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MEASUREMENT OF MOBILE NETWORK QUALITY

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) is for the second consecutive year carrying out a study on the measurement of the quality of service of GSM mobile networks. The aim is to measure three vital indicators (coverage, accessibility and auditory quality), to ensure that the three mobile operators offering this service in Portugal (Optimus, TMN and Telecel) fulfil their obligations and at the same time provide relevant information to consumers.

The tests evaluating the service quality provided by mobile operators will be effected in all district capitals, for a total of 30 cities, and along the 10 most important national road axes. The data collection area has for the first time been extended to suburban areas of Lisbon and Oporto, and to the autonomous regions (islands of Madeira, São Miguel, Terceira, Pico and Faial). The sample represents about 46 percent of the Portuguese population, according to the last census. The three above-mentioned indicators - coverage, that is, measurement of signal levels; accessibility, meaning the ability to make calls; and auditory quality, i.e., the perceptibility of conversations - will be simultaneously measured for all three operators, to assure maximum impartiality and equal testing conditions. The tests will be entirely automatic, thus avoiding the subjectivity of human intervention. Lastly, their methodology involves end-to-end measurement carried out from a mobile network terminal point to a fixed network terminal point -

for the most credible reflection of real situations.

Results will be classified on a scale from 1 (bad quality) to 5 (excellent). The methodology of the tests was approved by the three operators and by the DECO consumer defence association; they began in mid-April and should continue for 11 weeks.

At the end of 2000, statistics compiled by the ICP indicated the existence of 6.7 million land mobile service subscribers. In other words, the number of GSM network adherents grew 43 percent last year, with nearly 2 million new clients registered. The rate of mobile penetration in Portugal is 67 subscribers per 100 inhabitants, a value above that of the European Union (62.9 percent).

Voice traffic carried by the mobile networks grew by 4 percent in the last quarter of 2000, compared to the previous quarter. Average call length (90.7 seconds in the last quarter of 2000, versus 89 seconds for that entire year and 72 seconds in 1999) and the number of calls (reaching nearly 5.4 billion in 2000, more than 37 percent more than the previous year) have also increased. Data traffic, especially the exchange of written messages (SMS) likewise registered a strong increase.

Given the rapid growth of GSM traffic, and the occasional saturation of networks revealed by the first study a year ago, the ICP this time intends to re-evaluate the operational progress of these same services. ◀

FTS IN 2000

The new Fixed Telephone Service (FTS) providers saw their share rise to 14 percent of long distance telephone traffic carried in the year 2000, according to data released by the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP).

Long distance calls (interurban and international) are the main FTS market for the new providers. This was particularly valid for international calls originating in Portugal, 19 percent of which they carried; the figure for interurban calls was 12 percent.

The rate of FTS penetration increased by 2 percent over 1999, reaching 43 percent at the end of 2000, corresponding to the existence of 4.3 million main telephone accesses. At that time only 14 of the total 23 licenced providers were effectively operational. ◀

PUBLIC TELEPHONES CONSULTATION

The public consultation on Public Telephones realised by the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) ended on April 30. Seven entities, namely Oni, Jazztel, Optimus, PT Comunicações, Federação Nacional de Cooperativas de Consumidores (Fenacoop - National Federation of Consumers Cooperatives), Associação dos Consumidores de Portugal (Portuguese Consumers Association) and the Secretariado Nacional para a Reabilitação e Integração das Pessoas com Deficiência (SNRIPD - National Secretariat for the Rehabilitation and Integration of the Disabled), provided contributions regarding the supply of public telephones by the universal telecommunications service provider, PT Comunicações. The ICP will in the near future release the results of this inquiry. ◀

CURRENT EVENTS

New certification specifics

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) approved criteria for certification activity as required by Decree Law no. 59/2000 of 19 April, which introduces the Regulation for Telecommunications Infrastructures in Buildings, namely concerning the registration of bodies that intend to exercise the activity of certification (art. 23, no. 3, lines c and d), the format of the conformity certificate (art. 27, no. 3) and the procedure for evaluating conformity (art. 42, no. 2). The said legislation envisioned a one year transition period, during which certification would be dispensed, which ended on 24 April 2001. The requisites approved by the ICP may be consulted at the Institute's public attendance services in Lisbon, Barcarena, Oporto, Funchal and Ponta Delgada.

Audit of Telephone Directories service

The Institute approved realising an audit of the telephone directories service and information service of PT Comunicações, an obligation deriving from its status as universal service provider and in accordance with art. 6 of Decree Law no. 458/99. The audit was carried out under terms of clause 23 of the Public Telecommunications Service Concession Contract, with the aim of verifying whether the costs related to the telephone directories service and information service were not above the effective costs of the services in question, thus assuring free competition between the various operators of fixed and mobile telephone service.

Portability under way

Tests on provider networks, with the aim of experimenting the specified solution for the interface between portability networks (Query on Release), began in May. The first week of the month also witnessed the start of negotiations between, on the one hand, the ICP and providers

with portability obligations, and on the other the provider chosen to carry out the function of Reference Entity.

Inter-ministerial Commission for the Information Society

In wake of the Council of Ministers Resolution no. 22/2001, the draft Guidelines for setting up Central Public Administration Sites on the Internet, whose aim is to establish a basis for defining the respective evaluation criteria envisaged in measure 7.5 of the Internet Initiative, was presented at the third meeting of the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Information Society on April 20.

New areas on the ICP website

Two new theme areas were recently set up on the ICP's website: concerning the transition to Digital Terrestrial Television (See www.icp.pt/tdtuk/indexuk.html), in Portuguese and English; and on the liberalisation of fixed telephone service (at www.icp.pt/liberalizacaouk/indexuk.html), in English. The ICP has also made available the online consultation of a database set up in partnership with PriceWaterHouseCoopers, which provides information on community programmes and initiatives for the communications sector, and on other financing instruments of general interest. The contents of the database are not, however, the Institute's responsibility.

Electronic acquisition of goods

The Ministry of Science and Technology has published on its website (at www.mct.pt), a report on the Electronic Acquisition of Goods by Public Administration, resulting from Council of Ministers Resolution no. 143/2000 of 27 September. The document, elaborated by a group of experts, is available for public consultation until May 8. ◀

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

Due to its status as entity responsible for management of the radio spectrum, the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) adopted the reference levels concerning the exposure to electromagnetic radiation set by the Recommendation of the European Council 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999, applicable to all radiocommunications stations to be installed under terms of each station or network licence. The said Recommendation urges the member-states to limit exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields. It also defends the need for information to be provided to the public and for scientific progress in this area to be monitored.

The reference levels allow assessment of exposure to (non-ionising) electromagnetic radiation and in the national legal framework are defined by Decree Law no. 151-A/2000 of 20 July. This legislation, besides

approving the system applicable to the licensing of radiocommunications stations and networks, oversight of their installation and use of the radio spectrum, defines principles applicable to radio fees, protection from electromagnetic radiation exposure and the sharing of radiocommunications infrastructures. In case of non-compliance with the levels in question, licence holders are liable to a countermand punishable by fine.

Under terms of article 22 of the same measure, the ICP is responsible for publishing the reference levels enabling assessment of exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Indeed, licences for the third mobile generation already envision that UMTS operators will be obliged to guarantee that stations integrating their respective networks observe the aforementioned limits. ▶

SEE www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1632&ida=182

COOPERATION...

...with ANATEL

The Coordination Commission of ANATEL (Brazil's Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações) and the ICP (Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal) met from 18 to 20 April in Rio de Janeiro, with the aim of sharing regulatory experience and furthering discussion in areas of mutual interest.

The two regulatory authorities agreed at the meeting to exchange information within the scope of proposals to be submitted by Portugal and Brazil at upcoming conferences of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), namely the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC 02), the Plenipotentiaries Conference (PP 02) and the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC O3), including, regarding PP 02, eventual support for their respective candidates.

ANATEL marked its presence with presentations on digital terrestrial television (point in which the ICP provided specific information concerning the tender for a DTT operator licence, launched on April 7), infrastructure, mobile telephone service and the shift to personal mobile service, and the Fund for the Universalisation of Telecommunications Services. The ICP in turn focused on subjects such as roaming, interconnection, unbundling of the local loop, internet access and number portability, from the standpoint of Portugal's experience.

Other issues on the agenda included technological convergence, the development and introduction of the third mobile generation/UMTS, and the regulation and oversight of low power equipment. ANATEL's new radio-monitoring system was subject to a detailed presentation, with a demonstration of mobile station operations.

The next Commission meeting is to be held next October in Oporto.

See www.icp.pt/info/noticia.asp?id=1639&ida=182.

...with the CPLP

The 5th Meeting of Ministries and Postal and Telecommunications Administrations from the

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on April 27.

The meeting was preceded on April 26 by a technical meeting at the level of administrations and regulatory authorities, to assess the situation of telecommunications and postal sectors in the CPLP member-countries.

The ministerial summit was opened by Mozambique's prime minister and minister of transports and telecommunications, and by the executive secretary of the CPLP. Representatives of the Portuguese (ICP) and Brazilian (ANATEL) regulatory authorities also gave presentations, respectively on the universalisation of telecommunications services and their extension to rural areas, vis-à-vis postal sector reform in the CPLP countries in a context of global liberalisation of postal services. The ministerial representatives also discussed progress in the communications sectors of their countries. The meeting closed with approval of the Maputo Declaration, whose main measure concerns the realisation of an International Seminar aiming to identify cooperation needs. The 6th Ministerial Meeting will be held in São Tomé and Príncipe in April 2002.

...with AICEP

The 9th Forum and General Assembly of the Association of Post Office and Telecommunications Operators from the Portuguese-speaking Countries and Territories (AICEP) was also held in Maputo, from 24 to 27 April.

The Forum, with the theme of "Communications: Globalisation and Identity", was divided into four panels focusing on the digital society, digital economy, telecommunications and postal services. It encompassed the award ceremony for the AICEP/Communications Foundation prize and inauguration of a philatelic exhibition on the "Meeting of Cultures".

The next Forum and General Assembly of AICEP is scheduled for April 2002 in São Tomé and Príncipe. ◀

NEWLY ENACTED REGULATIONS

• **Decree Law no. 140/2001** (I Series-A of the Diário da República of 24 April) - Establishes the diploma of basic competence in information technologies.

• **Foreign Affairs Ministry Notice no. 33/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 10 April) - Makes public the Portuguese government's deposit with the French government of the instrument for ratification of amendments to the Convention on the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (EUTELSAT) that took effect in our country on 2 March 2001.

• **Decree Law no. 106/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 6 April) - Institutes for employment-providing entities with at least 10 workers the obligation to submit declarations on employee remuneration to the social security and welfare system services in digital format or by electronic means.

• **Infrastructure Ministry Administrative Rule no. 346-A/2001** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 6 April) - Approves Regulations for the public tender for a nationwide licence for the establishment and operation of a digital terrestrial television (DTT) platform.

• **Infrastructure Ministry Notice no. 5520-A/2001** (II Series of the D.R. of 7 April) - Opens the tender for attribution of the DTT licence.

• **Notice** (III Series of the D.R. of 5 April) - In the context of execution of Directive 1999/5/EC of 9 March, concerning equipment and mutual recognition of the conformity thereof, advises of the publication in the OJEC of the references to norms and common technical regulation.

• **Decree Law no. 103/2001** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 29 March) - Approves the statutes of the Institute of Information Technologies in Justice. ◀

EUROPEAN UNION

WORKSHOP ON SMP GUIDELINES

A workshop on the European Commission proposal adopted on 28 March, concerning market analysis and Significant Market Power (SMP), will be held in Brussels on 18 June. Applications to attend the seminar may be made until 5 June.

Details at <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/infosoc/telecompolicy/Welcome.htm>.

COPYRIGHT DIRECTIVE APPROVED

The European Union Council of Ministers unanimously adopted on April 9 the Directive on copyright in the information society, which the Lisbon European Council had set as a priority goal for the transition to a competitive and knowledge-based economy. The Directive in question resulted from three years of negotiations and should be implemented in national law by the member-States within 18 months after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities. More information at http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/intprop/intprop/news/copyright.htm.

IPv6

The Action Plan on availability of the next Internet Protocol generation (IPv6) was discussed by the Commission Task Force on April 24. At the current pace of Internet growth, the protocol in effect will exhaust available internet addresses in 2005. Concern at present centres on ensuring introduction of IPv6 before the launch of third mobile generation services. Details at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/591|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

eCOMMISSION UNDER WAY

The European Commission is preparing to become a cyber-Commission by the end of this year. The idea concerns use of the Internet in the political decision-making process, under the eCommission initiative, which anticipates the establishment of two online mechanisms: one for gathering information and the other for consultation. With this initiative, the Commission will enhance its ability to assess the impact of community policies.

At http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/519|0|RAPID&lg=EN.

MICROSOFT UNDER INVESTIGATION

In wake of an investigation carried out by the European Commission, Microsoft agreed to modify its participation in two European cable operators (the Dutch UPC and the British NTL), in order to not to exert undue influence on those companies' technological decisions regarding the emergent supply of digital TV.

Microsoft had also strategically invested in Portugal's TV Cabo, which was likewise subject to an investigation. However, it did not conclude that technological decisions liable to bias the rules of competition had been imposed. The same was not the case in 2000 with the Telewest operator in the United Kingdom, where Microsoft was obliged to reduce its controlling position to a minority stake. ◀

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/569|0|RAPID&lg=EN

OJEC

• **Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2001/C116/22)** - Regarding the proposal for alteration of Directive 97/67/EC on postal services. Published on 20 April.

• **Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2001/C116/06)** - On the Council's decision to adopt a multiannual community programme to stimulate the use of European digital content in global networks and promote linguistic diversity in the Information Society. Published on 20 April.

• **Media Plus (2001/C110/07)** - Notice of the opening of the call for proposals aiming to promote European audiovisual works. Published on 11 April.

• **Commission Communication (2001/C105/02)** - Concerning radio equipment and telecommunications terminals, and mutual recognition of their conformity. Published on 5 April.

• **Judgment of the Court of Justice of 7 December 2000 (2001/C95/04)** - Case C-324/98 against Telekom Austria AG, concerning the coordination of public service contract processes in the telecommunications sector. Published on 24 March.

• **Judgment of the Court of Justice of 30 November 2000 (2001/C95/03)** - Case C-324/99, condemning Belgium for failure to comply with deadlines for the transposition of measures contained in the Directive on interconnection in the telecommunications sector. Published on 24 March. ▶

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

99 REVIEW

The third meeting of the 99 Review Follow-up Group was held on April 19 in Lisbon, attended by 52 representatives of sectorial associations and operators, consumers associations and the Directorate General of Trade and Competition, along with the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP).

Participants reviewed the current situation of the new regulatory framework under discussion in the European Union framework, given the results of the Council of Telecommunications Ministers on 4-5 April, where, due to intense efforts over the past several months by the French and Swedish presidencies, political agreement was reached on the Framework Directive, Access and Interconnection Directive, and the Directive on Authorisations (See page 8).

The second part of the meeting, in panel format, was dedicated to two specific subjects: the European Commission's guidelines on Significant Market Power, whose public consultation is currently under way, and the scope of the Universal Service obligation, one of the vital aspects of the Directive on Universal Service still under debate in the Council. Specific presentations on these subjects were made by the respective representatives of Onitecom and Maxitel. ▶

CEPT MEETINGS

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The fourth meeting of the Implementation Group (IG) for restructuring the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) took place in Vilamoura, Portugal on April 26-27 and concluded a number of items concerning its reorganisation. The agenda drawn up by the Troika - chaired by Norway with the United Kingdom and Portugal as deputy chairs - was well received. The delegates unanimously favoured the inclusion of a postal services expert in the CEPT office, to support to the European Committee for Postal Reform (CERP). The rules of procedure, terms of reference, working methods and mission statement of the new Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) are now in their final form, incorporating alterations proposed by some delegates, and will be sent to the Plenary Assembly in September for a final decision.

A decision was made to set in motion the process of adopting a new convention, with the European Radiocommunications Office to take charge of initiating this task.

Agreement was also made to organise a meeting with the European Commission, to define the liaison between the two bodies and the final form of the report for submission to the Plenary Assembly.

ERC PT41

The second meeting of PT 41 "Frequency Management" of the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) was held in Mainz on 23-25 April and sought to clarify and classify the types of Broadcasting Services Auxiliary (SAP/SAB) applications, and the associated identification of spectrum-related and operational needs.

The impact study on digital technologies, the inventory of candidate bands for electronic news-gathering/outside broadcasting (ENG/OB) and the monitoring of industry developments concerning radio microphones for professional use in the 1785-1800 MHz band, were likewise in focus at the meeting of the group, whose task is to study frequencies for SAB/SAP and ENG/OB applications.

ERC PT1

Some 14 administrations, representatives of the European Commission and the ERO, and operators and manufacturers, were present on April 2-3 at the third meeting of the ERC's PT1 "UMTS/IMT-2000 and Systems Beyond" in Budapest.

As usual, the work was based on parallel meetings focusing on spectrum use, overall

circulation, and compatibility and coordination.

Regarding spectrum utilisation, the need for better coordination of European positions on the use of bands identified at the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-2000) was emphasised.

On the subject of the circulation of IMT-2000 terminals, a meeting was held with Japanese representatives, who were concerned that terminals other than those marked CE might not be sanctioned for use. PT1 will raise the question in the context of R&TTE implementation at the next Telecommunication Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee (TCAM) meeting.

The main topic in the field of compatibility and coordination concerned the French administration's proposal on the inclusion of border coordination methods in UMTS/IMT systems based on code sharing (recommendation ERC (01)01). This method will be discussed in PT1 with a view to its formal approval by the Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG). ◀

SEE www.cept.org

SEE www.ero.dk

SEE www.eto.dk

ELECTION OF THE ITSO DIRECTOR GENERAL

The 26th Special Assembly of the International Telecommunication Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) was held in Washington on April 26-27. The main item on the agenda was the election of the Director General of ITSO, an intergovernmental organisation to result from the privatisation of INTELSAT. Nine candidates were voted upon, with the Moroccan Ahmed Toumi elected to the post.

The ITSO will assume its responsibilities for a minimum term of 12 years and oversee, through Intelsat S.A., the availability of international public telecommunication services, to maintain global

coverage and connections; service maintenance for customers whose international communications are totally dependant on the INTELSAT system; and non-discriminatory access to the INTELSAT system.

Reference was made to the fact that INTELSAT's restructuring process has taken place as expected; 18 July 2001 remains the transition date for the above-mentioned privatisation.

The first ITSO assembly will be held within 12 months after the privatisation of INTELSAT. ▶

SEE www.intelsat.int

BRITISH WHITE PAPER FORESEES FUTURE FOR SECTOR

The British government's White Paper on communications titled "A new Future for Communications" is a singular forewarning of profound changes in the sector. The document was presented in Parliament in December 2000 by the secretaries of state for industry, culture, media and sport, and provides the new vision of 21st century communications in a country that is a pioneer in structural logic terms, at least concerning the communications sector at the European and world level.

The key support for change in this anticipated future is convergence. The basic idea is to simplify the regulatory framework in three sectors - telecommunications, radiocommunications and audiovisual - that have traditionally enjoyed relatively autonomous interdependence. Yet due

to the current rate of technological development, there is an increasingly pressing need for them to be merged.

In this scenario, the five current regulatory authorities - the Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL), the Broadcasting Standards Commission, the Independent Television Commission, the Radio Authority and the Radiocommunications Agency - would form one all-powerful Office of Communications (OFCOM).

The new regulatory guidelines reflect the government's concerns and are based on consensual premises, such as the creation of a dynamic market in which, for most service suppliers, regulation would only apply to areas such as consumer protection, access and interconnection.

Additional concerns include the guarantee of universal access to a vast range of high-quality services. The creation of a fund to cover major future expenses is envisaged, as well as a review of rules guaranteeing a multiform media, based on the three maxims of "minimum content, unbiased news, protection of minors".

The revision and updating of the system of radio spectrum management is also anticipated, along with creation of a user panel to advise the regulator on these matters, and universal access to the Internet by 2005.

The White Paper was subject to a public consultation that ended on February 12, having received a large number of contributions. ◀

SEE www.communicationswhitepaper.gov.uk

ITU REFORM

The final report of the Working Group on Reform of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to be submitted to the next session of the Council of the Union in June, was approved at a meeting held from 2 to 6 April in Salvador, Brazil.

The need to evaluate and propose new ways of improving the Union's budgetary system was considered, as a means to strengthen its financial system, namely through revision of the system of contribution by the member-types in question: Member States and Sectorial Members.

Debate also focused on ways to improve the Union's operations, including the question of duration and frequency of ITU Council sessions, among others.

Proposals were put forward concerning the preparation, structure, procedures, duration and aspects of elections - for assemblies and confer-

ences in general, particularly the Plenipotentiary Conference. In this vein, Portugal proposed empowerment of the various available means - physical, financial and human - to achieve the desired results.

The secretariat's structure was also discussed in the context of improving working methods, as were questions on the Union's budget and finances.

Part of the meeting was exclusively devoted to specific questions regarding the three sectors. For development (ITU-D), aspects relating to products and services were studied, as well as the needs of developing countries and the promotion of private sector involvement in this area.

In the radiocommunications sector (ITU-R), the ITU's role in the regulation of common resources was debated, as were mechanisms for dealing

with notification, the question of eliminating backlog in the coordination of satellite networks and issues concerning the World Radiocommunications Conference.

For the standardisation sector (ITU-T), the group highlighted the aim to improve the functioning of the standardisation process, in order to satisfy the need for market positioning and the need for a partnership between Member States and Sectorial Members, to draw more bodies to take part in ITU-T activities.

Finally, discussion focused on setting up a pilot forum, to encompass those ITU standardisation activities with no political or regulatory implications, and open to participation of Member States and Sectorial Members on an equal footing, as well as to associates and other participants; such would be financed by voluntary contributions from participants. ◀

SEE www.itu.int

IRG MEETINGS

SMP WORKING GROUP

The Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP) was present at a meeting of the Working Group on Significant Market Power (SMP) of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), held on 24 April in Copenhagen. The agenda focused on issues related to the 99 Review process, such as those concerning SMP evaluation factors, the concept of effective competition and its application in the telecommunications sector, as well as joint projects with other IRG working groups.

MOBILE ACCESS WORKING GROUP

The regulation of access to mobile networks, namely factors concerning international roaming, the so-called "virtual operators" (MVNO) and the service providers, were discussed at the April 23 meeting of the Mobile Access Working Group in Stockholm. ◀

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NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL - Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL) - The announcement for development of a satellite to carry telecommunications signals was on April 24 made available for public consultation, to last until May 25.

See www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_19_04_2001%283%29.pdf.

The report on digital television drawn up by the Fundação CPqD and regarding the three standards under discussion - American, European and Japanese - was made available for public consultation on April 17. The consultation period lasts for 60 days, with a further 30 days for online comments on the contributions received.

At www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_10_04_2001%284%29.pdf.

ANATEL has also announced its intention to launch in May a public consultation on the rules for granting new fixed telephone service licences in 2002.

More information at www.anatel.gov.br/biblioteca/releases/2001/release_10_04_2001%283%29.pdf.

FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART) -

On April 6, the French regulatory body announced its position on the proposal by France Telecom (FT) regarding interconnection for Internet traffic. ART also asked FT to modify its new reference offer in the context of local loop unbundling, giving the company until April 13 to publish changes to the same offer. At the end of the first quarter of this year, the rate of mobile penetration in France reached 52 percent, corresponding to 31.3 million customers. For the fourth consecutive year, ART has promoted a study on mobile network service quality. A similar study on the coverage of mobile services will soon be undertaken. All information at www.art-telecom.fr/.

BELGIUM - Institut Belge des Services Postaux et de Télécommunications (IBPT) - The public consultation on the future regulation of postal and telecommunication services was concluded by the regulator on May 3 (www.bipt.be/Pages/French/LIBRAIRI/CONSULT/CONSULT.HTM).

The IBPT published on April 27 a notice (www.bipt.be/Pages/French/Telecoms/Boucleloc/boucleloc.htm) concerning Belgacom's rate schedule for unbundling of the local loop, and on April 18 filed suit against six operators for non-compliance with legal obligations on number portability. At www.bipt.be/Pages/French/LIBRAIRI/Communic/communic.htm.

SWEDEN - National Post and Telecom Agency (PTS) - The tender for the allocation of four national fixed radio access licences ends on May 14.

At www.pts.se/dokument/getFile.asp?FileID=2172.

DENMARK - National Telekom Agency (NTA-Telestyrelsen) - Long Run Incremental Costs (LRIC) directives were published on April 17. The NTA also granted, by tender competition, two national TETRA licences envisaging the creation and operation of public emergency and security networks. Details at www.tst.dk/index_uk.htm.

THE NETHERLANDS - Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority (OPTA) - A university study available at

www.opta.nl/download/relationship_accesspricing_infrastructure_260301.pdf, focuses on the relationship between regulation of access prices and competition in infrastructures. The OPTA has also launched a public consultation on Internet access. At www.opta.nl/download/codo_internet_access_110401.pdf.

UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) - The last phase in the introduction of a new National Numbering Plan took place on April 28, with alterations made to mobile network numbers, pagers and special numbers. The changes have resulted in a stock of 9 billion telephone numbers. Details at www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/pr35_01.htm.

The British regulator released on April 11 four information pamphlets for consumers of telecommunications services, offering practical advice on choosing a telephone company, how to make complaints about telephone service, consumer rights and the role of the regulatory authority. The guidelines may be viewed at www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/consumer/consguides/index.htm.

On April 6, OFTEL determined that operators of electronic communications networks should open their networks to rival companies only when they hold significant power in the market in question. At www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2001/pr32_01.htm.

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

On April 30, the regulator defined rates for local loop unbundling. See www.odtr.ie/docs/pres300401.doc. It also launched two public consultations on postal services, one concerning universal service and respective analytical accounting (closing on May 25), and the other on benchmarks for public operator service quality (closing on June 1). At www.odtr.ie/docs/odtr0129.doc and www.odtr.ie/docs/odtr0128.doc.

New developments concerning EIRCOM's reference interconnection offer for this year, based on the principals of cost separation, are available at www.odtr.ie/docs/odtr0127.doc.

HUNGARY - Communication Authority (CA) - The auction for the allocation of five blocks of 3.5 GHz frequencies is scheduled to begin on June 11.

Details at www.hif.hu/index1e.htm.

HONG KONG - Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) -

A public consultation is under way until June 12 on rules the telecommunications industry is to observe regarding mergers and acquisitions in the sector, in order to prevent limits to competition or the emergence of dominant positions. Additional information at www.ofta.gov.hk/frameset/home_index_eng.html.

INDIA - Department of Telecommunications (DoT) - A revised Inet tariff came into force on March 1, in line with the Indian government's current liberalisation policy. Details at www.dotindia.com/.

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY – COUNCIL OF TRANSPORTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS

The main results of the European Council of Transport and Telecommunications held on 4-5 April in Luxembourg included the reaching of political agreement on the set of three directive proposals (Framework Directive, Access and Interconnection Directive and Authorisation Directive) for the new telecommunications regulatory framework (99 Review) and the unanimous vote on financing the launch of the Galileo system.

The European Galileo satellite radio-navigation system was granted 200 million euros this year - half from the European Union itself and the other half from the European Space Agency. The decision to locate eventual fund sources for the remaining shortfall of 450 million euros has been postponed until December. Debate centred on the question of setting a maximum limit for public investment, while implementation of a management structure joining public and private finance was guaranteed. Plans indicate that Galileo should become operational in 2008.

On the subject of the proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning a common regulatory framework for electronic communication networks and services, debate particularly focused on article 6 (consulting and transparency mechanism). The mechanism was enhanced by the obligation of the Commission and national regulatory authorities to provide information on the draft bill to adopt and its respective justification.

In the case of the proposed Directive concerning the access and interconnection of communication networks and connected resources, the transposi-

tion date was changed to 15 months.

The Authorisation Directive saw existing reserves risen, with only Portugal having made an unilateral statement on article 8, about the harmonized process of frequencies.

The Council also limited itself to drawing up a summary of work undertaken on the proposed Directive on universal service and users' rights with regard to networks and electronic communications services.

Similarly, reduced progress was made with respect to the .eu domain, despite the matter's urgency, as recalled by the Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, Erkki Liikanen. He advocated avoidance of over-regulation in this area and reminded of the pressing need to internationalise management of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and make it more independent of governments.

The Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) of the European Union was charged with proceeding with work on regulation of eu. and on the proposed Directive for the liberalisation of postal services.

The Commission also provided information to the Council concerning various points on the work agenda, among them progress in local loop unbundling, network security (an action plan on this matter is currently being prepared and must be presented to the Internal Market, Consumers and Tourism Council by June 5), the eEurope 2002 action plan, Commission communications on the fight against cyber-crime and the introduction of the third mobile generation in Europe.

SEE http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/01/128/0|RAPID&lg=EN

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
			TVTel Grande Porto - Comunicações, S.A.	2001.04.12

IN MAY 2001

EU

- ONP Committee (2)
- Council Working Group on Economics/Telecommunications (3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 22-23)
- High-level Committee (14-15)
- Licensing Committee (23)

CEPT

- Implementation Group Troika (2-4)

ERO

- Council (9-10)

CERP

- Plenary (2-4)

ECTRA

- PT on Numbering (3- 4)

ERC

- Frequency Management WG (14-18)

ECTRA/ERC

- Joint PT on Satellites (8)

IRG

- 99 Review Task Force (8)
- Plenary (24-25)

ITU

- Experts Group on Chapter II of the ITU Convention (2-4)
- World Telecommunications Day (17)

UPU

- High-level Group (1-2)

Satellite Organisations

- EUTELSAT Assembly (15-16)

EVENTS

- Multimédia XXI 2001 - 3-6, FIL, Lisbon
- TeleManagement World - 7-10, Nice
- Globalcom 2001 - III Professional Telecommunications Congress - 8-10, Lisbon
- Telecommunications for the Present Decade - 9, University of Aveiro (Portugal)
- Usability for mobile devices and services - 9-10, London
- Portugal Media 2001: The Year of eCommerce - 10-13, Exponor, Leça da Palmeira (Portugal)
- AITEC West Africa Conference and Expo 2001 - 17-19, Accra
- Mobile Internet Central and Eastern Europe - 21-22, Prague
- Strategies for Success in the European MTU Marketplace - 22-23, London