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LAUNCH OF DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION TENDER

The public tender for attribution of a national licence for the establishment and operation of a Digital Terrestrial Television (DVB-T) platform was launched by Infrastructure Minister Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues on April 7. The deadline for submission of entries is mid-June - or, to be precise, 45 days after publication of the tender notice in the *Diário da República* (DR).

The platform to be licensed will allow the multiplication of the interactive supply of television services and telecommunications as much as for the information society, thus stimulating content production. It will also make a decisive contribution to development of the information and knowledge-based society, bringing the digital world ever closer.

For this reason the priority criterion for candidate selection is contribution towards development of the information society and the rapid spread of digital terrestrial television. Likewise, competitive and innovative bids that safeguard consumer rights are also valued.

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) is overseeing the tender, governed by Decree-Law no. 381-A/97 of 30 December and approved by Administrative Rule no. 346-A/2001 of 6 April and by the clauses of the respective contract specifications.

The DVB-T licence to be awarded has a validity of 15 years and is renewable. It envisages the use of 7 shared radio channels in the 470-582 MHz band and 19 shared radio channels in the 582-862 MHz band, all at 8 MHz, as well as with the scope of geographical use, as well as 2 shared radio channels of 8MHz each in the 582-862 MHz band, exclusively for geographic use. This is in keeping with the notice published in series III of the DR of January 6, 2001 (see issue 25 of *Spectru*).

The licensed entity will be obliged to transport and broadcast, in a comprehensive and simultaneous manner, the four current national television

channels, as well as two regional channels from the respective autonomous regions. These broadcasts will be openly available to the public at no cost. Minimum coverage requirements were established for the Azores and Madeira island groups, to ensure their coverage and the universal distribution of national television channels.

There is still reserve capacity for new channels to be assigned under terms of the law.

One main principle worth highlighting is the prohibition of bidders with shareholding companies already holding dominant positions in cable distribution, namely those with a market share equal or superior to 50% of total national territory.

The contract specification for this tender may be obtained on working days between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. from the public attendance service at the ICP headquarters building.

...AND PLANS TO DEACTIVATE THE ANALOGUE SYSTEM

The year 2007 has been chosen as the target for deactivation of analogue television broadcasting (colloquially known as the 'switch off') and the beginning of digital television broadcasting in accordance with the preamble to the administrative rule governing the current tender, which calls attention to the importance of the "rapid spread of digital television supply, to minimise the impact of the aforementioned closure". The introduction of digital television is seen as a socio-economic, technological inevitability which at the same time creates conditions for the freeing of resources in the radio-electric spectrum and the creation of new supply.

CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC TELEPHONES

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) has launched a public consultation (open until April 30) on the supply of public telephones by the Universal Service (US) supplier. In accordance with Decree Law no. 458/99 of 5 November, which defines the conditions of universal telecommunications service, the supplier of US is obliged to install and operate fixed network public telephones in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the population, including those with special needs, while also taking into consideration criteria of geographical spread, population density and public utility. The ICP is responsible for the annual setting and publication of criteria for the supply of public telephones for each geographic area, for as long as it holds the supply of same to be insufficient. The present consultation is aimed at organisations most directly interested (national municipal associations, consumer groups, special needs groups, network operators, telecommunication service suppliers) and the public at large. The consultation aims to evaluate the functioning of the public telephones service of Portugal Telecom as a supplier of universal telecommunications service.

The future criteria for supply availability, to be defined by the ICP, are based on questions concerning the following seven areas: liberalisation, service use and penetration, quality, financial results and prices, and indicators of service accessibility. Given the diminishing use of public telephones, the initiative also seeks to help redefine criteria for the financing of universal service. Comments on the consultation may be sent to the ICP at the address posto.publico@icp.pt.

CURRENT EVENTS

ULL Reference Offer under study

The draft of the Reference Offer for Unbundling of the Local Loop sent out by PT Comunicações at the beginning of March is being debated in the scope of the Working Group on the Unbundling of the Local Loop (ULL) and is also being studied by the ICP. The said document was discussed at the 5th meeting of the ULL Advisory Working Group on March 27.

Call forwarding and free announcements

The ICP has decided that providers of fixed telephone services must ensure that calls are forwarded to a new customer number at reasonable cost when the supplier has been changed and until the introduction of number portability. Alternatively, and depending on the user's choice, the new number would be given by a free announcement.

Support and promotion of contents

The promotion of European digital contents in world networks and the linguistic diversity of the information society were decisive factors behind establishment of the eContent programme adopted by the Council of the European Union in December 2000. These matters were also in focus at the first respective national meeting, held in

Lisbon on March 13. The ICP participated together with representatives from the ministries of culture, science and technology, and infrastructure. The programme is in force until 2005 and will finance projects whose proposals must be sent to the European Commission by June 15. Follow-up measures have also been foreseen; their respective proposals should be accepted until December 16. More information on eContent at www.cordis.lu/econtent

New area at the ICP website

The ICP website has developed another separate theme area concerning leased lines and divided into sections on legislation, complementary decisions, and studies and reports.

English version of *Spectru*

Spectru is now published in an English electronic version. The English version is sent via the internet to heads of European regulatory authorities and related ministerial departments, as well as to directors of international organisations in the sector. The two first issues, from January and February, are available at www.icp.pt/publicacoes/spectru/01uk/spectru01.pdf and www.icp.pt/publicacoes/spectru/02uk/spectru02.pdf ◀

INTERNET PENETRATION AT THE END OF 2000

Statistics gathered by the ICP indicate that there were 1,987,365 internet access service customers at the close of last year, corresponding to a 26 percent increase in the last three months of the year. Compared to the same data from the end of 1999, the increase was on the order of 319 percent. At the end of 1999 some 5 percent of the total population enjoyed access to the internet; a year later the same figure had risen to 20 percent. Free-of-charge access service (corresponding only to the cost of a local call) was the driving force behind this exponential growth of internet use. In Portugal, 88 percent of customers enjoy free-of-charge internet access. The number of customers accessing the internet by cable corresponded at the end of 2000 to 10 percent of all paying customers and 1.3 percent of the total (paid and free-of-charge access), equivalent to 25,236 clients. ◀

SEE http://www.icp.pt/publicacoes/estcom/stcm/stdados4_00uk.html

COOPERATION WITH INACOM

In the context of the Cooperation Protocol signed by the ICP and the Instituto Angolano das Comunicações, two employees of the Angolan regulatory authority attended from February 19 to March 2 a training programme on International Telecommunication Union (ITU) notifications of frequency allocation.

The programme was divided into two sections, focusing on land and space. The first centred on various subjects, among them an introduction to the ITU, activities in the radiocommunications sector, regulatory procedures for terrestrial services and their notification, broadcasting plans in the LF, MF, HF, VHF and UHF bands and new procedures for HF broadcasting (HFBC), as well as ITU service documents.

The second part was dedicated to the introduction to satellites, coordination of satellite networks and earth stations, ITU notification, main results of WRC2000 and national preparation for WRC2003. ◀

MAJOR OPTIONS PLAN

The accelerated construction of an information and knowledge-based society continues to be a “national imperative” for the government, as once again confirmed by the Major Options Plan for 2001, a document approved by Decree Law no. 30-B/2000 of 29 December.

The document outlines a three-prong government strategy for telecommunications and the information society, based on the development of open and competitive markets, defence of users and consumers, and development of the information society.

The aim is to encourage investment and the entry of new operators and advanced service providers, to stimulate the development of networks and

diversified infrastructures, to create conditions for the opening up of networks, namely that of the traditional operator PT, and to offer new operators favourable access and interoperability conditions. Additional goals include the introduction of mechanisms to facilitate the offer of wide-band networks and services, along with incentives for the development of digital platforms promoting economically accessible internet access. Specific mention is made of the role of the regulatory body, which should work “in a free and transparent manner to prevent anti-competitive practices”, as is the importance of inspection of the regulatory framework applying to telecommunications, at both the community and the national level.

The package of measures directly concerning the information society envisages, in the short term, the establishment of an Information Society Development Agency, enhancement of the Digital Cities programme, expansion of training in information technologies (the creation of a diploma in basic information technologies has already been approved), promotion of the digital economy (especially via the National Initiative for Electronic Commerce), telemedicine and Portuguese internet contents, establishment of a Portuguese Telematic University and public internet access spaces, as well as increased awareness of the uses of new technologies. ◀

UMTS WORKING GROUP

The first meeting of the working group that ensure connection between UMTS operators, the ICP and the inter-ministerial commission for the information society was held at the ICP headquarters building on March 13. Participants discussed the group’s organisation, and also debated terms of reference, working methods and the timetable of meetings for the current year. This working group, set up by the Council of Ministers Resolution of 21 December, 2000, is chaired by a representative of the ICP. Its mission is to monitor the undertaken projects submitted by third generation mobile operators that concern development of the information society and the promotion of info-inclusion. ▶

NEWLY ENACTED REGULATIONS

- **Infrastructure Ministry Notice** (III Series of the Diário da República of 20 March) - Published in accordance with article 36 of Decree-Law no. 192/2000 of 18 August (legislation transposing the R&TTE Directive), calls attention to the publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC) of references to norms and common technical regulation.
- **Price Convention for Universal Postal Service** (III Series of the D.R. of 1 March) - Signed by the Directorate-General of Trade and Competition, the ICP and CTT-Correios de Portugal.
- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 24/2001** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 1 March) - Determines the constitution of an internet site for the Public Administration recruitment drive and that of another site dedicated to publicising available jobs in the fields of science and technology, mandating government members to proceed with the respective implementation.
- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 25/2001** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 1 March) - Confers mandates for the implementation of measures to strengthen support for the acquisition by civil servants of computers and other computing material, as well as for management to make such resources available to same.
- **Infrastructure Ministry Notice** (III Series of D.R. of 27 February) - Informs the public that the Declarations of Conformity of the Analytical Accounting System of Portugal Telecom S.A. may be viewed by interested parties at the ICP .
- The Council of Ministers approved on March 21 the Decree-Law establishing the system governing the access and practice of the activity of provider of postal service operated in competitive conditions. The Council also approved, on March 15, legislation altering Decree-Law no. 175/99 of 21 May, which regulates audiotext service advertising, by reinforcing consumers’ right to information and the protection of minors. At the same meeting, the government approved the Decree-Law which increases the share capital of Portugal Telecom SGPS SA, by the entrance of money or through the issue of bonds convertible into shares. ▶

EUROPEAN UNION

DEFINITION OF SMP GUIDELINES

On March 28, the European Commission adopted a proposal on analysis of the market and Significant Market Power (SMP) which clarifies the application of rules of competition to telecommunications in the context of the 99 Review process. The approval of a new definition of SMP is now in the hands of the Council. More information at

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/infosoc/telecompolicy/en/com2001-175-5en.pdf>.

GALILEO TO RECEIVE 200 MILLION EUROS

On March 22, the European Commission presented a memorandum of understanding which envisages a commitment from private industry to invest nearly 200 million euros in the Galileo project over the next four years - a period in keeping with the launch phase of the European satellite radionavigation programme. The first instalment of 100 million euros will be made available during the April 4-5 Transports Council. More details at

http://europa.eu.int/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/431|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

EEUROPE INITIATIVE

On March 13, the Commission adopted two measures concerning the eEurope initiative: a communication on the priorities of the eEurope 2002 initiative in which the progress of internet penetration is evaluated and future priorities established, and the "GoDigital" communication, aiming to promote electronic commerce in small to medium enterprises.

At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/362|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/361|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION BY DEUTSCHE POST

Deutsche Post AG (DPAG) was fined 24 million euros by the European Commission for abuse of its dominant position. This is the first formal decision by the Commission relating to the postal sector under the conditions of article 82 of the Treaty of the European Union. The antitrust investigation concluded by the Commission resulted from a complaint from United Parcel Service (UPS), a private postal operator which accused the German postal operator of offering discounts to its bigger customers if they chose to send all their mail through DPAG. Besides being punished for the practice of cross-subsidisation, DPAG was obliged to create a separate company for mail order delivery. More developments at

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/419|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

CONCENTRATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS

The Commission authorised the creation of two joint ventures, formed by the public postal operators of the United Kingdom (TPO), the Netherlands (TPG) and Singapore (SPPL) for the expedition of international mail. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/364|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

The Commission likewise approved the acquisition of Equant by France Telecom (FT), after considering that FT does not have a dominant position in the telecommunication markets in question. The Commission also approved the entry of the United Kingdom into the Irish mobile market by sanctioning Vodafone's acquisition of Eircell, the leading Irish operator, and British Telecom's acquisition of 49.5 percent of Esat Digifone, the second largest Irish operator.

LUXEMBOURG IN COURT

The Commission has taken the Luxembourg operator EPT to the Court of Justice of the European Union for not fulfilling obligations on rights of passage as stipulated in Directive 96/19/EC. The directive on "Full Competition" was transposed to Luxembourg law but has not been observed in practice. The result is that EPT's rival operators have been subject to discrimination and the impossibility of installing their own networks, despite being licensed to operate. The complaint against EPT's de facto monopoly on the supply of telecommunications infrastructures was filed in 1999 by Coditel.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/342|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

OJEC

• Commission Communication (2001/C96/02)

- Refers to a draft directive on competition in the electronic communications market. Published on March 27.

• Decision of the EEE Joint Committee no.

175/1999 - Alters appendix XI (telecommunications services) and XIV (competition) of the EEE accord. Published on March 15 (JOL74).

• EContents Programme - Call for the submission of

proposals for activities to stimulate the dissemination and use of European digital content in world networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society (2001-2005). Published on March 15 (JOC85).

• Resolution of the European Parliament (EP) on the development of the market for digital television in the European Union-

Published on March 1 (JOC67).

• Resolution of the EP on electronic services and connected services -

Published on March 1 (JOC67).

• Notification under terms of Directive 97/33/EC (Interconnection) -

Concerns information received by member states on organisations with Significant Market Power. Approved on February 1 and published on March 1 (JOC66).

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

LICENSE COMMITTEE MEETING

Preparation of the European Commission's fourth mandate to the CEPT on the third mobile generation, which requires that the CEPT proceed with the necessary studies on measures leading to the availability of additional spectrum for the third mobile generation mobile/UMTS, as set by the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-2000), was the focus of a Licence Committee meeting held in Brussels on March 7.

Worthy of note was the scepticism of most administrations over the timetable for the start of UMTS operations and the response capacity of operators and manufacturers. There were additionally calls of attention to companies' reduced interest in the European Telecommunications Numbering Space (ETNS) service.

CEPT MEETINGS

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP *TROIKA*

The new procedural rules of the European Communications Office (ECO) and working methods of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) were the most relevant items on the agenda of the Implementation Group Troika at the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), which met on March 6 in Geneva.

The agenda, besides continuing the work of reorganising the CEPT, also considered proposals from the remaining administrations concerning the ECO Convention (which derives from the current ERO convention), the "Arrangement" and also the CEPT Rules of Procedure.

ECTRA PLENARY

The merger of the Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs (ECTRA) with the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC), to result in the ECC, was the main focus of attention during the 34th ECTRA plenary, penultimate meeting, as the said merger will take place in September after the CEPT plenary assembly.

Participants at the March 20 meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, were solicited for help defining strategic guidelines for the CEPT Assembly, as well as rules of procedure and ECC terms of reference.

Other items on the agenda concerned the European Telecommunications Office (ETO), now integrated in the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO), as well as presentation of the ECTRA Project Team (PT) reports, namely the Technical Regulation Standard Requirements for Interconnection PT (PT TRIS), Numeration PT (PT N) and Accounting Principles and Regulation on International Interconnection PT (PT APRII), which should alter their Terms of Reference to bring them into line with the CEPT restructuring process.

Work carried out by the PTs resulted in approval of the ECTRA Recommendation on access

to public telecommunications networks (PT APRII).

ERC PLENARY

The ERC's next to last meeting before the CEPT restructuring was held in Paterswolde, the Netherlands, from March 12 to 16. Some 25 ERC Decisions were adopted at the meeting, 18 of them concerning Short Range Devices (SRD). Others referred to licence exemption and the free circulation of satellite service terminal equipment, as well as the designation of frequency band-widths to be used for direct mode operation in digital terrestrial mobile systems.

Agreement was reached on the strategy to use with respect to the request for the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council to schedule a regional conference to modify the 1961 Stockholm Plan (radio broadcasting services).

Lastly, a new Project Team was set up, ERC/PT2, with a mandate to develop the ERO's frequency information systems (EFIS), which should configure the database for all relevant information concerning frequencies from the various CEPT administrations.

JPT SAT

The numerous differences between administrations and operators marked the meeting of the ERC/ECTRA joint project team on satellite (JPT SAT) held on March 27 and 28 at the ERO building in Copenhagen.

The Portuguese positions prepared for the meeting, such as commentaries on the Comprehensive Satellite Initiative report (CSI), were generally well received and accepted.

A large part of the discussion concerned that report, with an evident willingness to pass proposals considered to be daring, but which were then made more flexible, so as to influence future decision-making in the area of licence attribution.

JPT SAT SUBGROUP

Revision of the agreed framework for the licensing of satellite services and networks was the main point on the agenda of the CAF-R subgroup of the JPT SAT, which took place on March 26 at the ERO in Copenhagen.

Participants in the meeting reviewed the issues to remove from the Combined Application Form (CAF), so as to transform it into a prototype for the new Common Application Form (COM). The year 2003 deadline for implementation of the new COM is considered by the group itself to be audacious and difficult to attain. This is also because work progress has been extremely slow. It must be stressed that this group's work does not mean to interfere with the current single counter process, nor does it tend to replace it.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

Plans for a European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) compendium site were presented at the March 8 meeting in Stockholm of the Committee's working group on Regulatory Affairs. The site should take effect in May and include information on 25 countries.

The Group was informed that Committee 133 had approved a final classification proposal on the negotiations of postal/courier services, to be presented at the March 26 meeting of the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) in Geneva.

It also learned that the European Union has meanwhile awarded contracts for three studies analysing the impact of transposition of the Postal Directive, whose conclusion is planned for July. A fourth study on employment and the social impact will be adjudicated by the end of the year.

SEE www.cept.org

SEE www.ero.dk

SEE www.eto.dk

ITU MEETINGS

THIRD WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY FORUM

At a time when the convergence between communications and information technologies is more pre-eminent than ever, the third World Telecommunications Policy Forum of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was held from March 7 to 9 in Geneva, with the theme topic of "Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony". The evolution of IP technology has become crucial, as it allows the merging of high debit voice and data networks.

Four Opinions were adopted at the meeting. Opinion A corresponds to a general statement of the shared vision of ITU members on the implications of technical and economic aspects of policies and sectorial regulations.

Opinion B concerns technical assistance among ITU members, as well as the inherent financial challenges and economic opportunities represented by same. Opinion C centres on the development of human resources, while Opinion D suggests a working programme that includes the development of studies that facilitate the migration to IP networks.

Two questions also served to orient debate: the cost of IP Telephony (will it really be cheaper than the adaptation of existing voice networks?) and its regulatory framework, much of which must still be implemented.

Within the scope of the Forum, a session focusing on IP Telephony was held on March 6 in Geneva. Participants studied the implications

for ITU members of the emergence of IP Telephony, from the possible establishment of a new regulatory framework to the implications (of a technical, economic and regulatory nature) for developing countries, due to increasing recourse to this service and the expected impact on the various Union members, namely in the economic and financial sector, and given the proliferation of B2B (business to business) and B2C (business to consumer) services based on electronic platforms.

Debate also focused on the concerted actions to be carried out by individual Members in order to ensure adaptation to the new technological situation. Case studies were therefore reviewed, as well as possible transition strategies for services and technologies. Lastly, participants looked into actions each Union member should take with respect to specialised training of human resources.

Details on www.itu.int/newsroom/press/releases/2001/06.html

TSAG MEETING

The ITU's Telecommunication Standardisation Advisory Group (TSAG) met in Geneva from March 19 to 23, using the occasion to sum up results of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) held in Canada last year.

The main goal of the meeting was to discuss matters related to the activities of the various Study Commissions and the proposals for new working methods in the Standardisation Sector. Others focus issues concerned the definition of methods of coordination and cooperation with organisations outside the ITU, updating of the Strategic Plan for the Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) and the reform of that sector - particularly important in the context of the ITU's ongoing process of comprehensive reform.

The function of the TSAG is to advise the director of the TSB on priorities and strategies to apply within the framework of ITU-T activities.

RAG MEETING

The ninth meeting of the Radiocommunications Advisory Group (RAG) was held in Geneva from March 12 to 16, with debate focusing, among other issues, on working group status, mandate and methodology, as well as plans for an eventual Regional Conference to modify the 1961 Stockholm Plan, the implications of convergence on spectrum management, the operational plan for the current year, reform of the process of world radiocommunications conferences and the question of an alternative procedure for the approval of recommendations for the Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R).

SEE www.itu.int

CONFERENCE ON POSTAL SERVICES

The 4th annual European Postal Services Conference organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs was held in Brussels on March 13-14.

Speakers included, among others, representatives of various European countries, both Regulators and Operators, who provided information on various situations and the latest changes affecting their respective countries. The European Commission was also represented, summing up progress on revision of the Postal Directive and reporting that no consensus had been reached at the last Council of Ministers, thus obliging a continuation of discussions on the matter. Also present was the European Postal Operators Association (PostEurop), which informed participants that a common position had been reached, with the agreement of that organisation's 10 members, on the Commission's proposal to revise the Postal Directive. Other participants included a number of consultancy firms, which provided a different outlook on the postal market.

The subjects most participants focused on were: regulation, liberalisation/

competition, and acquisitions, mergers and alliances as a likely scenario for the near future. Special emphasis was given to new technologies, namely the internet and its potentials, such as electronic mail, electronic commerce, the e-economy and the e-world.

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NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA - Australian Communications Authority (ACA) - After nine rounds of bidding, the electronic auction of the third mobile generation ended on March 22, with the granting of six licences and the entrance of two new companies into the market. The new UMTS services are expected to take effect from October 2002. Details at www.aca.gov.au/media/2001/01-20.htm . The ACA is also seeking public comment on a document concerning the guarantee of service quality after number portability is introduced on September 25. At www.austel.gov.au/media/2001/01-18.htm .

DENMARK - National Telecom Agency (NTA-Telestyrelsen) - The NTA announced on March 26 that it had decided to auction the allocation of third generation mobile licences, with the process expected to end in October. Additional information at www.tst.dk/index_uk.htm .

AUSTRIA - Telekom-Control Commission (TCC) - Total competition in the local fixed service telephone network has been a reality in Austria since March 12. The TCC's decision makes the country the first European Union member-state to offer, in one single initiative, the unbundling of the local loop. More information available at www.tkc.at/www/tkc_main.nsf/frameset?openAgent&Kat=E_AxX&Content=http://www.tkc.at/www/tkc_main.nsf/pages/Willkommen-e .

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) - In the context of high speed internet access, the ART ruled on a dispute between the operators Liberty Surf Télécom and France Télécom concerning ADSL tariffs practised by the incumbent. At www.art-telecom.fr/ .

BELGIUM - Institut Belge des Services Postaux et de Télécommunications (IBPT) - The IBPT released on March 13 a finding on Belgacom's rates for unbundled access and for shared access to the local loop. May be consulted at www.bipt.be/Pages/French/Telecoms/Boucleloc/boucleloc.htm .

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - OFTEL intends to introduce a Telecommunications Ombudsman system, to handle user-related conflicts, and has to that effect launched

a public consultation, available at www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/consumer/ombu0301.htm . The inquiry ends on June 15, with the position of Ombudsman set to be established in April 2002.

UNITED KINGDOM - Postal Services Commission (Postcomm) - The recently-established Postcomm, which regulates the postal sector, celebrated victory last March 26, when all mail costing less than one pound was liberalised. More information at www.psc.gov.uk/ .

IRELAND - Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) - The Irish regulator released on March 23 the proposed guidelines for the legal framework that will allow the launch of Digital Terrestrial Television services (at www.odtr.ie/docs/pres230301.doc) .

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - The structure of the Yellow Book on certification of telecommunications products was approved on March 30, as well as a study on Roaming and terrestrial component of IMT-2000.

More information at [www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_30_03_2001\(8\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_30_03_2001(8).pdf) and [www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_30_03_2001\(7\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_30_03_2001(7).pdf) . March 28 witnessed establishment of the Commission for Regulatory Agency Conflict Resolution, by agreement of the Brazilian regulators for the telecommunications sector (ANATEL), electric energy (ANEEL) and petroleum (ANP), with the aim of resolving disputes over infrastructure sharing among the said providers. At www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_28_03_2001%283%29.pdf . The auction for attribution of the E-band of Personal Mobile Service was meanwhile held on March 13, with seven competitors presenting bids for the three licences at stake. Details at [www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_12_03_2001\(3\).pdf](http://www.anatel.gov.br/Tools/frame.asp?link=/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_12_03_2001(3).pdf) .

MOROCCO - Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT) - A public consultation meant to serve as the basis for outlining responsibilities for the future allocation of new fixed network telephone licences is in effect until April 17. At www.anrt.net.ma/ .

NATO PREPARES WRC-2003

NATO's start of preparatory work on the military stance it will take at the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) in 2003 was the focus of the 15th NATO/Frequency Management Sub-Committee/Policy Working Group meeting, a joint civilian/military session held from February 21 to 23. Participants decided that swift computer means would henceforth be made available for the exchange of information and documentation between members of the groups set up for such purpose. Also approved was NATO's military position on the Detailed Spectrum Investigation Phase III process, developed by the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) with the aim of putting into effect a plan and harmonisation of spectrum use in the 43 CEPT countries.

Possible improvements to the NATO structure responsible for spectrum management were also debated, as well as eventual modification of the current accord on civilian/military sharing of the NATO spectrum - the Nato Joint Frequency Agreement (NJFA) in effect since 1994.

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY – TRANSPORTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL AND STOCKHOLM EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Transports and Telecommunications Council of Ministers held April 4-5 in Luxembourg dedicated most of the agenda concerning the communications sector to debate on the regulatory package known as “99 Review” and to advances in regulations for the establishment of the “.eu” domain.

The Swedish presidency had scheduled, vis-à-vis revision of the postal directive (Directive 97/67/EC), an informative session on the question of opening postal services up to competition. It also scheduled the release of a Commission memorandum referring to the report on the eEurope 2002 Action Plan, a similar memorandum from the Presidency/Commission that concerned Internet security, and presentation of the Communication on “The Introduction of Third Generation Mobile Communications in the European Union: State of Play and the Way Forward” (see <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/infosoc/telecompolicy/en/com2001-141en.pdf>). This document, which had already been discussed at the March 23-24 European Council in Stockholm, particularly focuses on the high financial costs demanded of third mobile generation operators and indicates the need to quickly conclude, preferably by the end of the year, a

regulatory framework for radiofrequency spectrum policy and for wide-band networks, with simpler and more uniform rules.

In Stockholm, leaders of the EU’s fifteen member-states also agreed to approve by the end of 2001 the Directive on postal services. The same date should also see approval of legislation on the commercialisation of financial services by distance, application of VAT to electronic commerce and the use of electronic invoicing for effects of VAT. The Council and the Commission committed themselves to preparing the framework for support to third generation mobile communications, including the regulatory framework of the radiofrequency spectrum policy and the wide-band networks; to work together on the creation of a wireless Europe, fostering gradual adhesion to the next internet generation (IPv6); and, lastly, to define a comprehensive strategy on the security of electronic networks, including execution measures, to be submitted at the Göteborg European Council that culminates the Swedish presidency in June. ◀

SEE www.eu2001.se/static/eng/issues/trans_telecom.asp

SEE <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom/LoadDoc.cfm?MAX=1&DOC=!!!&DOC=76&DID=65786&GRP=3314&LANG=1>

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		

IN APRIL 2001

EU
 - Transports and Telecommunications Council of Ministers (4-5)
 - Council Working Group on Telecommunications (9, 11, 18, 25-26)
 - eContent Information Day

CEPT
 - Implementation Group Troika (12)
 - PP02 Preparatory Working Group (19-20)
 - Implementation Group (26-27)
 ERC
 - PT1 (1-4)
 - Frequency Management Working Group PT41 (23-25)

ITU
 - Working Group on Reform (2-6)

UPU
 - Postal Operations Council (18-27)
 - Advisory Group (30)

Satellite Organizations
 - Intelsat Assembly of Parties (26-27)

Cooperation
 - AICEP Assembly and Forum (24-27)
 - Meeting of Ministers and Postal and Telecommunications Administrations from the CPLP (26-27)

EVENTS
 - EBC 2001 - European Broadband Communications - 2-4, CCB, Lisbon
 - Telecommunications for the Current Decade - 4, University of Aveiro, Portugal

- Broadband Wireless Access - 4-6, London
 - Mobile.com - 6-8, Malta
 - Future Trends in Internet Security - 10-11, Brussels
 - 5th Conference on Consumption and Justice - 19-21, Tomar, Portugal
 - ConfTele 2001 - 3rd Telecommunications Conference - 23-24, Figueira da Foz, Portugal
 - The Mobile Internet Forum - 23-24, London
 - Infosecurity Europe 2001 - 24-26, London
 - PT Supercomm Asia 2001 - 25-28, Shanghai
 - Wireless Positioning and Location for Next-Generation Services - 25-27, London