

Current Events

eContent presented in Lisbon
IRG

2

CEPT Meetings

5

3

Postal Services under discussion

6

4

News from other countries

7

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ULL PROPOSAL

Certain changes have been made by the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) to the proposal for the Reference Offer to the Unbundling of the Local Loop put forward by its historic operator. These alterations have led to important progress in the access of new operators to the local network of PT Comunicações (PTC) and the consequent creation of conditions favouring greater competition.

The decision, which was approved by ICP on 16 May under the terms of article 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure, provides a draft proposal for the prices and conditions to be practised by PT Comunicações (PTC) in opening its network infrastructure to new market players, who will thereby be able to offer their clients direct access on the local network.

According to this draft decision, the wholesale monthly price to be paid by new operators for leasing a narrowband line will be 2 398\$00 (equivalent to a line with a capacity of up to 128 kb/s), whilst the price for leasing a broadband line (which allows for Mb/s debits) will be 2.762\$00. When lines are leased from PTC, other operators are entitled to exploit them. In other words, they will not be obliged to pay for the traffic transported over them.

These prices are below the European average in the case of the narrow band and within the European average in the case of the broad band.

Interested parties were given 10 working days in which to send their comments on the changes to the RUO introduced in the ICP draft decision. These will be analysed by ICP, who will then take a final decision, after which PTC will have 10 days to adapt its Unbundled Local Loop Reference Offer (RUO) to the ICP decision.

In the same way, PTC will have to prepare the 40 listed exchanges that are considered to be priorities by the other operators. By then, the Laranjeiras and Lumiar exchanges, in Lisbon, and the Foz exchange in Oporto, which have already been tested and are therefore at a more advanced stage, will have to be ready for the commercial public services offer, which includes broadband Internet access and multimedia services in addition to the fixed telephone service.

The prices and conditions of the offer for separate unbundling of the local loop will be reviewed annually, in strict adherence to the principle of cost orientation.

SEE www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1660&ida=183

DTTV GIVEN APPRAISAL CRITERIA

The criteria for assessing the overall quality of applications for the attribution of a Digital Terrestrial Television (DTTV) operator's licence have been established by the committee appointed by the Executive to analyse bids in keeping with the call for tender regulations.

The first of the six appraisal criteria is the contribution made by the bid to the development of the Information Society and to the rapid spread of digital terrestrial television. This is the most important item and may be given a weighting of up to 35 per cent.

After this comes the quality of the technical plan, including promotion of inter-operability (25 per cent); contribution to the development of sustained economic activity (20 per cent); promotion of a competitive and innovative offer, guaranteeing consumer rights (9 per cent); quality of the economic and financial plan (6 per cent); and, finally, the coherence and overall quality of the bid (5 per cent).

Applications should be sent electronically to the head office of the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) by no later than 4 p.m. on 15 June. These will then be opened in public on 18 June, again at the offices of ICP.

The Analysis Committee, which is chaired by Vítor Gonçalves, a lecturer at the Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão (ISEG) and also includes

INTERNET ACCESS

On 1 June, the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) gave PT Comunicações a period of 10 days in which to reach interconnection agreements with interested ISPs, according to article 16 of Decree-Law 415/98, of 31 December, reflecting the principles laid down in the Internet Access Reference Offer, in keeping with earlier decisions on this matter, namely ICP's decision of 21 February 2001.

Lino Fernandes, from the Innovation Agency, Luís Filipe de Menezes, Luísa Mendes and António Vassalo, from the ICP, will issue a classification of the bids by 6 August. This list will then be sent to the government for its consideration.

For citizens, the new technology maintains the guarantee of free open access to all present national channels in mainland Portugal and to the regional channels in Madeira and the Azores.

The purpose of this call for tenders, which was launched on 7 April, is to award a network operator's licence. It is also planned that by the end of the year a second call for tenders will be launched for the licensing of new television channels.

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1669&ida=183>

SEE www.icp.pt/tdtuk/indexuk.html

Communications in Portugal

CURRENT EVENTS

Internet access conditions

In response to questions asked by some operators about Internet access conditions, the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) has confirmed the insertion of Internet traffic in the interconnection, the regime for which is set out in Decree-Law No. 415/98, of 31 December. Clarification was also given about the application of the terms of the Internet Access Reference Offer, regardless of the transmission means associated with Internet traffic. Approval was also given to the ICP understanding regarding the prices applicable to ISDN primary accesses used in POP remotisation, and PT Comunicações was given 10 days in which to revise its reference offer in keeping with this. See also www.icp.pt/interligacao/uk/interligacao_internet.html.

Price of direct-access FTS calls

The ICP has decided that the prices of direct-access Fixed Telephone Service (FTS) calls between clients of PT Comunicações (PTC) and clients of other fixed telephone service providers must reflect the differences in the end prices of the various providers, as is, in fact, in keeping with the decisions already made for national and international fixed-mobile calls. The Institute's decision, made on 16 May, was subsequent to the more recent tariff rates proposed by PTC (which included three price proposals, two for subscribers' telephones and one for public telephones). Consequently, the ICP has asked PTC to alter its latest price proposal.

Portability tests

The first network tests for operator portability have been successfully completed. These tests were held between ONI and PT Comunicações, and tests between the networks of other operators are either planned or already in progress.

Interministerial Committee for the Information Society

The ICP has been developing various internal activities designed

to provide a continuation for the programme coordinated by the Interministerial Committee for the Information Society. Several projects are therefore in progress, namely for the renovation of the Institute's website, including the provision of on line forms and the creation of an "on-line answering" service.

World Telecommunication Day

The 136th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which was celebrated on 17 May, was commemorated in Portugal with the opening of two exhibitions by Ferro Rodrigues, the Infrastructure Minister: "Large Telephone Exchanges in Portugal" and "A Sample of Philatelic Merit - Poets from the 13th to the 20th century", at the Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações. "Internet: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects" was the theme of this year's celebrations and inspired the customary message from the Secretary-General of the ITU, Yoshio Utsumi, which can be read in full at www.itu.int/newsroom/wtd/2001/Message.html.

New portal for the Infrastructure Ministry

On 17 May, the Infrastructure marked the occasion of the celebrations of World Telecommunication Day by launching its new portal at www.mes.gov.pt.

Microsoft Software Competition

On 24 May, the prizes were awarded for the fourth National Microsoft Software Competition at a ceremony attended by Mariano Gago. The Minister of Science and Technology gave his support to the creation of a second-hand market for Information Technologies, so that their use could become more widespread. The competition was aimed at the scientific and academic communities and prizes were awarded in the following categories: "Science", "Education", "Management", "Internet" and a special "Schools" category. The ICP sponsored the special award for "Universities".

9 NEW CITIZEN'S HELP DESKS AT POST OFFICES

The second phase in the creation of Citizens' Help Desks (PAC) was duly completed on 23 May, with the simultaneous opening of nine new desks at post offices in small and medium-sized towns. Chaves, Covilhã, Elvas, Figueira da Foz, Gouveia, Guimarães, Marinha Grande, Mirandela and Tomar were chosen to receive this unique facility, which traditionally provides services relating to the Ministry of Health, the Civil Servants' Health Scheme (ADSE), the Directorate-General of Road Traffic, the Directorate-General of Public Records and Notaries and the Consumer Institute. Alberto Martins, the Minister for State Reform, who attended the opening of the Elvas PAC, guaranteed that it was the government's aim to provide at least all the municipal capitals with these help desks. By the end of 2000, PACs had already been created at Moita and Vila Franca de Xira. This initiative was made possible by the joint cooperation between the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal, CTT - Correios de Portugal and the Instituto Para a Gestão das Lojas do Cidadão.

MAXITEL 2001 REPORT

Maxitel Consulting has just launched the sixth edition of its annual report "The Telecommunications Market - Portugal 2001". Besides describing the most important events occurring in the sector in 2000, the report highlights the forecasts made for its evolution by 2005, predicting a 52% growth in the market, which is equivalent to an increase of 560 billion escudos, an investment that is due to rise as high as 1,650 billion escudos. The UMTS network is only expected to be made available in 2004, due to the shortage of terminals. The report also states that, in 2000, the volume of mobile network services exceeded fixed network voice services (389 billion as against 387 billion escudos) for the first time. Those who are interested can contact the company via its website at www.maxitel.com.

Communications in Portugal

eCONTENT PRESENTED IN LISBON

By 2005, 20 billion escudos (100 million euros) will have been invested in creating European digital content in world networks and promoting linguistic diversity in the Information Society, as a result of the eContent Programme, presented in Lisbon on 8 May.

Kriester Olson, who attended the meeting at the Centro Cultural de Belém as a representative of the European Commission's Information Society Directorate-General, described the conditions of access to the programme - coordinated, in Portugal, by the Ministry of Science and Technology, through the Institute for International

Scientific and Technological Cooperation (ICCTI), the Ministry of Culture and the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal - as well as the criteria and procedures for the appraisal of applications.

Having a special vocation for supporting small and medium-sized content production companies, eContent will recognise the most innovative projects from both public and private organisations, who may present their applications during the first phase of the programme by 15 June (see OJEC C85/10, of 15 March 2001). The second phase is due to begin in October.

The programme is one of the priorities of the eEurope 2002 Plan and is part of the Iniciativa Internet scheme in Portugal. It is aimed at the 15 European Union Member States, the EFTA countries and other countries with whom agreements may be reached. It is based on three fundamental objectives: to improve the access to public sector information and to make its use more widespread; to strengthen the production of contents in a multilingual and multicultural environment; and to make the digital content market more dynamic. ◀

MULTIMEDIA XXI

Multimédia XXI is an initiative of the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC), which this year took place for the fourth time. The event was held at the Lisbon International Fair from 3 to 6 May, being centred around four specialised exhibitions, seminars and a multimedia festival. The exhibitions proved to be particularly popular, with more than 100 exhibitors taking part, as also was the Multimedia Conference XXI'2001, devoted to the theme of "The Platforms of the Digital Economy". The conference's opening session was chaired by Ferro Rodrigues, the Infrastructure Minister, whilst the closing session was attended by Mariano Gago, the Minister of Science and Technology.

Most of all, according to the conference's conclusions, the digital economy will require "people, talent, skills and creativity", whilst the deregulation of telecommunications is considered to be the "touchstone for the development of the new economy" and the broadband represents "the great leap forward" at this present period in the development of the Information Society. Modernisation of the public administration is considered to be no more than "an isolated, localised process that is not taking place at the required and desirable pace".

The winner of the MMXXI'2001 Grand Prize was "Trilogia de Artur Bual" by Carlos Cabral Nunes.

More information can be found at www.apdc.pt. ▶

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Decree-Law no. 148/2001** (I Series-A of the Diário da República of 7 May) - Alters Decree-Law no. 175/99, of 21 May, with respect to the advertising of audiotext services, with the aim of reinforcing the consumers' right to information and the protection of minors.
- **Decree-Law no. 150/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 7 May) - Establishes the regime for access to and the undertaking of the activity of a postal services provider on a competitive basis.
- **Decree-Law no. 153/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 7 May) - Establishes rules for the free conveyance of computer equipment by central administration bodies as part of the respective processes for the re-equipment and updating of computer systems.
- **Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 16 May) - Deals with the harmonised standards published in OJEC, in accordance with the R&TTE Directive.
- **Infrastructure Ministry Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 28 April) - Informs the public of the ICP's approval of the criteria for determining the completion of article 23, paragraph 3, sub-paragraphs c) and d), which is the form for the certificate of conformity to be issued by the certifying authorities, under the new regime for Telecommunications Infrastructure in Buildings (ITED).
- **The Council of Ministers** (C.M.) of 24 May approved a Decree-Law which establishes the procedures to be observed in the hiring of contract work, supplies and the provision of services, in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors and, on 17 May, the Draft Resolution which approves the Treaty of Nice for ratification purposes, altering the Treaty of European Union, the Treaties setting up the European Communities and some acts relating to these Treaties, signed in Nice, on 26 February 2001. Also C.M. of 10 May approved the Draft Resolution of , the Constitution of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal, altered by the Additional Protocols of Lima - 1976, Managua - 1981, Havana - 1985, and Buenos Aires - 1990, as well as by the Fifth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal, adopted by the Montevideo Congress - 1993. Finally, the C.M. of 3 May approved the Resolution which seeks to develop an integrated programme of support for innovation, within the framework of European and Portuguese policies on competitiveness, innovation and cohesion, adopting an Agenda for Innovation in Portugal. ▶

EUROPEAN UNION

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SIGNIFICANT MARKET POWER

Until 30 June, the European Commission is conducting a public consultation on the draft guidelines on Market Analysis and the calculation of significant market power. There will be a public workshop on the same subject in Brussels on 18 June.

More details can be found at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/news/index_en.htm.

SAFER INTERNET

As part of its action plan for the promotion of a safer world network, the Commission has launched a website with the aim of combating harmful or illegal content on the Internet. See www.saferinternet.org/.

GUIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

On 15 May, the European Commission launched the free guide entitled "Data Protection in the European Union", the last in a series of guides published under the "Dialogue with Citizens and Business" initiative. More information can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/media/dataprot.

REPORT ON COMPETITION IN 2000

The XXX Report on Competition Policy 2000 was published by the Commission, on 7 May, and is available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/annual_reports/2000/pt.pdf.

ERKKI LIIKANEN HAS A NEW WEBSITE

The restructured website of the Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society was launched on 4 May. Besides showing Erkki Liikanen's contact point and agenda, the website also provides access to his speeches and press releases.

See http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/liikanen/index_pt.htm.

IRG

PLENARY

The presentation of the reports of the Working Groups (WG) on Mobile Access, Transparency of Retail Tariffs and Market Analysis dominated the Plenary of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), which was held in Ireland on 24 and 25 May.

At the meeting, there was also a debate about a compilation of the work programme of all the organisation's Working Groups, as well as a discussion of themes such as the third mobile generation and telecommunications markets.

Under the new regulatory framework, two reports were analysed, prepared by the president of the 99 Review Task Force and the president of the Working Group on Significant Market Power, in keeping with the Commission's guidelines. The Confidentiality Working Group approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the exchange of information between IRG members. There was also a discussion of the procedure for the different treatments to be given to those contacting the IRG.

The Plenary ended with meetings with Robert Verue, from the European Commission's INFOSOC Directorate-General, and Michael Powell, president of the FCC, the North American regulatory authority.

TRANSPARENCY OF RETAIL TARIFFS WORKING GROUP

The first meeting of the IRG Working Group on the Transparency of Retail Tariffs was held in Dublin on 11 May, when a draft proposal was presented for the group's Terms of Reference.

The creation of this Working Group was based on the proposal for a Directive on universal service and users' rights in relation to electronic communications networks and services, in particular article 18, which is designed to implement the agreement with national regulatory authorities to guarantee a high level of transparency and information in communications services.

OJEC

• **Commission Communication(2001/C149/05)** - Invites the presentation of comments on the revision of the notice on agreements of minor importance which do not fall under Article 81 (1) of the EC Treaty. Published on 19 May.

• **Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (2001/C139/05 and 2001/C144/18)** - On the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services. Published on 16 May.

• **Opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2001/C144/07)** - Concerning the proposal for the alteration of Directive 97/67/EC on postal services. Published on 16 May.

• **Opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2001/C144/11)** - On the Council decision adopting a multiannual programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote the linguistic diversity in the Information Society. Published on 16 May.

• **Media Plus II (2001/C140/10)** - Calls for proposals in the context of the implementation of the programme to encourage the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works. Published on 12 May.

• **Commission Notice (2001/C137/06)** - Concerning the call for tenders for the award of a national licence for the establishment and operation in Portugal of a digital terrestrial television platform. Published on 9 May.

• **European Parliament Resolution (C135/261)** - On mergers in the telecommunications sector. Approved in September 2000 and published on 7 May.

• **Commission Decision of 20/3/2001 (2001/354/EC)** - Concerning the process for the application of article 82 of the EC Treaty to Deutsche Post AG. Published on 5 May.

• **Notice of Public Consultation and Public Workshop (2001/C127/15)** - on the draft guidelines on market analysis and the calculation of significant market power under article 14 of the proposed Directive on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications and services. Published on 27 April.

CEPT MEETINGS

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP TROIKA

The Implementation Group Troika on the restructuring of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), comprising Norway, the United Kingdom and Portugal, met on 2-3 May in Oslo, with the main aim of finalising preparations for the last meeting of the Implementation Group due to take place in Cardiff on 13-14 June.

The basic structure and a large part of the report have already been completed - with only sections dealing with relations with the Commission and the use of the office by the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) still to be completed.

THE ERO COUNCIL

The reorganisation of the CEPT also dominated the 12th meeting of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) held in Copenhagen on 9-10 March.

The meeting confirmed that it was impossible to provisionally apply the amended ERO convention due to the failure to reach any unanimous agreement on this matter.

In view of a proposal for an "amended convention" made by the Implementation Group, and when it was explained that this would represent an "alteration" to the Convention and not a new Convention, it was agreed to ask for comments to be made until September on the texts presented. The final version is to be approved at the Council meeting in October and the Council will have an extraordinary meeting on 6 December 2001 to sign the alterations to the Convention and elect its new president.

The budget proposal for 2002 was similarly approved, as well as "adjustments" to staff salaries and the ERO work programme for 2002.

The ERO director gave news of the office's new premises: a 10-year contract has been signed for new headquarters at Nansensgade in the centre of Copenhagen. The move is due to take place between 15 and 31 January 2002.

The Council confirmed ERO involvement in the Frequency Information System (EFIS) project, a frequency information system for all CEPT countries.

FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The approval of a resolution to be presented to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council on the revision of the 1961 Stockholm Plan (ST61) was one of the most important matters discussed at the meeting of the Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG) of CEPT's European Radiocommunications Committee, which took place from 14-18 May in Manchester in the United Kingdom.

This resolution envisages the organisation of a regional conference for a revision of television broadcasting plans, with the aim of including Digital Terrestrial Television in the aforementioned agreement.

Two ERC draft decisions were similarly adopted for public consultation on the phasing out of CT1/CT1+ and CT2 equipment in the 900 MHz bands, the aim being to stop using this type of equipment by the end of 2008.

Also adopted for public consultation were an appendix to ERC Recommendation (01)01 on UMTS/IMT200, in order to define the criteria for coordination in border areas, a revised version of Appendix 1 of ERC Recommendation 70-03 on Short Range Devices (SRD) and a new Appendix to this Recommendation (Appendix 11) relating to Radio Frequency Identification Applications (RFIDs).

Also approved was an ERC report on the current and future use of the LF, MF and HF (9 KHz to 29.7 MHz) frequencies.

As far as preparations for the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-03) are concerned, the FMWG is responsible for the initial development of the CEPT draft brief for 18 of the 39 items on the agenda for this conference, so that some texts relating to these items were also updated at this meeting. Other important business was the creation of a joint project team formed from the Spectrum Engineering Working Group (SEWG) and the FMWG for items 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 on the WRC-03 agenda relating to questions of compatibility and the sharing of various services in the 5 GHz band. This new group is designated JPT 5 GHz.

JPT SAT

The Comprehensive Satellite Initiative (CSI) report was under the spotlight at the 10th meeting of the ERC/ECTRA joint project team on satellites (JPT SAT) held in Copenhagen on 8 May. Other subjects discussed were One-Stop Shopping (OSS) and the Combined Application Form (CAF), two of the most sensitive points in the CSI report.

ECTRA PT APRIL

An ordinary meeting of the ECTRA Project Team on Accounting, Principles and Regulation of International Interconnection (PT APRIL) was held in Lisbon on 10-11 May, where discussion centred around the problems raised by the alterations that have occurred in the countries of the European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs (ECTRA), accounting rates for services rendered, the Internet and Internet Protocol (IP) telephony.

ECTRA PT N

A meeting took place in Tallinn on 3-4 May of the ECTRA Project Team on Numbering (PT N), at which two proposals were drawn up to be presented at the ECTRA plenary assembly.

One of these proposals deals with the problems raised by Electronic Numbering (ENUM), a protocol that allows for mapping between telephone numbers and Internet names, and the need to consult all interested parties with a view to guaranteeing user interest and more balanced competition.

The other proposal deals with the European Telecommunications Numbering Space (ETNS) and the best way to guarantee the necessary conditions to allow suppliers to offer pan-European telecommunications services. ◀

SEE www.cept.org

SEE www.ero.dk

SEE www.eto.dk

POSTAL SERVICES UNDER DISCUSSION

HIGH LEVEL GROUP

The plenary of the High Level Group of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was held in Berne on 1-2 May, together with meetings of Subgroup 2 "UPU Structure and Composition" (SG2) and Subgroup 3 "Means of Decision-Making" (SG3).

SG 2 agreed on the provisional title of Consultative Committee for the Union's third body, the creation of which is still under discussion. SG 3 discussed the document entitled "Reformulation of the Acts", which contains proposals to revise the UPU convention and regulations. The international bureau also presented two documents, one on the legal status of the regulations and the other on the possibility of expressing reservations about UPU acts.

Discussion also centred around the funding of the Union, in particular the consultative committee, and the introduction of the principle of cost recovery was suggested.

The plenary also analysed the possibility of holding a High Level Conference in 2002.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The 3rd meeting of the UPU consultative group was held in Berne on 30 April. Several organisations from outside the UPU were present at the meeting, such as the APC, Union Network International (Unipostal), European Express Mail Order Trade Association (Emota), International Express Couriers Corporation (IECC) and the Federation of European Direct Marketing (FEDMA).

Various presentations were made relating to

the evolution of the postal market by the year 2010, universal service and its liberalisation, the transposition of the Postal Directive and the proposal to revise this.

The last part of the meeting involved the presentation of a document from the UPU's International Bureau, which summarised the main work in progress at the UPU at the level of the Administration Council, the Postal Operations Council and the High Level Group.

POSTAL OPERATIONS COUNCIL

The UPU's Postal Operations Council met in Berne on 18-27 April under the chairmanship of Portugal. On 25 April, the meeting marked the Day of the Customer and the Postal Operations Council's forum by holding two seminars dedicated to the theme of "Offering more to the whole world - serving customers in multiple markets".

In addition to the plenary assembly, there were meetings of various action groups, commissions, committees and cooperatives. Portugal was elected as a member, for a period of 8 years, to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for Improving the Quality of Service. Also approved were the manuals on financial management and project management.

There was also a discussion of a new methodology for establishing a hierarchy of the tactical priorities of the Beijing Postal Strategy, more precisely the criteria for fixing the level of priorities.

At the level of the Standardisation Action Group, there is a Memorandum of Understanding in preparation between the UPU and the European Committee for Standardisation of the European

Commission (CEN TC 331), which envisages the creation of a contact committee to guarantee the coordination of common standardisation plans.

CERP PLENARY

The restructuring of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) and the creation of a common secretariat for the CEPT committees were the main subjects of discussion at the 24th CERP Plenary, which was held in Malta on May 10-11.

Agreement was obtained for the inclusion of CERP in the CEPT secretariat, and it was further decided to maintain the ad hoc group, which discusses the restructuring of the committee. Member states were informed that since 7 May CERP has had its own web page, where a compilation is provided of market and legal information about all its members.

There was also an exchange of information about the evolution of the postal sector in the different countries, and the European Commission referred to the work already in progress in the postal sector in the European Union, announcing a probable meeting of the Council of Ministers dedicated only to postal services on 26 June.

Also reporting to the Plenary were all the CERP Working Groups (WG): the regulatory affairs WG, UPU affairs WG, standardisation and the economy WG, as well as the Steering Group and the contact committee between CERP and PostEurop.

SEE www.itu.int

SEE www.cerp.org

EUTELSAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ELECTED

Paris was the venue for the 29th General Assembly of the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (EUTELSAT), held on 15-16 May. This will be the last such meeting prior to its privatisation on 2 July. On this date, the intergovernmental organisation EUTELSAT will coexist as an institution alongside the autonomous private company Eutelsat S.A.

The main subject of the meeting was the election of the Swedish candidate Eva Brigitta Näslund as the Executive Secretary of EUTELSAT. At the same time, a consultative committee was created, which provides the Executive Secretary with support - especially in regard to budgetary matters. The assembly also approved the conditional accession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the organisation, a situation which remains dependent on the success of this country's application for membership of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

The next general assembly of parts of EUTELSAT is scheduled for 15 May, 2002.

SEE www.eutelsat.org

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NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT) - A public consultation is in progress until 18 June on the shared use of decoders for Digital Terrestrial Television. This can be found at www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_publica/pdf/descodificadores.pdf.

Another consultation about the introduction of a new interconnection model was completed on 4 June.

See www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_publica/pdf/icx_cap.pdf

SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT) - On 30 April, after a wide-reaching public consultation, the MCT published a new version of the preliminary draft for a law on the information society and e-commerce services.

See www.sgc.mfom.es/

GREECE - National Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT)

- On 1 June, EETT announced the publication of a notice relating to the call for tender for the award of licences for third generation mobile and additional GSM systems. The licensing process is scheduled to take place at the beginning of July. See www.eett.gr/ums/En/1024x768/Main.htm. The country is also introducing a new ten-digit numbering plan.

More details can be found at www.eet.gr/numbering/Press%20Release%20for%20the%20new%20NNP%20of%20Greece.pdf.

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) - Two public consultations were recently launched by ART: the first consultation is about the ENUM protocol, in collaboration with the Secretary of State for Industry, which makes it possible for Internet domains to be created from telephone numbers, linking them with communications services. This consultation ends on 12 June. The second consultation is about extending call-to-call selection and operator pre-selection to the local network. It ends on 13 June. All details can be found at www.art-telecom.fr/.

BELGIUM - Institut Belge des Services Postaux et de Télécommunications (IBPT) - Belgacom's Reference Offer to the Unbundling of the Local Loop was subjected to modifications, imposed by IBPT. At www.bipt.be/Pages/French/LIBRAIRI/Communic/communic.htm.

SWITZERLAND - Office Fédéral de la Communication (OFCOM) - The draft of the television and radio new law, which was at public consultation for four months, and its comments, can be seen at www.bakom.ch/eng/news/567/567.htm.

DENMARK - National Telekom Agency (NTA-Telestyrelsen) - On 21 May, the NTA announced that it had decided to hold an auction for the granting of third generation mobile licences. The process is expected to be completed by October of this current year. See www.tst.dk/index_uk.htm

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OfTel) - The British regulator has published the 20th edition of its regular competition bulletin which contains information relating to the first three months of the year and can be viewed at www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/comp_bull/bull20.htm. Also available is the monthly bulletin on the unbundling of the local loop (ULL) at www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/local_loop/llufacts/llufacts0501.pdf.

OfTel has similarly published data relating to the rate of Internet penetration at small to medium-sized enterprises in the United Kingdom, which has increased by 10% over the last three months, reaching 59% and 92% respectively. Further details can be found at www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/pr37_01.htm

UNITED KINGDOM - Postal Services Commission (POSTCOMM) - The British postal regulatory body has awarded licences to three new postal operators: TNT UK Ltd 1, TNT UK Ltd 2 and G3 Worldwide Mail (UK) Ltd. Further details are available at www.psc.gov.uk

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

- A public consultation is in progress until 15 June about the introduction of number portability on mobile networks, scheduled for the middle of 2002. See www.odtr.ie/docs/pres150501a.doc

USA - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) - On 8 May, the FCC put forward proposals for the reformulation of the universal service fund. Adaptability, neutrality and simplicity are the cornerstones of the document, which seeks to ensure that the financial contributions of operators are made according to equitable and non-discriminatory principles. See www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/News_Releases/2001/nrcc.0117.html

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - The Brazilian regulatory body held a public session to discuss digital television on 29 May. More details can be found at www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2001/release_29_05_2001%282%29.PDF

Furthermore, ANATEL has put forward a new model for the certification and approval of telecommunications products, which will now have to reinforce consumers' safety and create new jobs. At the same time, the agency has adopted the universally recognised UCC/EAN-128 barcode and a seal of approval that must be displayed on all equipment as from 1 June. See www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_10_05_2001.pdf and www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_10_05_2001%286%29.pdf

The agency has also stated that it will prolong the public consultation on electrical, magnetic and electromagnetic fields until 4 June.

More information is available at www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_11_05_2001%283%29.pdf

COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK 2001

The "Communications Outlook 2001" study, recently launched by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), highlights the fact that only a rapid acceleration in telecommunications liberalisation will effectively promote growth in the sector and a narrowing of the digital gap. The OECD explains that "the Internet, electronic commerce and access to broadband communications at prices allowing for a permanent connection are of fundamental importance in the development of current communications policy".

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY - HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 99 REVIEW TIMETABLE

The publication of the provisional timetable for the legislative process commonly known as the 99 Review was one of the novelties to emerge from the High Level Committee meeting, which took place in Stockholm on 15 May under the auspices of the Swedish EU presidency and was attended by representatives of national administrations, regulatory bodies and the European Commission.

Thus, according to Robert Verrue of the INFOSOC Directorate-General, between 11 and 14 June, the European Parliament will have to adopt the opinions relating to the proposal for a Directive on universal service and users' rights and the draft decision on the creation of a regulatory framework for radioelectric spectrum policy

At the next Council of Transport and Telecommunications Ministers, scheduled to take place in Luxembourg on 27-28 June, it is foreseeable that a political agreement will be reached on the proposal for a Directive on universal service and users' rights, the draft decision on the creation of a regulatory framework for radioelectric spectrum policy in the European Community and, furthermore, on a proposal for a Directive on the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy.

Between 1 and 4 July, the European Parliament is due to form an opinion about the proposal for a Directive on the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy. In September, a common stance will be taken on

the proposal for a Directive on universal service and users' rights and on the decision about the creation of a regulatory framework for radioelectric spectrum policy.

At a second reading in mid September, the European Parliament will also have to adopt opinions relating to the set of proposals for Directives included in the 99 Review package and the above-mentioned decision. If necessary, the Council will order the adoption of a reconciliation process between 15 and 16 October.

At the end of the year, most probably on 6 and 7 December, the whole process will culminate in the adoption by the Council of Transport and Telecommunications Ministers of the proposals of the 99 Review package and the draft Decision.

At the High Level Group meeting, the Commission also commented on the situation pertaining to the sector's survey of the Leased Lines Market, launched in 1999. In the document that was presented, the Commission stated that it had sponsored specific surveys in five countries, among which was Portugal (together with Spain, Greece, Italy and Belgium), in order to discover the reasons for the high prices charged for international leased lines. The Commission has also stated its intention to present a statement on network security to the Council of Europe in Gothenburg.

SEE www.pts.se/dokument/getFile.asp?fileID=2256

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

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

IN JUNE 2001

EU

- Public workshop on the draft guidelines on market analysis and the calculation of significant market power. (18)
- Information Day - Trans-European Telecommunications Networks (19)
- Council of Transport and Telecommunications Ministers (27-28)

CEPT

- Troika (1)
- Implementation Group (12-13)

ETO

- Council (11)

ERC

- SEAMCAT Seminar (7)
- PT1 (12-13)
- Frequency Management WG (12-14)

ECTRA

- PT TRIS Number Portability (19)
- ECTRA/ ERC
- Joint Meeting (4-5)
- Joint Satellite Group (11)

ITU

- Joint Group (14-15)
- Council (18-29)
- Radiocommunications Sector
- Study Group on Propagation - GT 3J/3M (31/5-8/6)
- Study Group on Mobile Services - GT 8F (27/6-3/7)

IRG

- Technical Group (9)
- Task Force (21-22)

ETSI

- TC ERM - Electromagnetic Compatibility and Radio Matters (18-22)

NATO

- FMSC and Policy WG (25-29)

EVENTS

- INET 2001: A Net Odyssey: Mobility and the Internet - (5-8), Stockholm
- The New Economy and Citizens with Special Needs (APDC) - (6), Lisbon
- The m-Commerce 2001 Forum - (11-12), London
- 3G World Congress - (11-15), Hong Kong
- Mobile Internet & WAP Business Strategy - (12-13), Stockholm
- Network and Service Management - (18-21), Vienna
- Regulating the Information Society - (19-20), EP, Brussels