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MOBILE NETWORK QUALITY

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) has measured, for the second consecutive year, the quality on mobile network service. The report, called "Survey on the Quality of Service of Mobile Networks (QoS-GSM)", generally indicates that overall performance of these services in mainland Portugal has significantly improved from 2000 to 2001. In the Azores and Madeira regions, where the survey was for the first time extended to, network coverage is still clearly insufficient in less-populated areas.

Coverage, accessibility and sound quality were the three indicators assessed in this study. The latter registered a more substantial improvement when compared with the first tests in 2000, as 80 percent of calls were rated as "good", on a scale ranging from "excellent" to "bad". On mainland Portugal, accessibility rose to an average level of 85 percent of calls successfully made. However, both this and the coverage (the level of coverage of the Portuguese GSM network is generally very good) parameter show greater variation and heterogeneity.

Despite the good performance of mobile networks, there are still

"shadow areas" where work needs to be done on signal level. This situation is linked to the difficulty of radio propagation for reasons of ground morphology and artificial obstacles.

Tests were carried out between April and June of this year, in the Lisbon and Oporto metropolitan areas, district capitals, areas of higher population density in the autonomous island regions and along main road axes: 19,834 kilometres were travelled, with 40,037 calls made for a total time of 560 hours. Special equipment was used to establish connections (mobile-fixed calls and fixed-mobile calls, in movement), with recourse to dual band terminals that assure precision of the final results. The three operators accompanied the field work, and along with the DECO consumer defence association helped define the test morphology.

The entire text of the report, including annexes with reference maps, may be consulted at the ICP's public attendance service. ▶

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1797&ida=183>

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1796&ida=182>

CONVERGENCE AND REGULATION INITIATIVE

The task of the working group set up under the Convergence and Regulation Initiative, i.e., to identify relevant questions raised by convergence, was completed within the expected time limit - end of September. On 9 October, on a session chaired by Ministers of Infrastructure and Culture, took place the public presentation of the well-known figures of recognised merit and sectorial experience that have been asked to submit contributions, to be formulated by 31 December 2001, after which the working group should prepare a document for public consultation. The seven nominated figures are Diana Andringa, Paulo Azevedo, Raul Junqueiro, Artur Castro Neves, Diogo Lucena, Luísa Duarte and Manuel Pedroso Lima. In accordance with joint order no. 863/2001 of Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Infrastructure Ministry, published in the II Series of the Diário da República (Gazette of the Republic) of 14 September, the consultation will begin on 15 February 2002 and run for a period of 60 days. The deadline for final presentation to the government of the initiative's results is 31 May 2002. The above measure assigns the task of developing and coordinating the Convergence and Regulation Initiative to the presidents

NEW ICP STATUTES

The Council of Ministers approved on 20 September the Decree-Law that sets the new statutes of the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP), which is to become the *ICP-Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*, or ICP-ANACOM. The measure awaits promulgation by the President of Portugal and consequent publication in the *Diário da República*. ▶

of the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) and the *Instituto da Comunicação Social* (ICS - Media Institute), who are to advise the government on definition of a framework for coherent action on convergence matters. ▶

SEE <http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1798&ida=182>

CURRENT EVENTS

ULL operational supervision

As deliberated on 4 June, the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) has constituted a Group to Supervise Unbundling of the Local Loop (ULL), whose main aim is to monitor compliance with the Reference Offer for Unbundling of the Local Loop. This team has since visited 14 of the 25 exchanges, which under terms of annex 2 of the reference offer published by PT Comunicações do not provide physical co-installation of access to the local loop, and assessed the respective conditions. The Institute is meanwhile studying the revised version of the reference offer for unbundling of the local loop submitted on 6 September by PT Comunicações, S.A., with the aim of verifying its conformity with the June 28 deliberation of the ICP Board of Administration.

Interministerial Commission on the Information Society

The ICP took part in the fourth meeting of the Interministerial Commission for the Information Society, held on 2 October, and reported on the current situation in the Institute's area of responsibility, namely on actions undertaken in the context of the Internet Initiative and the eEurope 2002 Action Plan. The quarterly encounter also focused on results of three studies carried out in the meantime: a survey on Portuguese use of information and communications technologies (2001); on measurement of .pt contents; and on supply and demand for higher education training in information and communication technologies (1996-2000). At the end of the meeting, Science and Technology Minister Mariano Gago announced provisional results of the second inquiry on the use of Information and Communication Technologies by the Portuguese. The president of the ICP, Luís Nazaré, and Paulo Machado, designated by the Infrastructure Ministry, are the two ministry representatives on the Commission.

Statistics on data transmission and internet access

The latest statistical figures on data transmission and internet access indicate that in the second quarter of 2001 the total number of internet access service customers reached 2,785,187, corresponding to an increase of 11.2 percent over the first quarter. Growth over the same period last year (1,334,198 customers) was 108.8 percent. The statistics will soon be available at www.icp.pt/publicacoes/indexuk.html#estat.

World Post Day

"Post: broaden your horizons" is the topic of World Post Day, celebrated on 9 October, the day the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was founded in 1874. The occasion will be marked by the launch of a new letter competition addressed to children up to the age of 15, on the theme of "a letter for someone you miss" and the award of prizes from last year's competition. The deadline for submission of letters ends on 30 April 2002. Additional information on the competition may be obtained in Portugal at the ICP's public attendance service, and at post offices, schools and parish councils.

Non-reserved postal service

The ICP received seven requests for the licensing/authorisation of entities that provide non-reserved postal service, subject to their obtaining the respective certification under terms of Decree-Law no. 150/2001 of 7 May. The first licence (Postexpress - Correio da Cidade, Lda.) was issued on 1 October, along with the two first authorisations (Postlog - Serviços e Logística, S.A., and Postexpress - Correio da Cidade, Lda.). In accordance with the same legislation, the CTT (Portuguese Postal Service) also informed the Institute that it does not directly provide non-reserved postal services not covered by the scope of universal service, rather undertaking same indirectly via its participated companies Postlog and Postexpress.

OPERATOR PORTABILITY

The Commission accompanying the Operator Portability process, set up under the protocol signed on 23 January 2001 by the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP), the *Associação dos Operadores de Telecomunicações* (Aritel - Telecommunications Operators Association) and the telecommunications service providers with portability obligations, began its activity this past July 6.

Since that date and in accordance with its aims, the Commission has acted as an intermediary between the Reference Entity and the providers. Besides accompanying the interim solution in place since 30 June, the main focus of its activity at present is to oversee plans to implement an automatic support solution for the portability processes under development by the Reference Entity. Highlights of the Commission's activity include the verification and approval of deliverables, along with control of the various project stages, to ensure that the project is operational on the planned date.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SIX REGULATORS

The study on benchmarking titled "Views on European Regulators", published by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of Finland (Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority - FICORA), was presented to the Advisory Council of the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) on 18 September.

The study compares the powers, structures, functions and relationships with the respective NRAs in four other countries besides those of FICORA and the ICP, namely in the Netherlands (Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority - OPTA and Radiocommunications Agency - RDR), Ireland (The Office of the Director of Telecommunications - ODTR), Norway (Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority - PT) and Sweden (Swedish National Post and Telecom Agency - PTS).

In its conclusions, the document highlights some aspects common to the activity of the six regulators, namely the fact that there has been a general trend towards convergence and consequent gradual adoption of market-oriented organisation models. Indeed, all the involved NRAs have been subject to more or less thorough reorganisation since 1999. The shortage of specialised personnel due to difficulties in attracting same likewise affect the regulators in question.

PORTUGAL/PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 7TH IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

The state of the Portuguese telecommunications market was described in detail by the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) in a September 28 public hearing in Brussels, which also counted the presence of Portugal Telecom, Telecel, OniTelecom, Jazztel, the Association of Telecommunications Operators (APRITEL) and the Directorates General of Competition and Information Society (INFOSOC).

Top among the various issues on the agenda were those concerning the supply of a minimum set of leased lines, the real situation of implementation of unbundling the local loop, on-net and off-net calls, and rights of passage; the ICP and the operators in attendance provided the information requested by the Commission, so that same could be reflected in the report.

Also studied were matters such as the new ICP statutes, the August 17 assignment of a single Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) licence, accompaniment of implementation of licences for fixed wireless access (FWA), technical interconnection conditions, implementation of the ULL Regulation, ADSL provided by the current holder and the local supply prices, the most recent deliberations on matters of internet access, developments affecting the cost of universal service, mobile termination tariffs and latest third mobile generation developments, namely study of eventual postponement of the commercial launch of this service, as well as competition in leased circuits markets and applicable prices, and the introduction of number portability and operator pre-selection.

Hearings for the 15 member-states will be completed by 12 October; the Commission aims to submit the 7th implementation report for approval to the European Parliament and the Council by the end of the year.

SEE europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/annual_report/hearings/index_en.htm

NETWORK REGULATION MODIFIED

Decree-Law no. 249/2001, published in I Series-A of the *Diário da República* of 21 September, changed the Regulation for the Operation of Public Telecommunications networks approved by Decree-Law no. 290-A/99 of 30 July, which transposed Directive no. 97/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 6 October.

Three articles were modified: article 23 (on the supply of a minimum number of leased circuits); article 24 (information on the conditions of supply); and, lastly, article 34 (reconciliation process).

The text now approved obliges the basic telecommunications network concessionaire to assure the supply of a minimum set of circuits. This obligation already existed, although the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) previously had the power to define that set, publishing an advisory; the minimum set is now expressly stipulated in annex I to the Regulation, although the ICP may determine the additional and compulsory supply of other types of circuits defined in annex II. The various operators covered should also assure identical supply, under terms to be defined by the ICP, whenever notified to do same.

The Institute must also now annually send to the European Commission statistics on operators' performance with regard to supply conditions, and should also assume the obligation of promoting, if necessary, the reconciled settlement of eventual litigation between operators and users. Regarding this point, the ICP's power to resolve litigation existed beforehand; the only modification is the addition of a process whereby the parties can invoke reconciled settlement from the European Commission.

The alterations stem from the Commission's invoked need to fully transpose into the internal legal order certain rules in the said Directive, corresponding to the aforementioned aspects.

NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

• **Resolution of Parliament 59/2001 and Presidential Decree 50/2001** (I Series-A of the *Diário da República* of 1 October) - Approves, for membership, and respectively ratifies the Constitution of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP).

• **Resolution of Parliament 60/2001 and Presidential Decree 51/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 1 October) - Approves, for ratification, and respectively ratifies the Agreement on Modification of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the International Mobile Satellites Organisation (IMSO).

• **Decree-Law 249/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 21 September) - Modifies the Regulation for the Operation of Public Telecommunications Networks approved by Decree-Law 290-A/99 of 30 July (See article).

• **Joint order 863/2001** (II Series of the D.R. of 14 September) - Defines practical aspects within the scope of development and co-ordination of the Convergence and Regulation Initiative - the responsibility of the presidents of the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* and the *Instituto da Comunicação Social*.

• **Decree-Law 31/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 11 September) - Approves modifications to the Convention that established the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

• **Infrastructure Ministry Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 5 September) - Concerning general and previous conditions for negotiation of interconnection agreements for 2001.

• **Resolution of the Council of Ministers 138/2001** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 31 August) - Determines measures for creation of the government portal and defines the respective aims and rules for its maintenance and updating.

The Council of Ministers of 27 September also approved the proposed Law on the system for national security classification. Its September 13 meeting approved the Decree-Law that establishes the regime applicable to the supply of conditional access to television, radio and information society services, the respective legal protection and the associated user equipment.

CEPT MEETINGS

PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The plenary assembly of the European Post and Telecommunications Administrations Conference (CEPT) was held in Bergen (Norway) on 20 and 21 September, thus closing the cycle of Norwegian administration begun in June 2000; the responsibility has now been passed on to the United Kingdom.

More important than the change of presidency was presentation of the work of the Implementation Group (IG) established by the previous plenary session, whose function was to reorganise the structure of CEPT, based on the Policy Decisions adopted at the previous Plenary Assembly (Oslo, June 2000).

Besides approving the final report of the IG, the Assembly approved the management report of the Norwegian administration, the Rolling Policy Agenda, the establishment of the new Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) and the new single office (the European Communications Office - ECO), co-ordination of European positions for the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) elections to be undertaken during the 2002 Plenipotentiaries Conference, the reports of the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) and the Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs (ECTRA), and the United Kingdom's programme for the next year of administration.

CONFERENCE PREPARATORY GROUP

Approval of the Briefs (base document for subsequent elaboration of the European common proposals) concerning various points on the agenda of the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-03) was the main issue on the agenda of the 2nd meeting (held on 4-6 September in Toulouse) of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG), which in CEPT is responsible for co-ordination of European positions at WRC-03.

In this phase of the work, the texts of the Briefs are being developed by the respective groups on Frequency Management (FM), Spectrum Engineering (SE), Radiocommunications Regulation (RR) and Regulatory Questions (PT1) of the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC). They will subsequently be under the respon-

sibility of the various CPG project groups, distributed over four major areas: regulatory affairs (PT1); satellite mobile, radio-navigation by satellite and space science services (PT2); fixed, fixed by satellite and stratospheric platform services (PT3); and mobile maritime, amateur, satellite amateur and short-wave radio services (PT4).

Also approved was the invitation and agenda of the first seminar on WRC-03, to be held in Brussels on 19-20 November. This seminar aims to enhance the exchange of viewpoints between regulatory bodies, telecommunications operators and industry.

The CPG meeting also highlighted results of the informal meeting between representatives of regional telecommunications organisations - CEPT (Europe), CITEL (Americas), APT (Asia) and the African countries - which identified aspects that will potentially make it more difficult to achieve consensus ahead of the conference.

JPT SAT

The ERC/ECTRA Joint Project Team on Satellite (JPT SAT) met in Copenhagen on 12-14 September. The first day of work focused entirely on One Stop Shopping (OSS) for Satellite Networks and Services. The meeting only sought to update OSS, namely by updating the number of respective member-countries, including the presentation of statistical data. The next meeting of that work team dedicated to monitoring OSS should be held at an undetermined date within the next year.

During the sessions on 13 and 14 September, the CSI (Comprehensive Satellite Initiative) report was discussed, particularly the specific proposals presented therein and the way to implement them.

WG ERC/ECTRA ON ITU

The ERC/ECTRA joint working group on ITU (JWG ITU) met in Rome on 17-18 September - its first meeting since the 2001 Council session. The basic aim was to continue co-ordination work on preparation of the ITU conferences scheduled for next year.

The reports on meetings of the Project Teams of

the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) and the Plenipotentiaries Conference (PP), as well as the report of the Council meeting, were subject to assessment.

Questions were raised on the need for better CEPT co-ordination with regard to the various ongoing ITU actions, namely in the Strategic Planning Group, the Working Group for modification of the Financial Regulation, the Satellite Backlog Action Group, and the Group of Experts for editing recommendations of the ITU Reform Group, in which Portugal is among representatives of Western Europe.

In this context, attention also focused on the World Information Society Summit and its connection to the ITU, as a body charged with co-ordinating the Summit's executive secretariat, as well as other issues related to the need to co-ordinate in an area in which the ministries of foreign affairs will play a very active role.

The co-ordination of CEPT in the ITU elections generated the most differences between participants, taking into account the difficulty of agreeing on the appropriate methodology. This question was also subsequently considered in the CEPT Plenary Assembly, where it was likewise not possible to obtain consensus, given that it concerned an area of particular sensitivity. In the context of preparatory work for PP-02, the criteria adopted for the common European proposals were adopted; the relative topics for which elaboration of same is needed were likewise identified.

Also studied were the reports on meetings held by other regional organisations, in the specific context of co-ordinating PP-02. The existence of many identical questions selected by the various regional organisations was noted, namely on financial matters such as the spending limit, cost recovery, contributory unit value and strategic planning, among others.

The coincidence of matters dealt with by the diverse regional organisations, along with inter-regional co-ordination on same, specifically motivated the first co-ordination meeting held during the 2001 Council session, as well as the scheduling of the second meeting for the first days of WTDC-02 in Istanbul. (to be continued)

EUROPEAN UNION

CANDIDATES FOR UMTS COMPARATIVE STUDY

The European Commission has launched a call for tenders for a comparative assessment of the regimes adopted by each of the 15 member-states with regard to third generation mobile licences. The submission deadline is 8 October. Details at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/radiospec/doc/html/tender.htm.

INTERNET ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The European Commission took into account the EU's 37 million people with disabilities and its increasingly ageing population when it adopted, on 25 September, a Communication that promotes internet access for people with special needs, via the adoption of guidelines set by the World Wide Web Consortium/Web Accessibility Initiative W3C/WAI). At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1309|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES RESOLUTION ON ECHELON

Based on the report prepared by the Temporary Committee on the Echelon Interception System, the European Parliament on 5 September approved a Resolution on the existence of a global system for the interception of private and commercial communications. The members of the European

Parliament consider in the Resolution that "the existence of a global system for intercepting communications, operating by means of co-operation proportionate to their capabilities among the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand under the UKUSA Agreement, is no longer in doubt". The text nevertheless adds that "if a system is used purely for intelligence purposes, there is no violation of EU law" and that "the extremely high volume of traffic makes exhaustive, detailed monitoring of all communications impossible in practice". See http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/pv2?PRG=DOCPV&APP=PV2&SDOCTA=21&TXTLST=1&TPV=PROV&POS=1&Type_Doc=RESOL&DATE=050901&DATEF=010905&TYPEF=A5&PrgPrev=TYPEF@A5|PRG@QUERY|APP@PV2|FILE@BIBLIO01|NUMERO@264|YEAR@01|PLACE@1&LANGUE=EN.

The entire text of the report may be consulted at www.europarl.eu.int/tempcom/echelon/pdf/rapport_echelon_en.pdf.

CYBERCRIME CONVENTION

The Council of Europe has adopted a draft Convention on Cybercrime, to be approved at an international conference in Budapest this coming November, following agreement to be obtained at a meeting of foreign ministers from its member-states.

SEE <http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/EN/Projets/Finalcybercrime.htm>

CEPT MEETINGS

FM PT 32

FM PT 32 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), the group charged with preparing an extraordinary session of the Frequency Management Working Group to plan a third coverage of T-DAB (terrestrial digital audio broadcasting) in the 1.5 GHz band (set for Maastricht in June 2002), met in Brussels on 12-14 September.

At the meeting, and following the responses of various administrations to a previous questionnaire, FM PT 32 made a number of decisions necessary for the continuation of preparatory work. Among them are the choice of seven additional blocs for T-DAB (LJ-LP), associated with the sub-band of the frequencies 1467.5-1479.5 MHz, which will be based on the foreseen planning. Given that this sub-band was initially assigned to DAB by satellite, the decision was not favourably received by the satellite community.

OJEC

- **Proposed modification of all public telecommunications operators licences (2001/C 270)** - Concerning the United Kingdom and published on 25 September.
- **Call for proposals (TSI Programme - C/246)** - For indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on a user-friendly information society. Proposals may be submitted until 4 December 2001. Published on 4 September.

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP

EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY SESSION

An extraordinary plenary session of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) was held on 11 September in Luxembourg. The main focus of the agenda was the holding of a high-level meeting with representatives of the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) from countries in the process of negotiating membership in the European Union, and the consequent implications for the IRG.

Each of the NRA representatives from the EU membership candidates briefly described the situation in their respective countries, where in most cases the constitution of the NRAs is relatively recent and their range of powers very diverse.

Likewise debated was the "New Group" question, namely discussion of the report presented by the Task Force president, which summarises talks between IRG members and Commission services on the establishment of a new Commission/IRG joint working group.

Debate on this document emphasised the need for the Task Force to study the various possible options for implementation of a permanent secretariat, as well as the need for the IRG to clarify and well delimit its area of intervention.

MOBILE ACCESS WG

Regulation of access to mobile networks, namely aspects concerning applicable concepts, international roaming, access regimes, infrastructure sharing, sanction regimes and interconnection prices, were the main issues discussed in the Working Group (WG) on Mobile Access in the IRG context - a meeting held on 24 September in Copenhagen.

SMP WG

The meeting of this WG, held on 17 September in Paris, focused on matters for debate within the context of the 99 Review process, such as definition of relevant markets in the context of assessing significant market power (SMP), the concept of effective competition and its sustainability in the telecommunications sector.

LLU WG

The LLU WG meeting aimed specifically to debate technical aspects and the respective prices of shared access, specific details of automatic systems for processing requests for supply of access to the local loop, as well as the relevant conditions for eligibility of loops for LLU. The meeting was held in Bonn on 4 September.

IRGIS: eCOLLABORATION AMONG REGULATORS

The IRG Information Sharing (IRGIS) working group set up in the context of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) with the aim of promoting and facilitating the exchange of information between European regulators, met in Lisbon on 13-14 September. The aim was to present the final implementation phase of the project designated IRGIS in the area of Information Technology and Systems, which is to share information and support collaborative work undertaken by all the working groups. The IRGIS was developed and implemented by the ICP, and henceforth enables the 19 participating National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to communicate among themselves in a safe and efficient manner, to exchange correspondence, working documents and discussion topics in a singular collaborative atmosphere via the internet, thus reducing the need for meetings with physical attendance and substantially increasing the levels of security and quality of information syndication.

This project may be the embryo of a European telecommunications sector portal, acting in this first phase as an aggregator of information and search engine in the framework of the European regulatory space.

POSTAL SERVICE DEBATED

WG ON UPU ISSUES OF THE CERP

The Working Group on Universal Postal Union (UPU) Issues of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP), headed by the United Kingdom, met in Brussels on 18 September to prepare for the next meeting of the UPU Advisory Group, to be held on 11 October in Geneva, which will in turn debate negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organisation (GATT/WTO) and its impact on the postal sector, the solutions presented by the High Level Group vis-à-vis the Advisory Group, and also the ways to finance the latter group.

The documents for the next meeting of the Board of Administration were also reviewed, with special emphasis given to the report the High Level Group will present to the Board, and to studies recently begun by the International Secretariat, namely those concerning operator licensing processes and the separation of regulatory and operational functions - these two studies are closely linked to liberalisation developments in European Union member-countries, to extraterritorial exchange mail and to definition of the term "postal administration", widely used in the UPU but with a very different meaning in each of its members.

Lastly, participants considered holding a High Level Conference in October 2002, its respective programme and the speakers/entities to invite.

SEMINAR ON POSTAL SERVICES

The seminar on postal services, held on 17 September in Brussels and sponsored by the European Commission, focused on presentation of final results of the study contracted to the Omega Partners company on the impact of certain aspects of application in the postal sector of Directive 97/67/EC, and on the beginning of work on the employment study contracted to PLS Ramboll Management A/S and to WIK-Consult.

Various regulatory authorities attended the meeting, along with operators charged with providing universal service, consumer representative organisations and other groups with interests in the postal sector.

The studies are carried out under terms of article 23 of Directive 97/67/EC, which stipulates that "... the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Directive, including the appropriate information about developments in the sector, particularly concerning economic, social, employment and technological aspects, as well as about quality of service. The report shall be accompanied where appropriate by proposals to the European Parliament and the Council."

NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SPAIN - Ministry of Public Administration - The Citizen's Portal, a governmental initiative integrated in the Info XXI Action Plan, was launched at the beginning of September. See <http://www.administracion.es>.

SPAIN - Ministry of Science and Technology - Royal Decree 1066/2001 of 28 September approved the Regulation that sets conditions for protection of the public radio domain, restrictions on radio emissions and measures to protect health against such emissions. The full text is available at www.sgc.mfom.es.

SPAIN - Telecommunications Market Commission - The Commission published a list with the biggest operators of fixed and mobile networks - a condition with particular implications for designation of the components of those companies and holdings. At www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_prensa/pdf/c20010810_oper_prin.pdf.

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) - ART, which in late May redefined licence payment terms, awaits operators' contributions with regard to development of the third generation mobile market, given the approaching deadline for payment of the first UMTS licence instalment. See www.art-telecom.fr.

DENMARK - National Telecom Agency (NTA-Telestyrelsen) - On 20 September, the NTA awarded four third generation mobile licences via auction, with one bidder excluded. Additional information at http://www.tst.dk/index_uk.htm.

THE NETHERLANDS - Commission of the Independent Post and Telecommunication Authority (OPTA) - In a new joint initiative, OPTA, the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, and the Netherlands Competition Authority (NMa), released on 26 September a Memorandum clarifying the terms under which it will be possible for third generation mobile operators to compete among themselves, in order to foster the faster spread of this technology. Such co-operation is only allowed with regard to the construction of UMTS networks, but forbidden for services to provide users and for the joint use of networks and frequencies. At <http://www.opta.nl/english/englishopta.asp>.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - OFTEL has published a guide aiming to help telecommunications operators comply more efficiently with their obligations to provide for disabled customers. At <http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/consumer/gpm0901.htm>. The regulator also launched a public consultation on revision of the internet connection market. Details at <http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/internet/icmr0801.htm>.

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - The Agency ratified on 24 September the four first contracts for interconnection between fixed and mobile telephony. Details at www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2001/release_24_09_2001%283%29.pdf. The definitive version of the regulation on infrastructure sharing between telecommunications providers was approved. At www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2001/release_30_08_2001%284%29.pdf. The seminar on "the Brazilian Process of Defining the Technological Standard of Digital TV", during which ANATEL announced that it would soon launch a public consultation on the business models and the transition to digital TV, also debated adoption of the digital television standard. See www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2001/release_30_08_2001%286%29.pdf and www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/Releases/2001/release_31_08_2001%284%29.pdf.

JAPAN - NTT DoCoMo, Inc. - October 1 marks the historic date of the world launch of the commercial supply of the first third generation mobile services. It happened in Japan: the debut operator is NTT DoCoMo and the new services is designated FOMA. Details at <http://www.nttdocomo.com/new/contents/01/whatnew0926.html>.

HONG KONG - Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) - The auction for the award of third generation mobile licences ended on 26 September. The four winners were able to obtain the respective licences via payment of the minimum established price. Additional information at http://www.ofa.gov.hk/frameset/home_index_eng.html.

CO-OPERATION...

... WITHIN ITU

The second Forum for the Regulation of Telecommunications in Africa and with the Arab states agreed to set up a "Network of Regulators of African Telecommunications", based on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee concerning the implementation of an association of African regulators. Likewise adopted were the guiding principles for operation of that network, whose standing secretariat was assigned to the Moroccan regulator, the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority. The meeting, which was organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), particularly focused on the topics of interconnection and frequency management, was held on 17-19 September in Rabat and counted the presence of more than 180 delegates from 44 countries.

... WITH GUINEA-BISSAU

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) also hosted the training of a technician from Guinea-Bissau's Instituto das Comunicações (ICGB) in the management and licensing of frequencies and approval of equipment, under terms of the co-operation protocol signed by both institutions in 1998. Continuing with the ICP's co-operation policy, more initiatives of this nature with the Guinean regulator are planned by the end of this year, namely at the level of planning and statistics, financial management and accounting, public relations and institutional organisation, and in the area of radio spectrum management.

BELGIAN PRESIDENCY - COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On 15-16 October, the Belgian presidency gathers in Luxembourg its first Council of Ministers of Transports and Telecommunications, which should (with regard to the communications sector), speed work towards approval by the end of the year of the so-called 99 Review Package, the new regulatory framework for telecommunications.

The agenda thus includes debate aiming to achieve a common standpoint on the proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council for the handling of personal data and the protection of privacy, the proposal for a Decision on the regulatory framework for a radio spectrum policy, and the modified proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the liberalisation of postal services.

One of the main issues in focus at the Summit will be the question of gradual liberalisation of the postal sector, based on a proposal put forward by the Belgian presidency, which envisages three liberalisation stages and a final date, in 2009. However, achieving consensus on this matter has been

difficult, given existing divisions within the 15 member-states on the final date for liberalisation.

The agenda also anticipates discussion of the Commission's proposal on the management structure of the European system for radionavigation by satellite known as GALILEO, regarding which the 15 will try to obtain the consensus needed for political agreement.

Once again, the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the creation of a .eu web domain will also be reviewed, with expectation that a common position on the matter can be reached.

The European Commission should likewise present two Communications, one on internet access in the context of the eEurope 2002 Action Plan and the other, accompanied by a proposed Directive, on development of a Green Book on public sector access to information.

Additionally expected is the adoption of a Resolution respecting the Commission Communication on information networks.

VER <http://www.ue2001.be>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE IN BUILDINGS (ITED)

Certifying Authorities registered at ICP	Date of registration	Certifying Authorities registered at ICP	Date of registration
Epoch - Consultores de Telemática, Lda.	19.04.2001	Multinfra - Projectos e Representações Electromecânicas, Lda.	28.06.2001
PT Comunicações, S.A.	19.04.2001	Imotron - Edifícios Inteligentes, S.A.	05.07.2001
EBL - Electro Belarmino, Lda.	30.04.2001	Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade	30.07.2001
Rimielgab - Gabinete Técnico de Engenharia	30.04.2001	Cerqueira & Oliveira, Lda.	30.07.2001
Instituto Electrotécnico Português	10.05.2001	Ribatel - Equipamentos de Telecomunicações, Lda.	08.08.2001
Laboratório Industrial da Qualidade	10.05.2001	Rudistel - Equipamento Eléctrico e Electrónico, Lda.	08.08.2001
Santos & Sousa, Lda.	10.05.2001	Electro Arroiteense - Instalações Eléctricas, Lda.	08.08.2001
Gatipel - Telecomunicações e Informática, Lda.	22.06.2001	Astroluz - Sociedade de Electricidade e Construção Civil, Lda.	08.08.2001
Sednorte - Montagens Eléctricas, Lda.	28.06.2001	Renet Açores - Engenharia, Infraestruturas e Obras Públicas, S.A.	23.08.2001

IN OCTOBER 2001

EU

- ONP Committee (10)
- Council of Ministers of Transports and Communications (15-16)
- Licences Committee (24)

ITU

- WP 8F - IMT-2000 and Systems Beyond - (10-16)
- Telecommunications Development Advisory Group - TDAG (3-5)

UPU

- Advisory Group (11)
- Board of Administration (18-26)

CEPT

ERO

- Council (9-10)

ERC

- WG Spectrum Engineering (30/9-6/10)
- WG Radiocommunications Regulation (1-5)
- PT 41 - Frequency Management (23)

ERC/ECTRA

- JPTSAT (22-23)
- CERP
- WG Regulatory Affairs (2)

IRG

- Plenary session (18-19)

ETSI

- TC ERM - Radio Spectrum and Electromagnetic Compatibility (15-19)

CENELEC

- TC 215 Telecommunications equipment (1-3)
- TC 211 Human exposure to electromagnetic fields (30-31)

OECD

- Technologies to promote privacy (8)
- WG Information and Privacy (9-10)

ICP/Co-operation

- Training course on supervision of radio spectrum, regulation and international protocols -

East Timor (1-31)

- ANATL-ICP Co-ordination Commission (17-19)
- Training course on Guinea-Bissau (22-28)
- Advisory Council (23)

EVENTS

- *Information Society Technologies and Advanced Networks for Regional Development* - 4-5, Valencia
- *The Challenges of Regulation (APDC)* - 10, Lisbon
- *Self and Co-Regulation (OFTEL)* - 10, London
- *Sustainability in the Information Society* - 10-12, Zurich
- *InfoCommunication Trends 2001 "Next Generation Networks"* - 11-12, Budapest
- *UMTS 2001 Congress* - 17-19, Barcelona
- *Innovations for an e-Society* - 17-20, Berlin
- *e-Contract Conference* - 18-19, Brussels
- *Mobile Commerce World Europe* - 25-27, London
- *The 2001 Telecom CRM Forum* - 29-30, London
- *Global IP Carriers Asia* - 29-31, Hong Kong