

Current Events

T-DAB planning guarantees digital radio

CEPT Meetings

② European Union

③ Independent Regulators Group

④ Licences Committee

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INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS WITH ONIWAY

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) recently determined that Vodafone, Optimus and Oniway should conclude negotiation of interconnection agreements for all types of traffic within a maximum time limit of five working days, with a full copy of the resulting agreements to be immediately submitted to ANACOM.

The 20 June decision followed on the deliberations of 6 March and 29 May 2002, taking particular account of the fact that Oniway had reiterated the need for urgent ANACOM intervention in order to assure interconnection with Optimus and Vodafone for all types of traffic.

Also approved, by deliberation of 27 June, was ANACOM's understanding on the conditions to observe in interconnection agreements between Oniway and Optimus and between Oniway and Vodafone, mainly with respect to traffic type. It was specifically determined that the conditions to observe in interconnection agreements between the said operators should consider all kinds of traffic, independently of the associated technology, thus encompassing both circuit commutation and package commutation. Interested parties were also informed that the 27 June deadline set in the previous ANACOM deliberation had been extended to 1 July.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=33488&contentId=52042>

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=4599&contentId=50873>

CONVERGENCE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) and the Media Institute (ICS - *Instituto da Comunicação Social*) submitted to the government on 31 May the strategic activity recommendations in the context of the Convergence and Regulation Initiative.

The aim of the initiative is to help set strategic activity policy guidelines for the telecommunications and media sectors, in a situation of convergence.

The documents being considered by the government are among contributions received in wake of the public consultation and the conclusions of a Reflection Group made up of seven reputed figures with experience in the sector.

The public consultation was launched by ANACOM and the ICS on 15 February. It lasted 60 days; some 34 contributions were received from telecommunications operators, media enterprises and representatives, consu-

mers, citizens with special needs, one institutional entity, one manufacturer and one university, as well as from private citizens.

The document containing the Reflection Group's conclusions defends "the existence of a single regulator at national level", based on the pretext that "convergence should imply the non-separation of content regulation from regulation of networks and accesses".

While preconising the "existence of a single regulator at national level for the sector of the convergence industries", the Reflection Group underscores "the possible need for international regulation of certain services and particularly for the internet."

The Convergence and Regulation Initiative is a result of joint order no. 863/2001 of 26 July.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=45582>

NEW ANACOM PRESIDENT

Álvaro Dâmaso has succeeded Luís Nazaré at the head of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). Dâmaso, a 53-year old jurist from the Azores Islands autonomous region, was appointed by Economy Minister Carlos Tavares and is considered an expert in the area of regulation. He has also served as president of the Securities Market Commission (CMVM - *Comissão do Mercado de Valores Mobiliários*) and of the *Banco Comercial dos Açores*, and as a managing director of the Lisbon Stock Exchange, manager of the *Banco Nacional Ultramarino* and regional secretary of finance and labour in the Azores, and as leader of the regional Social Democratic Party.

ANACOM's new board of administration also counts the presence of José Alfredo de Carvalho Saraiva Mendes, a telecommunications and electro-technical engineer, former managing director of Marconi and CTT/TLP, managing director-delegate of Alcatel Portugal and recently the managing director of GDP/Transgás; and of Maria do Carmo Félix da Costa Seabra, an economist and associate professor of the Faculty of Economy at the *Universidade Nova de Lisboa*.

The first meeting of the ANACOM board of administration appointed under the new statutes in force since 6 January is scheduled for 8 July.

Luís Nazaré was president of ICP-ANACOM from July 1998 until present. The outgoing board also comprised João Confraria and Marques de Miranda.

CURRENT EVENTS

Study on postal services

The average postal tariffs practiced in Portugal in recent decades are less than those in effect in the other European Union countries, indicates a study on "Postal Service Price Evolution - normal and priority mail, 1989-2002" prepared by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). Non-priority - or "normal" - mail is 31.9 percent cheaper in Portugal than in the other EU countries. Priority mail - in Portugal known as "correio azul" (blue mail) - stands at 7.9 percent below the community average. With regard to international postal service, and compared to the European average, our tariffs are 1 percent less when the addressee is in the Union and 6.1 percent and 13.3 percent less when the addressee is in other European countries and the rest of the world respectively. The study's figures refer to normal letters weighing less than 20 grams.

ADSL retail supply

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided on 24 July to suspend until 8 July 2002 the sale or disclosure by any means of retail offers, based on new conditions for the wholesale ADSL offer of *PT Comunicações* (PTC), by operators from the PT group. The suspension will be interrupted if another operator begins any commercialisation or disclosure operation based on PTC's new offer. Additional information at <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=38016> and <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=4599&contentId=52781>.

LLU Advisory Working Group

The 10th meeting on Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) by participatory members of the national advisory working group, co-ordinated by ANACOM, was held on 5 June. The main goal was to discuss the synchronisation of local loop unbundling and number porting. Also discussed were implications of Decree-Law no. 133/2002 of 14 May.

Telephone directory and information service

Following prior hearings of interested parties' with regard to the draft decision adopted on 18 April, ANACOM approved on 14 June the conditions for providing telephone directory and information services in the framework of universal service, according to the terms envisaged in article 6 of Decree-Law no. 458/99 of 5 November. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=38028>.

Ported Numbers

Total ported numbers had reached 24,839 at the end of June, of which 23,428 were from fixed networks and 1,411 from mobile networks.

New section on ANACOM website

Information on the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03), to be held in Geneva from 9 June to 4 July 2003, is available (Portuguese version) at <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=37855>.

Campaign on electronic trade extended

The Euro Info Centres campaign on electronic trade, supported by ANACOM, has been extended to 30 September. The aim of the campaign, which is part of the eEurope action plan and the Go Digital initiative, is to "help small and medium-sized companies meet the challenges of electronic trade". Details at <http://www.e-vital.pt>.

FPC Prize

The Portuguese Communications Foundation (FPC) has made public the regulations for this year's FPC prize, which distinguishes the best work in historical, technological or business research in the area of telecommunications, radiocommunications and postal service. Employees of companies and regulators belonging to the Association of Post Office and Telecommunications Operators from the Portuguese-speaking Countries and Territories (AICEP) are eligible to enter and should submit their candidacies by 31 December. The prize is worth 5,000 euros. Details at <http://www.fpc.pt/english/indexing.htm>.

Contest for young scientists

The 14th European Young Scientists Competition and the 13th European Competition for Young Researchers on the Environment for 2001/2002, an initiative promoted by the Youth Foundation, under European Union auspices, once again took place with support provided by ANACOM. The winners will dispute the European final in September in Vienna.

Electronic government debated

"Electronic Public Administration - the Vision for 2005" was the theme topic of the seminar organised by the National Administration Institute on 27-28 June in Estoril, with the aim of studying how information and communication technologies can improve the management of public administration practices. In his speech at the opening session, the Prime Minister announced that the government is preparing to launch a strategic plan for electronic government, which envisages the establishment of a portal with all government services. See <http://www.ina.pt/english/>.

National Multimedia Day

The sixth National Multimedia Day, an initiative of the Association to Promote Multimedia in Portugal, took place on 25 June - the theme topic was "Broadband for All - better quality and speed in accessing multimedia contents". The event was held simultaneously in Lisbon and Braga, with the speakers linked by ADSL, a system that enables video transmission via copper-wire. See <http://www.apmp.pt>.

Consumer satisfaction index on IPQ website

The Portuguese Quality Institute (IPQ) website contains information on the National Consumer Satisfaction Index, a project supported by ANACOM. See <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=51173>.

T-DAB PLANNING GUARANTEES DIGITAL RADIO

Local radios may in the future broadcast by using the most advanced digital technologies, namely terrestrial digital audio broadcasting (T-DAB), which will replace the current analogue emissions.

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) guaranteed this possibility during a meeting of the Frequency Management Working Group (FM WG) of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, from 10 to 14 June. The meeting focused on planning for T-DAB coverage in the L band (1452-1479.5 MHz) for each of the organisation's member-countries.

In Portugal, RDP (Portuguese Radio) was in June 1999 granted a licence to establish and supply a terrestrial digital audio broadcasting network for a period of 15 days. RDP was required to cover the entirety of national territory by the end of 2004 and the autonomous regions by the end of 2006. ◀

Note: See also article on page 4 (FM WG)

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=53331>

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=4599&contentId=52913>

ENUM SEMINAR

A seminar held in Lisbon on 24 June and promoted by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) focused on the ENUM (Telephone Number Mapping) protocol, which enables telephone numbers to be mapped into internet names.

The aim of the seminar was to begin debate on issues related to implementation of the ENUM protocol, which via said mapping enables internet access for users who only have a traditional telephone number.

The meeting served to identify issues that require more study and to evaluate the conditions needed for eventual realisation of the project in Portugal. ◀

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=53186>

ITU STANDARDISATION DEBATED

Telecommunications operators from southern Europe have benefited from more active participation in activities of the Standardisation Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-T). Such is the opinion of its respective director, Houlin Zhao, who spoke during a 25 June seminar in Lisbon on standardisation within the ITU. He added that in Portugal such increased involvement by industry could be led by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM).

The speakers agreed on the ITU's positive evolution with regard to its transformation into a more modern and faster-working organisation. The ITU-T recommendations are an example of this. At present they only take between nine months and two years to be approved, as opposed to the previous lag of four years. Also, the publication process now only takes about six months, versus the previous average of three years.

The meeting also sought to publicise the ITU's international standardisation activity. Beyond presentation of the standardisation situation in Portugal, the views of ITU sectorial members on standardisation, telecommunications security, tariffs and third generation mobile systems were also considered. ◀

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=53817>

IS PRIZES

Microsoft's fifth national software contest took place on 28 May in Lisbon, with the award of various prizes, among them the "Special Universities" prize, sponsored by ANACOM. The Science, Education, Management, Internet and Special Schools categories were also distinguished.

Meanwhile, a professor and researcher at the University of Trás-os-Montes, Francisco Godinho, who is also co-ordinator of the Portuguese Group for Accessibility Initiatives, was on 21 May awarded the "Person of the Year" prize, in the context of the Portugal Digital 2001 trophies, by *Bit - Sociedade Editora* and by *Generalis*. Godinho took his degree in electro-technical engineering and has been actively involved in assuring access by the handicapped to the information society. He is a driving force behind the projects on "Electronic Mark for Braille Mail" and "A Cyber-ward in Each Hospital". ◀

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **ANACOM Notice** (III Series of the *Diário da República* of 14 June)
- Publicises the statement of conformity of the analytic accounting system of *CTT-Correios de Portugal, S.A.* (Portuguese postal service).
- **Administrative Rule no. 630/2002** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 12 June)
- Approves the national VHF (metric waves) plan for mobile maritime service.
- **Notice (III Series of the D.R. of 29 May)** - Addendum to the Universal Postal Service Price Convention.

The Council of Ministers of 4 July approved the resolution that appoints the members of the board of administration of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). ◀

CEPT MEETINGS

FM WG/ECC

Planning for terrestrial digital audio broadcasting (T-DAB) coverage in the L band (1452-1479.5 MHz) for each of the member-countries was the focus of the extraordinary meeting of the Frequency Management Working Group (FM WG) of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), held on 10-14 June in the Dutch city of Maastricht.

The meeting resulted in the assignment of frequency blocs for all the previously established geographic regions and which in Portugal cover the entire national territory.

Reallocation of some radiocommunications services remaining in that band will open the possibility that access to this service by most local radios will become feasible in the future.

ITU WG

A meeting of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) WG was held in Bergen, Norway, on 10-12 June, with the aim of finalising preparatory work for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP02) to take place in Marrakesh, Morocco, next September and October.

The participants considered the report from the chairman of PT PP02 on the European common proposals (ECPs) drawn up by the said group, as well as the reports from other regional organisations on the various proposals to present at the conference.

Regarding the report from the Informal Interregional Co-ordination Group, which met on the occasion of the ITU Council session, the need to maintain such co-ordination among the various regions was emphasised, namely by scheduling another such gathering at the time of PP02.

Four new draft ECPs were approved and will subsequently be sent for endorsement to the European administrations. They concern matters aiming to make the ITU's work more transparent and efficient: revision of provisions of the Constitution and the Convention related to the Standardisation Sector (ITU-T), transferring them to the decision-making scope of the sector's own bodies; establishment of new and more flexible working methods in the ITU's three sectors; and revision and consolidation of the provisions concerning observers.

Also indicated were the co-ordinators responsible for each of the European common proposals at the PP; Portugal was assigned the proposal concerning the link between the strategic, financial and operational plans.

RR WG/ECC

The Radio Regulation Working Group (RR WG) met from 27 to 31 May in Kiev, Ukraine. Worthy of note among the results was the adoption for effects of public consultation of four ECC decisions on free movement, use and exemption of individual licence applicable to GSM-R mobile stations functioning in the 876-880 MHz and 921-925 MHz bands, and to land mobile stations (L-Band Satellite User Terminals) functioning in the 1525-1559 MHz and 1626.5-1660.5 MHz bands.

The meeting also counted two presentations in the context of the new

community regulatory framework applicable to telecommunications and electronic licensing.

A presentation from the Information Society Directorate General of the European Commission focused on implications of the new regulatory framework at member-states' level and the respective repercussions on activities of this WG.

Regarding electronic licensing, the administrations of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands provided details of their acquired experience in that field. The process of validating electronic signatures continues to be one of the main obstacles to implementation of electronic licensing procedures by many CEPT administrations.

CPG PT4

A meeting of PT4, responsible within the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) for preparing agenda points for the ITU's World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03) with respect to short wave broadcasting (HFBC), mobile maritime service (MMS) and amateur service, was held in Brest, France, on 21-24 May.

The modifications to the draft ECPs concerning greater flexibility in the composition of amateur station indicatives stand out, as do those concerning the following: availability of MMS bands in HF meant for telegraphy (Morse and NBDP), for experiments and testing of new digital technology, on a voluntary basis; the co-existence of three modulation systems (DSB, SSB and digital) in the different HFBC bands; the phased allocation of the 7000-7300 kHz frequency band to amateur service at global level; and the indication of possible extension bands for HFBC between 4 and 10 MHz. The said drafts for the CEPT Brief and ECPs will be submitted for consideration of the CPG at its next meeting.

CPG PT2 AND PT3

The second meeting of the working groups PT2 (WRC03 agenda points related to mobile services by satellite, radionavigation by satellite and space scientific services) and PT3 (points related to fixed, fixed by satellite and broadcasting by satellite services, and high altitude platforms in the ambit of fixed service) of the CPG took place in Helsinki from 22 to 29 May.

Briefs (technical support documents for European positions on various agenda items) and ECPs were approved in the context of PT2. Outstanding among them were those concerning revision of the 5 GHz band, keeping in mind the possible allocation of that band to mobile service for wireless access systems that include local radiocommunications networks.

Another relevant matter was the approval of ECPs on radionavigation service by satellite, in order to consolidate feasibility conditions for future development of Europe's Galileo project.

Also approved in the PT3 framework were the ECPs on identification of frequency bands for the application of high density fixed satellite service (HDFSS) and on usage conditions for the 14-14.5 GHz band by mobile aeronautic service by satellite with secondary status. All the documents should be approved by the CPG ([Cont.](#)). ◀

PT5 AND CAF-R/ECC

The Joint Satellite Group (PT5) of the ECC met in Tróia on 11-12 June and drew up a final document on the Common Application Form (COM) for the issuance of licences and authorisations for satellite networks, as well as the Recommendation to be presented to the ECC.

The adopted Recommendation does not intend immediate implementation of the COM, but rather the recognition by administrations that this document is a departure point for the start of development of computer requisites that will support the form.

The definition of actions tending to promote the implementation of ECC Decisions was one of the aspects discussed.

The PT5 meeting was preceded on 10 June by another meeting of the CAF-R subgroup of PT5, which defined various final aspects of the COM.

Given the reduced numbers both of users of One Stop Shopping and countries that have joined that initiative, the idea to postpone the proposal to adopt the COM was well received, namely by the administrations present.

PT4 APRII/ECC

PT4 (Accounting, Principles and Regulation on International Interconnection) of the ECC met on 29-31 May in Tallinn and discussed, among other

matters, accounting rates, IP telephony, dispute resolution procedures and interconnection in the context of fixed-mobile traffic.

ETO

The board of administration of the European Telecommunications Office (ETO) met in Copenhagen on 23 May. The agenda included the presentation of candidates for its vice-presidency and discussion of matters related to its working programme, namely the European Telephone Numbering System (ETNS) and the National Numbering Plan Database (NNPD).

The report on financial year 2001 was reviewed; participants also approved the ETO's budgets and working programmes for 2003.

WG STANDARDISATION/CERP

This WG of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) met in Helsinki on 31 May and discussed, from the regulatory standpoint, the matters currently under development by the European Standardisation Committee (CEN/TC 331), namely those to be standardised by CEN/TC 331 in the context of the new mandate from the European Commission.

Also studied was a document on the implementation of the adopted norms, as well as extension of the adopted norms to all operators and new member-states of the European Union.

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

TG 6/8 OF SG6

The second meeting of Task Group 6/8 of Study Group 6 of the Radiocommunications Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-R) was held in Geneva from 22 to 24 May. This group was established with the aim of carrying out technical planning studies for the preparation of a report to be submitted to the first session of the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC04/05), which will be held from 10 to 28 May 2004 in Geneva. After consulting the member-countries, it was decided that planning will cover terrestrial digital broadcasting in the 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz frequency bands, affecting a geographic area to result from combination of the planning areas associated to the Stockholm (1961) and Geneva (1989) agreements. Still pending is a possible extension of the planning area to other member-countries, with areas adjacent to those considered in the aforesaid agreements.

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

ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES OF EUTELSAT IGO AND ITSO

Last 15 May, Paris once again served as venue for the Assembly of Parties of EUTELSAT IGO, for its 30th session, the first after the organisation's privatisation process which was undertaken in June 2001. The main issues discussed were the budget of EUTELSAT IGO and the process for the Initial Public Offering of Eutelsat S.A., to take place by the end of 2002.

The 27th Assembly of Parties of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (ITSO) was in turn held in Washington, D.C., from 26 to 28 June. Its agenda considered the organisation's budget, besides studying the process of quoting the enterprise on the stock exchange, likewise to be accomplished by the end of this year, though depending on the financial and economic situation of the markets.

Both Assemblies of Parties elected members of each organisation's respective advisory committees, which among other activities are to closely accompany the said Initial Public Offering processes.

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

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EUROPEAN UNION

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON RELEVANT MARKETS

The new draft Recommendation on Relevant Markets was divulged on 17 June and is the reason for a public hearing held by the Commission on 3 July, as well as a consultation launched on the same date; the respective comments may be submitted until 31 July.

See http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/regulatory/publicconsult/index_en.htm.

CONSULTATION ON PRIVACY

The Commission launched on 25 June an online consultation on the protection of personal data. The consultation, which ends on 15 September, is accessible at <http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice>. More information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/923|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

COMMUNICATION ON THE FUTURE OF UMTS

"Although, in principle, 3G licensing conditions should not be changed, in order to ensure a predictable environment and legal certainty favourable to long-term investments, flexibility is recommended in case of unpredictable changes of circumstances requiring adaptations," the European Commission states in its Communication on UMTS, adopted on 12 June. This report served as a working document at the European Council in Seville, held on 21 and 22 June. More information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/847|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LLU

The Competition Directorate General sponsors on 8 July in Brussels a public hearing in the context of local loop unbundling (LLU). At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/849|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display.

EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION COMMITTEE

Systems to check on misdirected mail, namely the methodological systems used to this end, were the focus of the meeting of the Service Quality Working Group of the European Standardisation Committee, held in Bonn on 19 June.

The topics debated included the measurement of misdirected non-registered mail, the extension of adopted norms, namely the one concerning measurement of point-to-point routing time for priority mail (to all existing market operators and not just the universal service providers) and the extension of the adopted norms to the new European Union member-states.

At the invitation of the working group, Portugal gave a presentation on the Portuguese experience with regard to the verification of misdirected mail. ◀

FRENCH POSTAL SERVICES

The conflict opposing the Commission and France in the postal sector has undergone a new development, with the 26 June "reasoned opinion" that formally asks for reinforcement of the independence of the French postal regulator vis-à-vis the public postal operator, La Poste. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/932|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

PROGRESS IN EGOVERNMENT

Significant progress has been registered since October in European electronic governance, a Commission study indicates. It reviews the supply of 20 basic public services in 18 countries: the 15 member-states, along with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/901|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

RECRUITMENT OF GALILEO DIRECTOR

The process of recruiting an executive director for the Galileo project, announced in OJEC C126A of 28 May, is opened until 12 July. At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/803|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

NEW DIRECTIVE ON PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION

The European Commission presented on 5 June a proposal for a Directive that aims to facilitate the re-use of public sector information in the 15 member-states. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/814|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

NEW ADDRESS FOR INFORMATION SOCIETY

The internet website of the ISPO (<http://www.ispo.cec.be>) has been changed to http://europa.eu.int/information_society/index_en.htm. ◀

OJEC

- **Consultation on data protection (2002/C150)** - On implementation of the Directive on protection of private citizens' data, with regard to the handling of personal data and the free movement of same, of 24 October 1995. Published on 22 June.
- **Media - Training 2001-2005 (OJEC C141)** - Call for the submission of DG EAC 22/02 proposals, towards application of a training programme for professionals in the European audiovisual programme industry. Published on 14 June.
- **Council Regulation no. 876/2002 (OJEC L138)** - Institutes the Galileo joint undertaking. Published on 28 May.
- **Commission Notice (2002/C126A/01)** - Recruitment of the director of the Galileo joint undertaking. Published on 28 May.
- **Decision of the EU-Canada Joint Committee (2002/342/EC)** - Modifies the sectorial annexes on telecommunications terminal equipment, information technologies equipment and radio transmitters, on electromagnetic compatibility, on electric security and on recreational vessels. Published on 4 May.
- **Opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2002/C107/06)** - On "Development of rural areas by means of a proactive policy on information and communications technologies." Published on 3 May.
- **Opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2002/C107/11)** - On the Commission Communication "Creating a Safer Information Society by Improving the Security of Information Infrastructures and Combating Computer-related Crime: eEurope 2002." Published on 3 May.
- **Corrigendum to the @LIS call for proposals (2002/C89/09)** - For presentation of proposals to carry out demonstration projects in the area of the information society, launched by EuropeAid. Published on 13 April.

SEE <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html> ◀

NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT) - Results of the public consultation on portability, concluded in April, are available at http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_publica/index.htm.

FRANCE - Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA) - The hearing of the 66 candidates that contested for the 22 digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels still available ended on 1 July. According to law, the hearings are public and are broadcast in their entirety by the parliamentary channel. The results should be announced on 31 October. See http://www.csa.fr/actualite/communiqués/communiqués_detail.php?id=8616.

GREECE - National Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT) - The deadline for submitting candidacies for the tender to supply the first phase of the spectrum management and monitoring system is 30 July. Additional information at http://www.eett.gr/eng_pages/index2.htm.

GERMANY - Regulierungsbehörde für Telekommunikations und Post (RegTP) - A nationwide database of transmitter locations has been launched in Germany, RegTP announced on 20 June. The database will be overseen by the federal state and by local authorities. It aims to introduce transparency mechanisms into a sensitive issue that has generated heated debate in Germany. On 31 May, the regulator concluded the new rules in the context of new operators' access to the leased lines of Deutsche Telekom. Details at http://www.regtp.de/en/aktuelles/start/fs_03.html.

IRELAND - Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) - Hutchinson Whampoa won the "A" licence of the tender for third generation mobile. At http://www.odtr.ie/press_releases.asp.

LUXEMBOURG - Institut Luxembourgeois de Régulation (ILR) - The three UMTS licences were on 22 May assigned to the operators Tango, Orange Communications Luxembourg and Enterprise des Postes et Télécommunications. The commercial launch of the new networks should take place between January and August 2003. At <http://www.etat.lu/ILR/content.html>.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - The first telecoms ombudsman, Elizabeth France, was appointed on 13 June. See http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2002/pr36_02.htm.

USA - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) - Reacting to disclosure of accounting fraud at WorldCom, second largest American telecoms operator, FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell said on 26 June that the Commission was monitoring the situation and doing everything possible to ensure stability of telecommunications networks and service quality for consumers. At <http://www.fcc.gov/headlines.html>.

MACAU - Gabinete para o Desenvolvimento das Telecomunicações e das Tecnologias da Informação (GDTTI) - The duration of the GDTTI has been extended for one more year. Details at <http://www.gdtti.gov.mo/por/News/index.html>.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP

FIXED ACCESS WG

The first meeting of the Fixed Access Working Group of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), which succeeds the LLU WG, took place in Dublin on 24 and 25 June. The agenda specifically focused on accompanying developments in various member-countries with regard to local loop unbundling (LLU) and vis-à-vis the conditions and prices applicable to shared access and to the local sub-loop, as well as to emergent fixed network issues such as the wholesale supply of subscriber line by the notified operators, flat rates for interconnection and IP interconnection, among others. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Athens in mid-September.

IRGIS AND IRGNET

The IRGIS working group, set up in the context of the Independent Regulators Group and aiming to foster and facilitate the sharing of information among European regulators, met in Lisbon on 17 June.

The meeting was sponsored by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM), the entity charged with co-ordinating the IRG Information Sharing (IRGIS) project and IRG Extranet (IRGnet). The aim was to discuss the financial feasibility and applicability of using the extremely high security level that is currently implemented, versus reducing the security level in order to correspondingly reduce the number of functional verification steps by the security platforms.

Almost all the representatives present in the IRGIS context, bar one, defended keeping the current security levels, holding that it was important to study the natural evolution of those projects in order to enable their continual improvement.

Also discussed was the pertinence of replicating the IRGnet concept and its application to the European Regulators Group (ERG), as a support tool for group members and particularly for its secretariat. It was reiterated that implementation of the IRGnet tool makes a great deal of sense in the ERG context.

The meeting also saw approval of the report model for presenting accounts and the proposal for financial participation by all national regulatory authorities (NRAs) in the said projects.

IRGIS and IRGnet are projects undertaken by ANACOM in the context of information technologies and systems. They enable the NRAs of 19 countries to communicate among each other securely and efficiently. Such communication is realised in the form of exchanging correspondence, working documents and elements of debate in a singular atmosphere of a collaborative nature, via the internet, reducing the need to attend meetings and substantially increasing security levels and the quality of information syndication and content management.

SEMINAR FOR CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

The IRG and the European Commission organised a seminar for candidate countries, which took place on 27 and 28 June in Prague. ANACOM gave a presentation on cost modelling, analysis and allocation.

SPANISH PRESIDENCY - COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The eEurope 2005 action plan, reorganised management of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and migration to the new IPv6 Internet Protocol were the main topics on the agenda of the last Council of Ministers of Telecommunications of Spain's European Union Presidency term.

The ministerial meeting was held in Luxembourg on 18 June (the Transports Council had, as usual, met the previous day). Participants agreed to go ahead with the second phase of the programme of electronic data exchange between administrations and with revision of the guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks. Likewise delineated were general aspects concerning the draft decision that extends for two more years the 1999-2002 action plan for a safer internet, a measure budgeted at 13.3 million euros.

The Commissioner for Enterprises and Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, presented a draft directive on commercial exploitation of public administration documents and a communication on obstacles to remove in order to proceed with the introduction of third generation mobile systems.

The 15 member-states were informed by the Commission about such matters as open platforms in the field of digital television and UMTS and national electronic identification and authentication systems, as well as the privatisation of EUTELSAT.

LICENCES COMMITTEE

Sharing information and the discussion of issues related to the introduction of third generation mobile (UMTS/IMT 2000) and sound broadcasting by satellite (S-DAB) were on the agenda of the 22 May meeting of the Licences Committee, which has been functioning within the European Commission. In the context of the mandate issued by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) for the study of expansion bands for third generation mobile, the respective interim report was presented at the meeting; it was held to be extremely positive and was formally accepted by the Committee. Regarding eventual postponement of submission of the final report (expected next November), in wake of the slow pace of UMTS implementation in Europe, opinions are divided, with consensus only that there is a need to discuss the matter in the context of CEPT. For this reason the date has been kept for the time being, though it should nevertheless be discussed in greater detail.

Regarding the initial version of the decision, in preparation in the context of CEPT and with respect to allocation in the 2500-2600 MHz band, various member-states recognised its importance, in so far as such would be a clear sign for industry (operators and manufacturers) and other regions, of Europe's interest in the UMTS project. It must however be noted that some doubts remain as to the pertinence of approval of this decision before the report is finalised.

As for the use of frequency bands exempt from licensing for public services, the Commission encouraged member-states to restrict recourse to LAN and HIPERLAN to private applications that will also enable access to provision of those services.

According to information provided by the member-states on the implementation of third generation mobile tariffs, including the identification of barriers to development of those networks and aspects concerning GPRS (commercial supply and number of subscribers), and in overall terms, there is apparently some confidence around January 2003 as the time for commercial launch of UMTS. Regarding GPRS, available in most of the 15 member-states, the penetration levels have been extremely low.

This was the Committee's last meeting, as its powers will in practice (though not formally) be transferred to the two new committees resulting from 99 Review: the Communications Committee (COCOM) and the Spectrum Committee, with respective jurisdiction over licensing matters and spectrum management. Most issues currently dealt with by the Licences Committee will be handled by the Spectrum Committee; plans call for the latter to first meet next October, while COCOM should debut on 10 July.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN SEVILLE

The European Council held on 21 and 22 June in Seville in turn endorsed the goals put forward in the eEurope 2005 action plan, which aims to transform Europe in the next decade into the world's most competitive knowledge-based economy. The Commission was asked to present, at the European Council in the spring of 2004, an intermediate revision to assess results of this plan, and, at the Copenhagen European Council at the end of 2002, a report on obstacles that hamper the development of UMTS and digital television, and of electronic trade and online administration.

See <http://www.eu2002.es/principal.asp?opcion=1&subopcion=1&idioma=ingles>; http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=DOC/02/13|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

DANISH PRESIDENCY

The Danish Presidency of the European Union meanwhile began on July 1; the respective website address is <http://www.eu2002.dk>. The Councils of Ministers of Transports, Telecommunications and Energy are scheduled for 3-4 October and 5-6 December. The next edition of *Spectru* will provide more information on the goals of the European leadership, for the sixth time the responsibility of Denmark.

IN JULY 2002

EU

- Hearing on Recommendation on Relevant Markets (3)
- Hearing on LLU (8)
- 1st Meeting of the Communications Committee (10)
- Telecommunications Group

CEPT

- ECC plenary session (1-5)
- FM WG PT24 (2-5)
- *Troika* (31)

ITU

- Special Committee (2-12)
- WP 1 (16-24)

ITU/UN

- Preparatory Committee for WSIS (1-5)

IRG

- Contact Network (18-19)
- Implementation WG (19)

Co-operation

- 1st technical seminar on telecommunications in the CPLP (16-18)

EVENTS

- *Multimedia and New Generation Mobile Communications: what future?* - 1, Guimarães

- *1st Iberian-American Symposium on Graphic Computation* - 1 to 5, Guimarães

- *WDM Metro & Optical Networking*
1 to 5, Cannes

- *Mobile Communications (APDC)* - 2, Oporto
- *The Protection of Intellectual Property on the Internet* - 9, Taguspark

- *Wireless & Mobile* - 9, National Palace, Queluz
- *Information Technology and Economic Development* - 10-12, USA

- *Networks Seminar* - 15-17, São Paulo
- *OSS Roundtable Forum 2002 and Planning Meeting* - 16-17, Chicago

- *Economie Telecoms 2002* - 24-25, Paris