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Conclusions

1. Convergence is already a reality and not just an issue of the future;
2. Convergence does not threaten the principles of regulation, although it may give rise to some problems in their application;
3. One of the main concerns at the moment is the next generation networks regulation, including their access, in respect of their potential for making a decisive contribution to the development of the internal market in electronic communications at the European Union (EU) level. In Portugal's case, this principle already constitutes an objective of regulation;
4. In this context of content-network convergence, the possible existence of a national super-regulator as a consequence of convergence takes on less importance, provided that cooperation between the respective national and sectorial regulatory bodies works;
5. In the area of network regulation and taking into account that convergence is ever-present, it is fundamental to envisage the different types of networks in an identical way as far as the achievement of objectives is concerned – in Portugal, for example, the number of broadband accesses through the mobile network has taken on significant proportions;
6. The road to the extolled thesis of the European regulator necessarily gives greater value to the ERG, with there being no justification to set out other possibilities without exhausting this experience, which appears promising;

7. Three key challenges arise from convergence:
 - Access and content, both connected to the issue of intellectual property;
 - Regulation governance: internal and external authorities/ national regulatory authorities and competition regulators; and
 - Universal service, which constitutes one of the key priorities in regulation and which translates, among other things, into the combat of info-exclusion and into access to content through new information and communication technologies (ICT);

8. Analysing these challenges in detail, in particular as far as the universal service is concerned, it is easily concluded that they are not, at this stage, compatible with the hypothesis of a European regulator.