hosted on 22 February the ninth meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG). [\(+info\)](#)

WORKSHOP ON NUMBERING

A workshop on numbering organised by a consultancy (Oxpertconsultancy) was held on 20-23 February in Lisbon, with the participation of the European Commission and presentations by various organisations. [\(+info\)](#)

WORKSHOP TO PRESENT POSTAL STUDIES

Brussels served as venue for a 21 February workshop organised by the European Commission (EC) to present two ongoing postal studies. [\(+info\)](#)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANISATION (ITSO)

ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

The 29th ITSO Assembly of Parties was held from 30 January to 2 February in Washington. [\(+info\)](#)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

NEW COUNCIL OVERSIGHT GROUP

The fifth meeting of the New Council Oversight Group (NCOG) of ITU was held on 1 February, as per the formation approved by the 2005 Council session. [\(+info\)](#)

□ NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO)

NATO PWG & NATO FMSC

The 32nd meeting of the Policy Working Group (NATO PWG) was held on 13-14 February at NATO headquarters in Brussels. The 22nd meeting of the Frequency

Management Subcommittee (NATO FMSC) took place on 14-15 February. [\(+info\)](#)

□ REGULATTEL

CO-DIRECTORS MEETING AND WORKSHOP

The fifth meeting of Regulatel co-directors and the workshop to present the universal service study were held in Mexico City on 14-17 February. Highlights

included the creation of a new system for sharing information via the Regulatel website and the formation of a new working group focusing on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) questions. [\(+info\)](#)

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN – *Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)*

- The Spanish regulator has completed analysis of the market for voice call termination in individual mobile networks (market 16) and defined its operational conditions. **(+info)**
- The CMT has decided to liberalise the prices for fixed telephony in the narrowband retail markets (markets 3, 4, 5 and 6). **(+info)**
- The definition and analysis of the market for call origination and access in the public mobile telephone networks (market 15) has been approved, along with the designation of the operators with significant market power (SMP) and the imposition of specific obligations, specifically with regard to conditions for the entry of virtual mobile operators. **(+info)**

SPAIN – Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade (MITYC)

- The Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade has announced that the 'Todos.es' campaign reached approximately 1.7 million citizens, thus surpassing the initial goal of 1.5 million people. Budgeted at 16 million euros, this awareness campaign was meant to promote the information society among Spanish citizens, specifically use of the internet. **(+info)**
- "Digital television will be the major driving force of the information society and will stimulate the ICT sector". This was one of the key ideas set out in the Sessions on Research and Technological Development of Interactive Equipment and Services for Digital Television. **(+info)**

FRANCE – *Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes (ARCEP)*

- ARCEP has renewed the GSM 900/1800 licences of the operators Orange France, SFR and Orange for a period of 15 years. **(+info)**
- On 31 December 2005 France counted 9.5 million subscribers of broadband internet access connections, for 11.6% growth over the third quarter of that year. ADSL technology is the preference of 8.9 million users. **(+info)**
- The regulator has launched a public consultation on the modes for granting authorisations to use the point-to-point connection frequencies (radio relay) of fixed terrestrial service. **(+info)**
- ARCEP has published a file on the issue of international roaming in public mobile telephone service networks. **(+info)**
- The French market for electronic communications achieved a business volume of 10.2 billion euros in the third quarter of 2005. The three main segments (mobile telephony, fixed telephone and internet) accounted for 7.9 billion euros, corresponding to about 80% of the operators' revenues and growth of 5.1% over the previous year. **(+info)**
- Definitive information has been published on the business volumes to take into account when calculating the contribution for financing universal service in 2005. **(+info)**
- The instrument on telephone number portability has been published, which establishes that same must be carried out within a period of ten days. The legislation will take force in a phased manner, starting on 1 January 2007 for the mobile telephone service numbers used in mainland France. **(+info)**

UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)

- The regulator has placed in public consultation a proposal to regulate Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services to ensure that consumers receive relevant

information about the potentials and limits of VoIP. **(+info)**

- Details have been announced about the first auction of spectrum (band between 1781.7-1785 MHz paired with 1876.7-1880 MHz), for which the application deadline has been set at 21 March. **(+info)**
- Ofcom has announced conclusions on reform of the process for amateur radio licensing. **(+info)**
- The fourth quarter 2005 report on television stations' compliance with the accessibility obligations has been published. **(+info)**
- The regulator has placed in public consultation until 19 April the proposals involving consumer affairs, concentrated in four areas: consumer defence, practical application of measures, management of complaints and consumer information. **(+info)**
- The mode of evaluating impact of the Strategic Review of Telecommunications has been determined, as well as the part concerning the commitments assumed by the incumbent operator British Telecom. **(+info)**
- The presentations made at two workshops on the joint allocation, with ComReg, of licences to use spectrum in the 1785-1805 MHz band on the island of Ireland are available for consultation. **(+info)**
- A public consultation is open until 20 April on enlargement of the sponsorships allowed for television stations and radio broadcasters. **(+info)**

IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)

- ComReg has launched a public consultation on the process of revising the regulatory framework for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. **(+info)**
- A new public consultation has been launched on the narrowband retail (1-6) and narrowband wholesale (8-10) markets. The deadline to submit comments is 17 March. **(+info)**
- The regulator has published a market study for the fourth quarter of 2005, which covers trends in the use of mobile and fixed telephony, the internet, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), postal services and phone cards. **(+info)**
- The results of a survey analysing the postal sector from the residential and business perspectives in 2005 has been published. **(+info)**

BELGIUM – *Institut Belge des Services Postaux et des Télécommunications (IBPT)*

- The regulator has published a document on the procedures (licence system and declarations) to which the providers of postal services not covered by universal service are subject. **(+info)**

ALEMANHA – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)

- The regulator has placed in public consultation the determination of criteria that establish the definition of 'new market', as well as the regulatory approach to be followed in such cases. **(+info)**

THAILAND – National Telecommunication Commission (NTC)

- ANACOM hosted on 15 February a delegation from the Thai regulator NTC, as part of the institutional relationships it maintains with international counterparts. Various topics were raised during the meeting, of which licensing processes, public service obligations, internet access, cable distribution, third generation mobile licences and market regulation stand out.

□ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS

The Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) has published on its website a set of statistical information on electronic communications in Portugal during the fourth quarter of 2005, which will be made available in a paper supplement to the next edition of Spectru. Analysis of the new data indicates a continued drop in traffic originating in the fixed network, which totalled 2.513 billion minutes, 9.9% less than in the same quarter of the previous year. The decline was even greater overall, as in 2005 total traffic stood at 10.269 billion minutes, reflecting a drop of 13.9% over 2004. Performance was the contrary in land mobile service, where the growth trend continued for the number of users: 2.8% more in the fourth quarter and 10.5% more than in 2004, for a total of 11.4

million LMS subscribers. At the end of the fourth quarter of 2005 the service's penetration rate rose to 108.7%, remaining above the European Union average of 97.2%. At the end of the fourth quarter of 2005 there were 1.483 million internet access service customers in Portugal, representing growth of about 3.8% over the previous quarter. At the end of the quarter the number of broadband subscribers stood at 1.212 million, 80,000 more customers than in the previous quarter. As for cable television distribution service, there was 4.3% growth in the fourth quarter of 2005, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, corresponding to 1.398 million subscribers. (+info)

□ ECTA RELEASES STUDY ON BROADBAND IN THE EU

The European Competitive Telecommunications Association (ECTA) has released the most recent Broadband Scorecard, a quarterly report analysing the size of the broadband market in the European Union and the companies that operate in the sector. The document reveals that in the third quarter of 2005 the total number of connections rose by about 10% to a total of 51.9 million broadband lines. In the EU 15 the level of broadband penetration is very close to that verified in the United States and is led by the Nordic countries and the Netherlands. According to ECTA, Portugal had 1,127,455 broadband connections at the end of the third quarter, for growth of 6% over the previous quarter, and continued to

be ranked 11th in broadband penetration. The report also reveals that in the 10 new EU member States the situation is not nearly as good, with an average broadband penetration rate of only about 3%. In wake of the Broadband Scorecard analysis, ECTA released a more thorough study carried out by the SPC Network consultancy, which indicates that more active intervention by the regulators could lead to a gain of 20 million broadband connections in Europe. Titled "Broadband and i2010: the importance of dynamic competition to market growth", the study stresses that broadband growth accelerates as markets are opened and as the supply available to consumers increases. (+info)

□ WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is under way until 15 March in Doha, Qatar, where ANACOM is representing Portugal. Among the various goals of WTDC06 are the recognition, at highest level, of the existence of a digital divide resulting from the fast and unequal expansion of information and communica-

tion technologies (ICTs), as well as the establishment of ways to overcome same. Another aim is to encourage international co-operation, to see the infrastructures and institutions linked to telecommunications in developing countries supported and strengthened. (+info)

■ IN MARCH 2006

MEETINGS

CEPT

- ECC (20-24)
- WG SE PT7 (7-10)
- WG RRC PT2 (7-9)
- EFIS MG (17)
- WG ITU Issues
- PT PP06 (29-31)

EU

- Radio Spectrum Committee – RSC (8-9)
- Telecoms Group (10 and 31)

ITU

- Development Sector
- WTDC06 (7-17)
- Radiocommunications Sector
- WP 6E (13-21)
- WP4-9S (14-21)

ETSI

- General Assembly (28-29)

IMSO

- Advisory Committee (16-17)

UPU

- Postal Operations Council (27-31)

UPAEP

- WG Future of the UPAEP (6-7)
- WG Technical Co-operation (8)

OECD

- ICCP (9-10)

EVENTS

- *Rational Use of Communication Infrastructures*, Lisbon, 30
- *Sessions on "Free Software in Public Administration: practices, unknowns and challenges"*, Lisbon, 28
- *"Capacity Pre-commitment and Price Competition Yield the Cournot Outcome"*, Lisbon, 20
- *Conference "WiMe 06 - Wireless Meeting"*, Coimbra, 18
- *CIO Workshop - Managing IT in Challenging times*, Lisbon, 14
- *"CeBIT Hannover 2006 - solutions for a digital world"*, Hannover, 9-15
- *IRC Future Match 2006*, Hannover, 9-12
- *Forum for the Information Society*, Aveiro, 10
- *TELEXPO 2006*, São Paulo, 7-10
- *13th Computer Week*, Lisbon, 6-10

(+info)