

**IRG 14 Plenary Meeting in Budapest
20th November 2003**

Press Release

Telecom regulators agree on regulation of mobile termination access rates and stress the need for bit stream access in the broadband market.

The Independent Regulators Group - IRG - consisting of 29 European telecommunications regulatory authorities held a Plenary meeting on November 20th in Budapest. The meeting was hosted by HIF, the Hungarian National Regulatory Authority.

IRG adopts Pibs on mobile termination tariffs

IRG adopted Principles on implementation and best practices (PIBs) on the application of remedies in the mobile voice call termination market. IRG agreed on the common goal to achieve a competitive level of mobile termination charges. In order for individual NRAs to accomplish this, IRG will produce a benchmark which serves as guidance for NRAs when deciding on mobile termination charges at the competitive level. This benchmark will be reviewed annually with the intention to agree on a timeframe for achieving this competitive level in the member states as soon as possible.

IRG publishes interim document on bit stream access *

IRG deems bit stream access essential for the development of competition in the wholesale broadband access market. NRAs should mandate a bit stream product according to national needs. The interim document both defines the bit stream access product and its relation with the new regulatory framework.

Consultation on Draft IRG/ERG work program 2004 *

IRG expects to consult on its draft work program 2004 January next year. For reasons of external transparency and efficiency this consultation will cover both the IRG as well as the ERG work expected to be carried out in 2004.

BIPT IRG and ERG chair 2004

As already decided by IRG earlier this year, The Belgium regulatory authority (BIPT) will be chairing the IRG as of January 1st 2004. The Chairman of IRG also functions as the Chairman of ERG. Chairman: Eric van Heesvelde, the Head of BIPT.

**Note: the members of IRG are currently developing a joint approach on regulatory remedies for non competitive markets under the new regulatory framework, together with the European Commission in the context of the EC advisory group ERG. ERG and the European Commission will shortly organise a consultation on this joint approach. The IRG conclusions on bit stream access and mobile termination rates are part of this exercise. The IRG conclusions on these topics reflect the present views of the IRG but do not pre-empt the consultation about the joint approach on remedies.*