UMTS POSTPONED UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2002

The *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) decided in a 22 October deliberation to propose that the launch of third generation mobile services (UMTS) be postponed until 31 December 2002. The proposal to extend the deadline to which operators were bound upon issuance of their respective licences was submitted to the Infrastructure Ministry and subject to an order of agreement.

The ICP had studied the formal postponement request submitted by the operators licensed to commercially supply the new generation of mobile services. A consultation was carried out among the same operators and industry, after which the ICP accepted the grounds, considering that there are reasons of duly justified force majeure that prevent the activity's launch by the previously set date of 1 January 2001. The reasons specifically concern the fact that terminal equipment and network infrastructure are currently unavailable on the market.

The ICP is also to study, during the third quarter of 2002, progress in market conditions and the supply of new mobile services, with the possibility of deadline reassessment admitted. Should such occur, the value of the radio spectrum use fee will be zero in 2002. The Institute likewise clarified questions concerning infrastructure sharing by the four licensed operators. The sharing of buildings, support structures and auxiliary systems (such as energy or air conditioning systems) are thus allowed, along with accessory equipment (cable, combiners, filters and antennae) and the access network (in this case, as long as independent functional control of network is guaranteed, especially with regard to the use of frequencies and power).

However, the sharing of elements from the core network is not permitted, nor is the shared use of frequencies, namely in trunking mode, as sharing at this level would stimulate eventual breaches of the rules of competition and modification of the pretexts for the tender to grant UMTS licences. ◄

SEE http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1837&ida=182

SEE http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1836&ida=183

DTT LICENCE ISSUED

The licence to establish and operate a Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) platform, granted to *Plataforma de Televisão Digital Portuguesa, S.A.* (PTDP), was issued by the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) on 9 October, in accordance with the norms and recommendations that define DVB-T (Digital Video Broadcasting for Terrestrial Television).

The PTDP is obliged to proceed with the commercial launch of DTT service by 31 August 2002, bar invocation of force majeure duly justified and recognised as such by the ICP, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 1 of the respective licence.

Beyond fulfilling the parameters of service quality and network performance to which it is obliged by contract, the PTDP must also guarantee coverage of national territory by each one of the four multiplexers. According to the submitted proposal, 60 percent of the territory and 86 percent of the population in mainland Portugal should be covered by the end of the first year after the launch of digital television. These figures should respectively rise to 90 and 95.5 percent at the end of the second year and to 95 and 99.2 percent at the end of the third year.

In the Azores the targets indicate coverage of 79.7 percent of territory and 87 percent of the autonomous island region's population by the end of the first year after the launch of digital television broadcasts. By the end of the third year, these figures should rise to 96.7 percent (surface coverage) and 99.8 percent (population coverage).

In Madeira the figures rise from 73.6 to 83 percent (surface and population, respectively) and from 95.7 to 99.8 percent by the end of the third year.

The nationwide licence is valid for a period of 15 years counting from the date it was granted, i.e., 17 August 2001. ◄

SEE http://www.icp.pt/licencas/uk/licencas.html#umts

CHANGES TO RIO 2001

The *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) approved on 26 October the changes that *PT Comunicações, S.A.* (PTC) should introduce, within 10 days' time, in the Reference Interconnection Offer for 2001 (RIO 2001).

With this determination, which results from the hearings for parties interested in the draft decision, PTC should assure that the RIO conforms with the 19 January 2001 documents concerning the "minimum set of items to include in the RIO" and "changes to the RIO 2001". ◄

SEE http://www.icp.pt/interligacao/uk/nacional2.html

CURRENT EVENTS

Number portability

On 31 October 2001, four months after the number portability function was made available, there were already a total of 538 numbers portable from the fixed network of *PT Comunicações* to the networks of other providers of fixed telephone service.

New developments in LLU

PT Comunicações made available on 1 October an updated Reference Offer for the Unbundling of the Local Loop, which is currently under study. The *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) also decided on 25 October to reconvene the working group (WG) for local loop unbundling (LLU), to assess the implementation and evolution of supply, particularly concerning recommendations contained in the deliberation of 28 June 2001 (see WG reference terms at www.icp.pt/oll/gt1uk.html). The WG met again on 30 October, to review the interested parties' understanding with regard to the maximum size of operators' rooms, climatisation conditions and resumption of the work of the advisory group.

ICP Advisory Council

The Advisory Council of the ICP held its 28th meeting on 23 October and issued an opinion on quality indicators for fixed telephone service. At the previous plenary meeting, held on 18 September, the Council discussed the new rate table for use of radio spectrum and studied a document on providers of Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNO). Also submitted was a benchmarking study covering six European regulators (see issue 33 of Spectru).

Trans-European Telecommunications Networks

This community programme was set up as part of the *eEurope* initiative, with the aim of encouraging growth of the information society; it is now the subject of its own newly-created section on the ICP website. On 22 November, the ICP promotes a special Information Day to publicise the programme for the Trans-European Telecommunications Networks, with the presence of Stephan Pascall, the European Commission official in charge of this programme.

Report and Accounts on-line

The ICP Report and Accounts for the year 2000 are available at www.icp.pt/publicacoes/rc/rc00/index.html .

ICP Activity Plan (2002-2004)

The three main strategic axes of the ICP Activities Plan for the three-year period 2002-2004 are to develop open and competitive markets, to defend users and consumers by guaranteeing universal service, and to further the information society.

ICP Website Survey

The website of the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) was subject to an inquiry aiming to gather information on user profiles and needs (see the July issue of Spectru). The on-line survey consisted of 12 questions answered by a non-probabilistic number of 628 respondents (24 of them international, of whom 12 were from the European Union) and was carried out from 8 August to 31 September.

It concluded that three main user groups existed: users fromt the communications sector (encompassing operators' employees and telecommunications technicians, among others), media users (press, radio and television journalists) and, lastly, the general public, with widely varying characteristics.

For all the users, "Legislation" tops the list of the sections most used, followed by "What's New", "Operators/Service Providers", "Statistics", "Internet Access", "IMT2000/UMTS" and "Digital Terrestrial Television".

Digital Portugal

In wake of the Digital Cities Programme, which ran from 1998 to 2000, the Minister of Science and Technology recently launched the "Digital Portugal Programme: from digital cities and regions to digital Portugal", promoted in the context of the Operational Programme for the Information Society, a three-year initiative aiming to finance projects based on information technologies.

www statistics in Portugal

The Netcensus joint project, which involves the Science and Technologies Observatory and the computer department at northern Portugal's Minho University, has conceived and installed a system to thoroughly assess the use of portuguese web space. The preliminary report of the first phase of this study is available at www.cisi.mct.pt/ . ◄

ICP finances new public attendance services

The *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP), in collaboration with the Institute for the Management of the *Lojas do Cidadão* (Citizens' Shops - which combine a wide range of public services in one building), will support implementation of the second phase of the Citizens' Attendance Posts (CAPs) project, this time to be installed in county seats. To this end, a protocol was signed on 26 October by the respective entities, which envisages the establishment of 65 new CAPs by the end of 2003. The pilot phase of this project to modernise public administration was launched in 2000, with the installation of 11 CAPs in post offices in the portuguese cities of Moita, Vila Franca de Xira, Guimarães, Chaves, Mirandela, Gouveia, Covilhã, Figueira da Foz, Marinha Grande, Tomar and Elvas. Each CAP is a sort of single attendance counter, whose aim is to function as an extension of the more comprehensive *Lojas do Cidadão* established in larger urban areas. ◄

The Challenges of Regulation

"More regulation, asymmetric and specific", was the affirmation of one speaker at the seminar on the "Challenges of Regulation", setting the tone for the speeches by practically all representatives of the new telecommunications operators who joined the debate. Yet this was not the case of the historic operator *Portugal Telecom*, which defended application of the "general laws of competition" and the consequent abandonment of sectorial regulation.

Questions about convergence, rights of passage and the limits set by municipal councils on infrastructures construction, as well as the basic telecommunications network, where PT currently enjoys the concession, and the approach to follow with regard to the cable network also held by PT, were broadly discussed during this initiative of the Portuguese Association for Communications Development (APDC), held in Lisbon on 10 October. SEE http://www.apdc.pt/ ◄

Electronic Trade and the SMEs

The main goal of the national Euro Info Centres (EICs) campaign is to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) familiarise themselves with the internet, in order to benefit from the digital economy. To this end, a conference series is currently under way in some of the main Portuguese cities. On 16 October, it was Lisbon's turn to host the seminar on "helping SMEs confront the challenges of electronic trade".

Regarding the role of electronic networks and systems in promoting electronic trade, the representative of the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) at the seminar referred to the constraints stemming from network congestion and defended the need to "foster user confidence" and "establish rules for operating in the digital market".

The campaign, launched throughout the European Union on 14 September, is co-ordinated by a network of 141 European EICs and is part of the "Go Digital" action included in the eEurope Initiative. The first 700 SMEs that join the campaign (they may do so during the months of November and December) will be accompanied until July 2002 at no cost.

In November, plans call for seminars to be held in Faro (the 13th), Évora (15), Ponta Delgada (23), Funchal (28) and Coimbra (29), and next month in Leiria (11 December). ◄

SEE http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1817&ida=182

SEE http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ecommerce/godigital/

Alcazar Telecomunicações suspended

The registration of the audiotext provider *Alcazar Telecomunicações, Lda.*, was revoked by the *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal* (ICP) on 24 October, due to the fact that same did not comply with the obligations of conformity and consumer information anticipated by the applicable legislation.

The company in question provided audiotext services via the websites *loveball.pt* and *clubedesexo.pt*, by means of telephone connections for various audiotext numbers, the cases of 648 969 300 and 648 969 015, and allowing access to different contents available in other data bases.

Besides noting the non-conformity between the type of service provided and the prefix used (648), the company was also found not to have included the initial voice message with information on the kind of service provided and the cost thereof, nor a signal audible once per minute, indicating length of call, as stipulated by law.

After revoking its registration, the ICP decided to recover all numbering resources assigned to the provider and gave instructions to *Portugal Telecom* to bar access to all numbers operated by same. ◄

SEE http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1831&ida=183

SEE http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1830&ida=183

Newly Enacted Legislation

• **Order 21080/2001** (II Series of the *Diário da República* of 10 October) - Sets the amounts of the rates to cover, under the new access and operation regime for the operation and activity of competitive postal services provider, in accordance with Decree-Law 150/2001 of 7 May.

Under terms of the regulations set by Decree-Law 555/99 of 16 December and Decree-Law 177/2001 of 4 June, concerning the regime for Telecommunications Infrastructures in Buildings, the following measures were published:

• **Administrative Rule 1104/2001** of the Ministry of Infrastructure (I Series-B of the D.R. of 17 September) - Updates for the year 2000 the relationship between the legal and regulatory dispositions to be observed by construction work project managers and the realisation thereof.

• **Administrative rule 1109/2001** of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of the Environment and Territorial Planning (I Series-B of the D.R. of 19 September) - Defines the requirements for the construction work log book to be maintained at project sites.

• **Administrative rule 1110/2001** of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of the Environment and Territorial Planning (I Series-B of the D.R. of 19 September) - Determines the elements that should govern requests for prior information, licensing and authorisations for all types of urban interventions.

Also published were:

• **Administrative rule 1013/2001** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 21 August) - Joint measure of the ministries of Education, Labour and Solidarity, and Science and Technology. Determines a package of rules concerning the criteria for accreditation of entities that award diplomas for basic competency in information technologies, the model and system for issuing same, and other requirements and formalities regarding their obtainment.

• **Ministry of Infrastructure Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 17 August) - Declares the conformity of the analytical accounting system of the *CTT - Correios de Portugal, S.A.*

• **Administrative rule 964/2001** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 13 August) - Joint regulation of the ministries of Finance, Economy and Planning, establishes the Measure to Support the Stimulation of Technology, Training and Quality Systems.

• **Law 83/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 3 August) - Regulates the constitution, organisation, function and assignment of entities involved in the collective management of copyright and related rights.

• **Ministry of Infrastructure Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 17 July) - Concerning radio licences. Replaces the notice of 24 October 2000.

The Council of Ministers approved on 28 October a measure that partially modifies Decree-Law 113/2001 of 7 April, which approves the statutes of the *Instituto Português de Qualidade* (IPQ), and also the Resolution that appoints José Dias Coelho to take charge of accompanying the policies, programmes and measures of other countries, particularly the European Union, in the Information Society field. On 18 October, the Council of Ministers approved, in general terms, the Resolution that approves the Integrated Portuguese Co-operation Programme for 2002, and on 11 October the Major Plan Options for 2002. ◄

Independent Regulators Group

Plenary Session

The European Commission's proposal to establish a new Working Group (WG) joining the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) and the Commission itself, to provide support for the tasks of harmonising and implementing Directives and adopting common positions for certain regulatory practices, dominated the plenary meeting of the Independent Regulatory Group (IRG) held on 18-19 October in Berlin.

One of the open questions regarding this new WG concerned the appropriate model for the secretariat, namely its structure, composition and financing. In this context, the plenary session considered the study prepared by the Task Force and decided to set up another working group to debate these questions.

Another topic discussed was the level of international roaming rates for mobile services. The IRG considers that the definition of relevant markets is important, along with determination of the NRAs' powers in this matter.

Also, a proposal from the Danish regulator to organise a seminar on internet security was supported. The event should take place in Denmark in early 2002.

WG Tariff Transparency

The WG on Transparency of Retail Tariffs met on 3 October in Dublin and discussed various points from the report and recommendations to submit during the IRG plenary meeting scheduled for 18-19 October in Berlin.

Participants also reflected on the measures some countries have taken on tariff transparency and the needs of various market sections (national mobile, SIM-Lock, international roaming, portability).

They also debated ways to improve tariff transparency and to carry out studies and research to inform and clarify consumers.

Indeed, tariff transparency does not only imply providing information on the conditions and supply of service, as it should preferably divulge and make available information in a way that is clear and understandable for consumers.

WG Market Analysis/Statistical Indicators

The report to be submitted by the WG on Market Analysis/Statistical Indicators at the IRG plenary session dominated the agenda of the fifth meeting of that group, held on 14 September in Copenhagen.

Various regulators described their experiences and difficulties in gathering statistical indicators for the year 2000, and discussed new indicators to introduce next year, namely those concerning broadband infrastructure.

The group also debated the process of setting up profiles for the use of telecommunications services, taking into account the work already accomplished by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Teligen vis-à-vis price baskets.

SEE http://irgis.icp.pt/site/

European Union

WRC-03 Preparation Seminar

The European Commission's Information Society Directorate General and the Conference Prepatory Group (CPG) of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) are organizing a seminar due to take place on 19-20 November in Brussels, with the aim of preparing for the 2003 World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC).

At http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/radiospec/doc/word/invite.doc .

Tender on Secure Internet Use

On 1 November, the European Commission published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC C308) calls to submit proposals for two public tenders. The first tender aims to promote secure internet use, the second one regards eContent Program and the prosecution of european digital contents in world networks and the promotion of linguistic diversity in the Information Society. Proposals may be submitted until 31 January 2002 and 1 February 2002, respectively.

Details at http://www.europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/iap/call/2002/index_en.htm .

Decision on the French Postal Service

On 24 October, the Commission adopted a decision that will henceforth regulate relations between La Poste, the incumbent postal operator in France, and routing companies that specialise in making up and preparing mail. The Commission holds that La Poste has abused its dominant position, as the company both competes with private companies and is their unavoidable partner, and also because french legislation has been unable to neutralise this conflict of interests. Additional information at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1476|0|RAPID&lg=EN .

Independent Study on Broadband Web Access

Although they are transitory solutions due to their limited transmission capacity, ADSL and cable television networks are the leading technologies for high-speed internet access, according to an independent study released by the European Commission on 9 October. Fibre optics appear to be the solution of the future, although its high cost is a disadvantage. See http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1386|0|RAPID&lg=EN .

Licences Committee

Topics on the work agenda of the Licences Committee of the European Union, which met on 24 October, included expansion bands for the third mobile generation, the sharing of UMTS infrastructures, the use of frequency bands where the licensing of public services is not necessary, one stop shopping (OSS) for services and satellite networks, and the participation of candidate countries in future meetings.

At the meeting, a comparative study of various EU countries on applicable rates for operator licensing was submitted; it also covered the registration of service providers and radio licensing in the cases of second and third generation mobile, fixed access via radio (FWA) and satellite service networks.

See http://www.europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/onp/index_en.htm .

CEPT MEETINGS

ERO BOARD – The approval of the draft budget for 2002 and a document on the financial contributions for 2001/2002 were some of the main decisions made during the 13th meeting of the Board of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), held on 9-10 October in Copenhagen.

Likewise approved was the financial plan proposed for the 2002-2004 triennium, based on an increase of 2 percent in contributions and with a staff roll of 6 specialists and 5 administrators. Regarding participation in the EFIS-ERO frequency information system, the Council decided that the ERO should totally finance that project.

Lastly, a proposal to modify Article 20 of the ERO Convention was approved, with formal approval of the modifications set for 8 January 2002, at a meeting during which the next Chairman of the Board will also be appointed.

RRWG – Preparatory work for the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-03) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), related to Mobile Maritime Service (MMS), and revision of the group's activities programme, were the focus of the meeting of the Radio Regulation Working Group of the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC), held in Liege from 1 to 5 October.

Regarding preparation for WRC-03, subjects considered included issues related to implementation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), harmful interference in safety and distress communications in the HF bands of MMS and SMA(R), and the introduction of digital technology in the MF and HF bands of MMS.

With regard to strategic planning, and taking into account the new institutional framework resulting from the process of merging the ERC and ECTRA committees, the RRWG revised its activities plan, to be submitted for appreciation by the new Electronic Communications Committee (ECC).

Also in the context of this meeting, a seminar was held on rate regimes applicable to radiocommunications systems and services.

SEWG – A highlight of the 1-5 October meeting in Bunratty (Ireland) of the Spectrum Engineering Working Group (SEWG) was the approval of various documents, among them a Recommendation on guidelines for the introduction of multimedia wireless systems (MWS) in the 40.5-43.5 GHz band and the Recommendation containing the radio parameters to take into account for the planning of point-to-point fixed service digital links. The Group also finalised a Recommendation on the specifications for receiver parameters, in the context of the R&TTE Directive, enabling the inclusion of parameters associated to the reception mode that serve as the basis for spectrum planning and interference investigation.

Also discussed was a preliminary report providing information on the progress of studies of systems using xDSL and power line data transmission (PLT). A Recommendation on radiation limits applicable to such systems is also being prepared.

Debate continues on methods to protect the population against exposure to radiomagnetic radiation. Portugal contributed to this subject with a document that describes some scenarios vis-à-vis radio broadcasting and cellular mobile. The studies considered the establishment of exclusion areas around stations, in order to assure compliance with admissible electromagnetic field levels.

JPT SAT/ECC PT5 – The 13th meeting of the Joint Project Team on Satellites (JPT SAT) of the ERC/ECTRA was held on 23 October in Copenhagen, with the group receiving in the new CEPT structure the designation PT5 of the new Electronic Communications Committee (ECC).

Among matters discussed at the meeting was the best way to encourage administrations to join one stop shopping (OSS) for satellite networks and services, as well as more intense use of that tool by operators.

Participants also began preparatory work aiming to elaborate a Recommendation on shifting the more extensive format upon which the current OSS is based to a simplified format now under development.

WG ON CERP REGULATORY AFFAIRS – The situation of negotiations to revise the Postal Directive was presented by the Belgian Presidency on 2 October in Berlin, during the meeting of the WG on Regulatory Affairs of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP), which also considered results of the European Commission studies.

The issue of extraterritorial exchange mail was assessed, with a decision on the study to be implemented expected from the Board of Administration of the Universal Postal Union.

Lastly, PT Definitions, mandated by the WG to study the definition of postal services, submitted its report, whose discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

WG CERP ECONOMICS – The CERP Economics WG met on 1 November in Amsterdam. Among topics on the agenda were those concerning cost systems, terminal charges, special tariffs and price regulation. ◄

SEE www.cept.org   SEE www.ero.dk   SEE www.eto.dk

OJEC

• **European Parliament Legislative Resolution (C276/121) -** Concerning the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the Information Society and the common position adopted by the Council, taking into account the adoption of a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council. Published on 1 October.

• **Amendments to proposal for European Parliament Directive and legislative Resolution (C277/72) -** Concerning access to, and interconnection of, electronic communication networks and associated facilities. Published on 1 October.

• **Amendments to proposal for a European Parliament Directive and legislative Resolution (C277/91) -** Concerning a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. Published on 1 October.

• **Amendments to proposal for a European Parliament Directive and legislative Resolution (C277/116) -** Concerning the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services. Published on 1 October. ◄

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

ITU IN DEBATE

TDAG

Preparations for the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-02), to be held in Istanbul in March 2002, took up the agenda of the Telecommunications Development Advisory Group (TDAG) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which met in Geneva on 3-5 October.

A number of speeches highlighted a list of theme topics that the Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT) should consider ahead of WTDC-02, aiming towards future regulation with the goal of fostering progress in the less-developed countries.

Subjects the WTDC-02 is expected to consider include interconnection, spectrum management, tariff policy, new technologies (internet), training actions in the area of human resources management, private sector support and investment, promotion of work for youth and women, and consumer needs. The conference should thus engender important contributions for the World Summit on Information Society to be held in March 2005.

Also examined were various reports on matters concerning the role played by information and communication technologies in the economic and social development of developing countries, and initiatives that should be undertaken to reduce the digital gap.

STUDY GROUP 1 - ITU-D

The fourth meeting of Study Group 1 of the ITU's Development Sector (ITU-D) was held in Caracas from 3 to 7 September and studied reports submitted on diverse questions, with the aim of preparing contributions for WTDC-02. Participants in the meeting also debated the proposal of the ITU Reform Group (WGR), concerning the replacement of the Study Groups by Project Management Groups. Debate on this subject was far from able to achieve consensus among the various countries present, although all recognised the need to find new working methods that would allow a faster and more effective response to the problems.

REGULATORS SYMPOSIUM

The second annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), organised by the ITU-D, will be held in Geneva on 3-5 December, with plans calling for debate on subjects such as the main current challenges to regulation, the role of regulators, their institutional framework, powers, hiring and financing. Three seminars will be held simultaneously, focusing on development of the internet, broadband and third generation mobile licensing, as well as the presentation of tangible and detailed case studies on regulatory authorities in Brazil, Peru, Singapore, Morocco and South Africa.

MOBILE SERVICES STUDY GROUP

The Study Group on Mobile Services of the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R) met from 10 to 16 October in Tokyo, with the work agenda divided among six groups (circulation, development, RTECH, satellite co-ordination, spectrum and vision).

New recommendations on non-solicited broadcasts (IMT-UNWANT-MS and IMT-UNWANT-BS) were reviewed and approved, along with another on the conditions that IMT-2000 (IMT.RCIRC) terminals should comply with, which will enable them to establish a regulatory framework that allows free movement and use of terminals.

The state of development of the manual on IMT-2000 was also debated and a new version of the IMT-2000 (M.1457) specifications approved. A decision was likewise made to revise recommendation M.1079 on the operational and service quality requirements of the third mobile generation. Preparatory work also went ahead on the new version of the working document that serves as the grounds for revision of Recommendation M1036-1 on the distribution of frequencies for the implementation of IMT-2000.

Regarding the Vision group, its working objectives were clarified. A recommendation describing the anticipated future of IMT-2000 should be developed and complemented by a report describing the different key technologies. In the medium term, the group will prepare a recommendation on the integration of IMT-2000 with other radio technologies. ◄

NATO FMSC PWG

The Policy Working Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Frequencies Management Sub-Committee met on 9-10 October in Brussels, in a joint civilian/military session.

Participants in the meeting revised the accord on civilian/military sharing of NATO spectrum, the NATO Joint Frequency Agreement (NJFA), with the goal of updating references to the disposition of the 1979 Radiocommunications Regulation, which has since been modified to bring it into line with the decisions taken by the World Radiocommunications Conferences held to date. The NJFA currently in force dates from 1994; the updated version is expected to be approved at the FMSC meeting in December. A proposal was also elaborated on updating the reference terms and mandate of the FMSC, when meeting in joint civilian/military session, which should be submitted for appreciation by that sub-committee, also in December. ◄

SPAIN - *Comissión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones* **(CMT)** - On 18 October, the spanish regulator set the new prices to apply from 31 October on leased line, fixed and mobile networks. At http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_prensa/pdf/c20011018_pricecap.pdf .

The CMT had previously authorised the operator Xfera Móviles, endowed with a third generation mobile licence, to begin the supply of mobile telephony using GSM/GPRS technology via the networks of the three operators already established, Telefónica Servicios Móviles, Airtel Móvil and Retevisión Móvil. See http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_prensa/pdf/c20011011_Xfera.pdf .

The CMT has launched a Practical Guide to Mobile Portability, which explains to users how they can change operator without changing the mobile telephone number. Details at http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/publicaciones/pdf/portabilidad_movil.pdf .

The Commission also divulged, at http://www.cmt.es/cmt/centro_info/c_prensa/pdf/c20011004_oper_domin.pdf , the operators with dominant position in the markets for fixed and mobile networks, leased lines and interconnection.

MOZAMBIQUE - Ministry of Transports and Communications (MTC) - The deadline for submission of bids in the international tender for the award of two new GSM mobile licences ends on 8 December. Additional information at http://www.mtc.gov.mz/ .

DENMARK - National Telecom Agency (NTA) - The NTA awarded four third generation mobile licences on 31 October. See http://www.tst.dk/index.asp?language=dk&getframe=http://www.tst.dk/uk/news/news.htm .

FRANCE - *Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications* **(ART)** - The french government announced on 16 October that it is willing to be flexible about the rules governing the award of third generation mobile licences, particularly the financial aspects, to alleviate the cost of licences and operators' responsibilities. At http://www.art-telecom.fr .

IRELAND - Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) - The management of radio spectrum in Ireland is subject to a consultation; the respective contributions may be sent in until December 3. Additional information at www.odtr.ie/press_releases.asp .

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - The british regulator published on 30 October (at http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/broadcasting/2001/caco1001.htm) a consultation whose aim is to review the guidelines for conditioned access to interactive television platforms. A study with tangible proposals for reorganisation and transition to the new British communications regulator, the Office of Communications (OFCOM), was published on 12 October. OFCOM will encompass in one single body the current five sectorial regulators - The Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC), The Independent Television Commission (ITC), Office of Communications (OFTEL), The Radiocommunications Agency (RA) and The Radio Authority. At http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/rsg57_01.htm .

UNITED STATES - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) - On 11 October, the FCC announced the creation of a Task Force for Digital Television, whose mission is to review current guidelines ahead of the transition, namely eventual postponement of the switchoff scheduled for 2006, and to set priorities in the matter, given the "new realities that have arisen out of the tragic events of September 11", in the words of FCC Chairman Michael Powell. At http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Mass_Media/News_Releases/2001/nrmm0110.html . The terrorist attacks are the subject of a special page since set up on the Commission's website and titled "America Responds to Terrorism". See http://www.firstgov.gov/featured/usgresponse.html .

Co-operation...

...with Brazil

The ANATEL-ICP (*Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações do Brasil* and *Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal*) Co-ordination Commission held its sixth ordinary meeting in Oporto on 17-19 October, in order to debate the most relevant issues concerning telecommunications regulation in the two countries.

Beyond assessing the most recent regulatory measures adopted by the two entities, they discussed subjects such as the impact of the liberalisation of fixed telephone service in Portugal, universal service and operator portability, as well as the regimes for interconnection and internet access in Portugal and the handling of voice and data in Brazil, local loop unbundling (LLU) and digital terrestrial television (DTT).

International matters were also raised, particularly those related to upcoming events to be held under the aegis of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), such as the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) and the Plenipotentiaries Conference (PP02), as well as the European Union-Mercosul Accord and the international telecommunications seminar to be held by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP).

Meanwhile, from 12 to 14 September, an ICP delegation visited ANATEL, to learn about Brazilian spectrum management computer systems, particularly the Spectrum Management and Monitorisation System, as well as the system being implemented for the control of operational activities and supervisory actions.

...with East Timor

Due to the special emphasis given to ongoing co-operation with East Timor, the ICP sponsored three training initiatives for representatives of the Information Technology, Post and Telecommunications Division (ITPT) of the territory's UN transition administration (UNTAET).

The first course took place from 1 to 11 October. It covered supervision of the radio spectrum and counted the presence of two members of the ITPT staff. From 22 to 26 October the focus was on analysis of international issues, particularly protocols, treaties and international obligations; two East Timorese representatives participated. Lastly, from 29 to 31 October the initiative focused on framing regulations and operator licences.

A fourth training session for East Timorese representatives is scheduled before the end of 2001, namely from 19 to 29 November, and will cover tariffs and numbering.

SEE http://www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1815&ida=183

BELGIAN PRESIDENCY - Single Postal Market closer

The Council of Ministers of Telecommunications, which met on 15 October in Luxembourg, was able to obtain political accord, by qualified majority, on continuation of the liberalisation of postal services.

Approved with the Dutch delegation voting against and the abstention of Finland, this common position will subsequently be assessed at a second reading by the European Parliament. The accord anticipates a liberalisation process marked by three dates: 2003, 2006 and, the last and decisive phase, 2009.

In 2006, the Commission should carry out a study to evaluate the consequences of liberalisation, with regard to universal service in each member-state; the results should be submitted to the European Parliament by 31 December. The Parliament and the Council will in turn co-decide by the end of 2007 on the date in 2009 for the last stage of postal liberalisation.

Regarding the "Telecommunications Package", the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Comittee to continue the work, with the goal of concluding the 99 Review dossier on the planned date, i.e., by the end of the current year. The four common positions on the Directive proposals (framework directive, access, authorisations and universal service) were submitted by the Council to Parliament on 18 September. On 5-6 November, plans call for presentation of the European Parliament's draft report to the respective parliamentary commissions, which will pronounce on the matter on 27 November and 4 December. Also in November, the Committee will assess the commissions' draft reports, with Parliament to make a final pronouncement on 12 December.

The Council also saw adoption of a common position on the draft Decision concerning the regulatory framework for radio spectrum policy.

The Commission presented as well at the Council session two Communications: "eEurope 2002: accessibility of public websites and their content, which takes into account people with special needs, and "IDA (interchange of data between administrations) evaluation II", the second phase of a project that aims to develop trans-European networks for electronic data exchanges between administrations.

LICENCES IN 2001

FIXED TELEPHONE SERVICE			PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS	
Licensed 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
REFER TELECOM - Serviços de Telecomunicações, S.A.	2001.06.21	——	COLTEL - Serviços de Telecomunicações, Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.04.20
Diniz & Ávila - Comunicações, S.A	2001.07.31	1015	REN - Rede Eléctrica Nacional, S.A.	2001.05.17
			TCN (Portugal) - Instalação e Manutenção de Redes, Unipessoal, Lda.	2001.05.24
			REFER TELECOM - Serviços de Telecomunicações, S.A.	2001.06.21

IN NOVEMBER 2001

EU
- Economic Issues/Telecommunications Group (5-6 and 12)
- High Level Committee/Telecommunications - NARA (8)
- WG ENUM/ONP Committee (23)

ITU
Radiocommunications Sector
- WP 3K - WG on development of area-point propagation models (7-13)
- WP1A - WG on Spectrum Engineering Techniques (7-13)
Normalisation Sector
- TSAG (26-30)
- GMPCS-MoU Group (27-28)

CEPT
- Electronic Communications Committee (12-16)
- WGFM PT24 - Project Team for DTT Planning (19-23)
- PT PP02 (22-23)
CERP
- Plenary session (8-9)

IRG
- WG ARN/ARC co-operation (9)

ICP
- Co-operation: Training courses with Guinea-Bissau (5-11; 12-16) and East Timor (19-29)
- Information Day for Trans-European Telecommunications Networks (22)

EVENTS
- *Second Innovation Sessions -* 7 to 10, EXPONOR, Portugal
- *1st Internet Solutions Salon -* 7 to 8, Forum Telecom, Lisbon
- *Mobile Commerce World Japan -* 7 to 8, Tokyo
- *ITU Telecom Africa 2001 -* 12 to 16, Johannesburg
- *Information Operations: Applying Power in the Information Age -* 14 to 15, Washington, DC
- *International Conference on Info-exclusion -* 16, Lisbon
- *Science and Technology Open Week -* 19 to 24, University of Aveiro
- *Mobile Messaging -* 20 to 22, Sydney
- *Time for Broadband? -* 22 to 23, Montpellier
- *eLearning in Practice: Real Experiences and Real Lessons -* 23 to 24, Leuven, Belgium
- *eChina -* 26, London
- *DSLcon 2001 Europe -* 26 to 29, Munich
- *7th Asia-Pacific Telecommunications Roundtable -* 27 to 28, Hong Kong
- *eContent - Digital Contents -* 28, Lisbon
- *eGovernment Conference: From Policy to Practice -* 29 to 30, Charlemagne, Brussels