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## REFERENCE INTERCONNECTION OFFER 2002

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved on 23 May a decision on changes to introduce in the Reference Interconnection Offer for 2002 (RIO 2002) submitted by *PT Comunicações*.

Noteworthy among those changes are the interconnection prices, reduced by an average of 15.5 percent vis-à-vis RIO 2001; revision of the interconnection network structure, which the *PT Comunicações* proposal indicates should enable delineation of three distinct zones (North, South and Azores), each comprising a national geographic interconnection point; and definition of the price derived from the administrative costs associated to portability, taking into account the transfer of contiguous number blocs.

*PT Comunicações* must modify RIO 2002 within 10 days, by introducing the determined changes.

It was also decided that *PT Comunicações* should reformulate within 30 days the physical collocation proposal to assure more economic, efficient and reasonable solutions, also taking into account practices current in the European Union.

The decision was approved after consulting interested parties, under terms of article 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure, with respect to the corresponding draft decision approved on 12 April 2002.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template9.jsp?categoryId=3730>

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=36766>

## ONIWAY/TMN AGREEMENT

*OniWay* can provide GPRS services and for that purpose use the 95 number range already assigned to it, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) decided on 29 May.

In the same decision, ANACOM added that *OniWay* has the right to request interconnection, under the terms set in Decree-Law no. 415/98 of 31 December, thus clarifying doubts raised by *Optimus* and *Vodafone*, operators with whom *OniWay* has not yet established interconnection agreements.

This decision aims to complete the previous decision on the subject, dated 6 March.

## NEW PTC ADSL SUPPLY SUSPENDED

The new ADSL supply offered by *PT Comunicações* (PTC) was suspended by a 24 May decision of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM).

The ANACOM decision was based on PTC's non-compliance with various legal requirements, namely the lack of at least 30 days' prior notice before changes to its wholesale supply of ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines) take effect, in accordance with the Regulation for the Operation of Public Telecommunications Networks (Decree-Law no. 290-A/99 of 7 July).

The said changes have consequences on the readjustment of retail supply by the new operators, who should enjoy the time limit granted by law. When such is not the case, a situation of distorted competition may arise.

The suspension of this ADSL supply resulted from a complaint by *Oni Telecom*, which closely followed PTC's presentation of the supply to ANACOM.

## MOBILE-MOBILE INTERCONNECTION PRICES

The maximum national mobile network termination prices for calls originating in mobile terminals were the subject of a 29 May decision by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*.

Average wholesale prices should from 1 January 2002 be 0.2070 euros per minute for a call lasting 100 seconds, charged per second, at most, after the first minute, and 0.1870 euros per minute, charged per second after the first second, from 30 June of the current year.

The interconnection agreements to be signed in this context between *Optimus*, TMN and *Vodafone* should be completed within 10 days' time.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=4468>

## CURRENT EVENTS

### UMTS WG

In the context of the working group for the third mobile generation (UMTS WG), the four licensed operators and the Arthur D. Little consultancy firm signed on 20 May a contract for detailed conception of the "Populations with Special Needs" project, which aims to encourage access by people with special needs to communications networks and services, for which the UMTS system will be instrumental. This contract is the first phase of an ambitious project that may represent an extremely significant qualitative leap with regard to handicapped citizens' access to the benefits of information and communications technologies.

### Frequent questions on portability

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) has reformulated and expanded its section on Frequently Asked Questions with regard to operator portability, also taking into account the publication of Decree-Law no. 133/2002 of 14 May. Thus, users are now provided more detailed information about the prices associated with portability, as well as the expected time limits and procedures in this area. Details at <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=48140>.

### Ported numbers

Some 19 157 telephone numbers were ported in fixed networks by the end of May and 1 124 numbers in the mobile networks.

### Non-ionising radiation - Update

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) continues to make available, at <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=34365&contentId=44400>, up-to-date information on the regulator's assessment of exposure to non-ionising radiation. From January to April of this year, ANACOM received 142 requests and concluded 90 cases, but did not register any situation in which the values were above levels recommended by the European Union (Recommendation of the Council 1999/519/EC of 12 July). On the contrary, the results generally indicate values at least 50 times below those in the Recommendation. In 2001, ANACOM undertook and concluded nearly a hundred cases related to this question.

### ANACOM website

The ANACOM website has been subject to a number of modifications. Specifically, the Interconnection and Numbering section has been split into two autonomous areas, "Access and Interconnection" and "Numbering, Names and Addressing". See <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=4468> and <http://www.anacom.pt/template2.jsp?categoryId=36478>. Also, the Online Services section, which enables public attendance by electronic means, has been expanded by the creation of links to new areas, such as Europe-wide One Stop Shopping for Satellite Networks (OSS SAT), public enquiries and votes of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), and numbering plans in other countries. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template23.jsp?categoryId=18552>. Meanwhile, various consultations in the ETSI context are available at <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=7266>; comments on same should reach ANACOM by

20 July. Finally, updated ANACOM laboratory forms are available, for test and calibration requests. At <http://www.anacom.pt/template12.jsp?categoryId=3149>.

### Information on oversight and sanction actions

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) website provides regularly updated information on its oversight and sanction duties. Data on the application of countermanding processes (in the context of audiotext services, fixed telephone service, operation of public networks and public telecommunications networks) is thus available, as well as on administrative sanctions (encompassing both the suspension of access indicators and the cancellation of audiotext service provider registers) and contractual fines related to concession contracts for public telecommunications service. As the regulatory authority for the postal service and telecommunications sectors, ANACOM applies and oversees compliance with laws, regulations and technical requirements, and ensures that operators effectively meet the obligations stipulated in their licences and concession contracts.

### ANACOM linked to the National Library

Researching information on telecommunications and postal service is now easier due to the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) website's link to the National Library, or rather, to POR-BASE, the online collective catalogue of the national libraries.

### Operation of voice mail service

It was decided on 16 May that all telecommunications service operators and providers that include voicemail services must ensure that a period free of charge, lasting not less than five seconds, should follow the start of the service's message, so that callers are given time to decide whether or not to use the function.

### Fair of the Future 2002

The Fair of the Future 2002 ends on 7 June. This itinerant exhibition has been operating from the *Golfinho Azul* (Blue Dolphin), a vessel that has spent a month visiting each of the Azores islands. The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) is represented by a stand with information on its activities. The exhibition is an initiative of the Regional Department of Science and Technology.

### WTD in the Portuguese Communications Foundation

To mark commemorations of the 137th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Portuguese Communications Foundation inaugurated on 17 May, which is also World Telecommunications Day (WTD), exhibitions on "The House of the Future", "Analogic Telephone Exchanges", "Worlds (Francisca Rigaud)" and a Philatelic Merit Show on "Man Conquers the Heavens". On the occasion, a message from the ITU secretary-general was placed on the ANACOM website, on the subject of "ICTs for All - empowering people to cross the digital divide". See <http://www.fpc.pt/> and <http://www.itu.int/newsroom/wtd/2002/>.

## CABLE TV REACHES 1.2 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS

Portugal counted 1.2 million cable television subscribers at the end of the first quarter of 2002, according to statistical information compiled and released by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM).

The figure implies growth of 18 percent over the same period in 2001, and growth in the number of subscribers on the order of 3 percent vis-à-vis the last quarter of 2001.

The Lisbon and Tagus Valley region registered the country's highest number of subscribers: 55 percent. The *Alentejo* and *Algarve* regions had the highest rate of annual growth (40 percent), as well as the highest rate of quarterly growth (14 percent).

## AUDIOTEXT DOWN

In stark contrast to the rising figures for cable television services, audiotext activity is losing ground sharply. At the end of the first quarter of 2002, only 10 of the total of 70 authorised audiotext service providers remained operational.

The number of calls to audiotext services dropped by 73 percent over the previous quarter, and 84 percent over the same quarter the previous year. Also, revenues for calls to audiotext services registered a drop of 81 percent when compared to the previous quarter, and 97 percent over the same quarter of the previous year.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=4599&contentId=50235>

## SIMPLIFIED PORTABILITY PROCEDURES

Decree-Law no. 133/2002, published in I Series-A of the *Diário de República* (Gazette of the Republic) of 14 May has simplified relations between operators and users who wish to benefit from portability and local loop unbundling in order to access services.

By introducing changes to the Regulation for the Operation of Fixed Telephone Service and the Regulation for the Operation of Public Telecommunications Services, the said measure stipulates that applicants must submit the contract termination request to the new provider. At the moment when the number is ported or the local loop unbundled, or both, all legal effects pertaining to the previous contract cease. The continuation of service provision is at the same time guaranteed.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=49231>

## AUDIT OF THE POSTAL SERVICE'S ANALYTICAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved conclusions of the Deloitte & Touche firm's audit of the analytical accounting system used by CTT - *Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service) for the year 2000, as well as the declaration of the system's conformity and the results obtained.

It was concluded that the system conformed in all materially relevant aspects with applicable regulatory provisions, namely Directive 97/67/EC of 15 December and Law no. 102/99 of 26 July, without affecting the fact that ANACOM decided on improvements to some situations identified during the audit.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=4611>

## SEMINARS ON STANDARDISATION AND ENUM

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) hosts 25 June at the *Hotel Alfa* in Lisbon a seminar aiming to publicise the activity of the Standardisation Sector of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU-T).

The event will count the participation of a high-level ITU-T delegation, including the director of its Standardisation Bureau, Houlin Zhao.

On 24 June, ANACOM holds another seminar at the same hotel, in the context of Telephone Numbering Mapping (ENUM). The focus will be on aspects related to the use of Domain Name System (DMN) databases for ENUM effects, as well as those associated to it from the technical, administrative and operational standpoints. Questions on opportunities for new services, the way to guarantee effective market competition and the defence of users' interests will also be on the agenda, and certainly subject to much discussion. An overview of planned or ongoing ENUM tests in Europe will also be presented.

SEE <http://www.anacom.pt/template20.jsp?categoryId=3730&contentId=49413>

SEE <http://www.enum.org>

## NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Decree-Law no. 133/2002** (I Series-A of the *Diário da República* of 14 May) - Modifies the Regulation for the Operation of Fixed Telephone Service approved by Decree-Law no. 474/99 of 8 November and the Regulation for the Operation of Public Telecommunications Networks approved by Decree-Law no. 290-B/99 of 30 July.
- **Rectification of Decree-Law no. 128/2002** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 11 May) - Modifies Decree-Law no. 153/91 of 23 April, which approves reorganisation of the National Council for Civil Emergency Planning and the sectorial civil emergency planning commissions.
- **Decree-Law no. 126/2002** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 10 May) - Establishes the radio licensing regime applicable to radio audio broadcasting.
- **Decree-Law no. 120/2002** (I Series-A of the D.R. of 3 May) - Approves the organic law of the 15th constitutional government.
- **Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 91/2002** (I Series-B of the D.R. of 3 May) - Approves the bylaws of the Council of Ministers of the 15th constitutional government.

The Council of Ministers (C.M.) of 9 May approved a decision on the public media sector, which among other measures envisages the adoption within four months of legislative measures aiming to create a new regulatory body for the media.

The C.M. of 26 April approved a decision that adopts measures to reduce and contain spending in direct state administration, public institutes and the state's business sector.

SEE <http://www.governo.gov.pt/PortalDoGoverno/ENG/Default>

## EUROPEAN UNION

### POSTAL DIRECTIVE ADOPTED

The Council of Ministers adopted on 7 May the new Postal Services Directive, which heralds the sector's gradual and controlled opening to competition, while maintaining universal service. According to the Directive, the delivery of letters weighing more than 100 grams will be liberalised from 2003, and letters over 50 grams from 2006. Additional information at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/671|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/671|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### EP APPROVES DIRECTIVE ON DATA PROTECTION

The European Parliament approved on 30 May the draft Directive on data protection for the electronic communications sector. Details at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/783|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/783|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### EEUROPE 2005

The Action Plan known as "eEurope 2005: an information society for all" was adopted by the Commission on 29 May. More information at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/768|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/768|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### CO-OPERATION WITH EAST TIMOR

The Commission adopted on 30 May a strategy document on East Timor that covers the 2002-2006 period. Some 46 million euros are budgeted for the next three years. See [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/east\\_timor/csp/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/east_timor/csp/).

### 2002 COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

Increasing productivity to achieve a higher level of competition is a priority for the European Union, states the 2002 Competitiveness Report published by the Commission on 23 May. Details at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/753|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/753|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### LEGAL FINANCING FOR BRITISH DTT

In a statement released on 22 May, the Commission held that the financing of nine new digital television and radio channels did not constitute state assistance, given that such is included in the BBC's public service obligations and will also be financed by the television tax. See <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/>

[cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/737|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/737|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### 6TH RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The European Parliament approved on 15 May a 17.5 billion euro budget for the 6th Research and Development Framework Programme (FP6). The funds for FP6, to run until 2006, have been increased by 17 percent. At [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/720|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/720|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### DEUTSCHE TELEKOM

The European Commission announced on 8 May that it suspects Germany's incumbent operator of charging anti-competitive tariffs in its fixed local network. The Commission sent to Deutsche Telekom a statement of objections, which may lead to a formal accusation of abuse of dominant market position. See [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/686|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/686|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### NEW RULES FOR ELECTRONIC VAT

The Finances Council (ECOFIN) adopted on 7 May a Directive and a Regulation that modify the rules for covering VAT in the case of some electronically delivered services. The member-states must implement the new measures by 1 July 2003. Details at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/673|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/673|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### NEW STRATEGY FOR CONSUMERS

The Commission adopted on 7 May a new strategic policy for consumers, based on three premises: a high common level of consumer protection in the 15 member-states, effective enforcement of consumer protection rules and the involvement of consumer organisations in European policies. More information at [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/657|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/657|0|RAPID&lg=EN).

### TRANS-EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

Yet another Information Day in the scope of the Trans-European Telecommunications Networks Programme (TEN-Telecom) will be held on 4 July in Brussels. Additional information at <http://www.ten-telecom.org/en/infoday40702.html>.

## OJEC

- **Decision of the Commission (2002/344/EC)** - Concerning the non-existence of exhaustive and independent control of technical and tariff conditions applied by *La Poste* to routing companies with respect to access to their reserved services. Published on 7 May.
- **Regulation (EC) no. 733/2002** - Concerning implementation of the .eu top-level domain. Measure of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 April 2002, published on 30 April.

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

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## CEPT MEETINGS

### PT PP02

As part of preparations for the Plenipotentiaries Conference (PP02) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the project team (PT) of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 13-15 May.

The meeting was the PT's last before PP02 and basically aimed to study the last European common proposals (ECPs), the contributions to the CEPT brief and the organisation's position document to be released to the other regions.

In the context of the group's work, 15 ECPs have been adopted and co-signed by various CEPT member-states, including Portugal. Participants in the meeting elaborated four more draft ECPs; they should be submitted for final approval to the ITU working group (WG) due to meet in June.

The new proposals seek to improve procedures and change working methodologies, to bring them into line with the challenges raised by the increased number of changes in the communications sector.

### FM WG

The highlight of the 13-17 May meeting in Helsinki of the Frequency Management working group (FM WG) was presentation of the preliminary adjudication plan for Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting (T-DAB) in the 1452-1479.5 MHz band, which will serve as basis for the extraordinary June meeting in Maastricht, the Netherlands. The organisation and structure of that meeting were also defined.

Other hot topics included those related to spectrum currently reserved for TFTS (Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System) and ERMES (European Radio Messaging System), given those systems' lack of success in Europe.

For TFTS, an ECC (European Communications Committee) draft decision was adopted, for public consultation, on cancellation of the decision on the designated frequency bands for co-ordinated introduction of this system, and on reservation of that same spectrum area for harmonised use by other services to be determined at a later date.

Regarding ERMES, a decision was made to cancel the decision currently in effect and to begin re-planning the band for other harmonised uses at the CEPT level. Parallel to this, given that it is a pan-European system subject to Directive 90/544/EEC of 9 October, this must await annulment by the European Commission.

Also adopted for public consultation were an ECC draft decision on assignment of the 2500-2690 MHz band for UMTS/IMT-2000 and two draft recommendations, one on the exchange of information on radio monitoring, using electronic means in common monitoring campaigns, and the other on measures with regard to non-ionising radiation.

### CPG PT1

The 5th meeting of the project team on Regulatory Affairs (PT1) of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) was held in Geneva from 30 April to 2 May. The participants focused on the preparation of positions and regulatory procedures related to subjects on the agenda of the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC03). Portugal had taken charge of co-ordinating Europe's preparation of item 1.19 of the WRC03 agenda, concerning the application of single-entry limits on systems using non-

geostationary orbit fixed satellite service (NGSO FSS), and thus presented a draft text for the corresponding ECP. It proposes that WRC03 should take no further action on this matter. The text of the ECP was revised and will be submitted for consideration at the next CPG meeting.

PT1 studied the set of proposals for the creation of new Rules of Procedure listed in the 19 March circular CCRR18 of the ITU's Radio Regulations Board (RRB). In this context, PT1 considered that definition of the concept of a typical space station, as desired by the United States government, is inadmissible and even dangerous, as such is not included in the Radiocommunications Regulation and could set a precedent with unforeseeable consequences. This position has already been transmitted to the director of the ITU's Radiocommunications Bureau (BR), to be forwarded to the RRB chairperson.

### ECC PT1

Lisbon hosted on 29-30 April an ECC/PT1 meeting. This European Communications Committee (ECC) project team is responsible for all matters concerning evolution of the UMTS/IMT-2000 system, including co-ordination of positions in the scope of the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector (WP8F of ITU-R) and the development of CEPT positions for relevant items on the WRC03 agenda.

Regarding spectrum use, the most controversial issue concerned allocating the 2.5 GHz band (2500-2690 MHz), specifically 2x20 MHz (2500-2520/2670-2690 MHz), for use by the satellite component. For the time being, a CEPT decision has been proposed that solely identifies the 2520-2670 MHz band for use by the land component of UMTS/IMT-2000, with a new decision envisaged for 2004 on the usage and detailed arrangement of frequencies in the 2.5 GHz band.

Regarding sharing and compatibility aspects, a decision was made to send for approval at the FM WG's September meeting a proposal to revise the recommendation on "co-ordination of UMTS/IMT-2000 in border areas", in order to include the new propagation model approved by ITU-R (Recommendation P. 1546).

Also, concerning the studies on compatibility between satellite broadcasting (BSS) and UMTS/IMT-2000 (item 1.34 of the WRC03 agenda), it was noted that CEPT and other countries continue to differ over BSS thresholds and their impact on UMTS, namely with regard to antenna characteristics and maximum admissible interference levels.

### ECC/PT5

The Joint Satellite Group project team (PT5) met in Rome on 29-30 April to study development of actions to promote the implementation of ECC decisions.

One Stop Shopping (OSS) was updated, along with the respective combined form (CAF). The PT debated the financing possibilities for the new Common Form (COM) that replaces the CAF; it was agreed that the final version would result from the next CAF-R (PT5 sub-group) meeting scheduled for 10 June.

Also studied were the development of a package of ECC measures on the satellite sector and updating of the Comprehensive Satellite Initiative (CSI) report on S-PCS licences, among other issues.

## POSTAL SERVICE DEBATED

### 3RD MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE POSTAL SECTOR OF UPAEP

The main goal of the third meeting of ministers responsible for the postal sector in the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP), held on 9-10 May in Madrid, was to urge member-states' governments to support measures that foster the sector's development.

Participants approved the Madrid Declaration, which generically aims to set mechanisms to modernise current postal management, particularly those that can respond to the challenges posed by new information technologies and mass internet use.

The meeting covered a broad range of presentations by member-states, and focused on sharing experiences, and developing modernisation projects and sector reform, besides increasing participants' awareness of the growing needs of technology use and of management practices as strategy instruments.

### 2002 EUROPE-AMERICA POSTAL FORUM

The Europe-America Postal Forum, organised by the undersecretary-general for postal service regulation of the Spanish Ministry of Development as one of the activities marking the Spain's European Union presidency term, was held in Madrid on 6-8 May, preceding the UPAEP ministerial meeting.

The aim of the Forum was to gather together all major European and American postal sector players, including customers, consumers, private and public companies, and unions, among others, as a way to narrow existing relations.

Various working sessions were held, with noteworthy debate on the following issues: prospects for market liberalisation; postal services from customers' point of view; Iberian-American co-operation; postal reform and development via co-operation; standardisation; quality management; new technologies, e-commerce and logistics applied to e-commerce; dialogue between the public and private postal sectors; and universal postal service - cost policy versus social policy.

Also presented were different American postal development experiences: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Ecuador.

### CERP PLENARY SESSION

The 26th plenary session of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) took place in Nicosia (Cyprus) on 16-17 May; the Elections Committee chaired by Portugal and also comprising Finland and the Czech Republic oversaw the process of choosing the presidency and the vice-presidents. The current president (Jean-Luc Duturdoit of Belgium) and vice-president (Jarmila Brichtova of Slovakia) were re-elected to another term in office. Ulrich Dammann of Germany was also elected vice-president.

During the meeting, a decision was made to integrate the CERP Compendium in the CERP website, which should be operational in late 2002 at the following address: <http://www.cept-cerp.org>.

The presidency also organised a forum with the theme topic of "changes in the postal market - implications for legislators and the effects on regulation", which counted presentations by TPG, Postcomm and the *Fédération des Entreprises de Belgique* (FEB).

All the Working Groups (WGs) also reported to the plenary session: the Regulatory Affairs WG, the UPU Affairs WG, the Standardisation WG and the Economy WG, as well as the Steering Group. The same happened with the Contact Committees: CERP-PostEurop, CERP-European Commission and CERP-European Express Association (EEA). The UPU's international secretary also gave a presentation on preparations for the Strategic Conference to be held on 29-31 October in Geneva.

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN POSTAL SECTOR

A meeting on the employment situation in the European postal sector was held on 7 May in Brussels, in the context of European Commission studies on transposition of the Postal Directive (97/67/EC).

The company PLS Ramboll Management presented preliminary results of a study that covered evolution of the job situation in the postal sector between 1995 and 2000, and extrapolated, based on current trends, the evolution of employment in the sector between 2000 and 2005.

This project is still in the start-up phase; plans call for interviews in the near future with the countries involved, to collect more detailed information. ◀

## NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

**UNITED KINGDOM - Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL)** - The draft version of the new Telecommunications Bill, which envisages merging the five current regulators into one super-regulator, OFCOM, was approved by the House of Commons at first reading on 7 May. See [http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2002/pr\\_ofcom0502.htm](http://www.oftel.gov.uk/press/releases/2002/pr_ofcom0502.htm). OFTEL's annual report is for the first time available on its internet website, at [http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/about\\_oftel/annual\\_report/index02.htm](http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/about_oftel/annual_report/index02.htm).

**UNITED KINGDOM - Independent Television Commission (ITC)** - The ITC is conducting a research project on access to digital terrestrial television by the visually impaired. Details at [http://www.itc.org.uk/latest\\_news/press\\_releases/release.asp?release\\_id=602](http://www.itc.org.uk/latest_news/press_releases/release.asp?release_id=602).

**SPAIN - Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT)** - The Spanish state's digital literacy programme goes by the name of "Internet for All". Addressed to "all Spaniards who want to bring themselves up to date with the internet", it comprises three separate levels (basic, medium and advanced) and takes 15 hours to complete. More details at <http://www.sgc.mfom.es/>.

**European Broadcasting Union (EBU-UER)** - Despite less encouraging situations in Spain and the United Kingdom, there is reason to believe in good prospects for the launch of digital terrestrial television in Europe, indicates a study released by the European Broadcasting Union on 16 May and available at [http://www.ebu.ch/press\\_10\\_2002.html](http://www.ebu.ch/press_10_2002.html).

**FRANCE - Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ART)** - *Bouygues Telecom* was the only candidate for the second phase of the tender to launch the third generation mobile network, whose deadline was 16 May. See <http://www.art-telecom.fr/eng/index.htm>.

**EAST TIMOR - Ministério dos Transportes e Comunicações** - The public tender for the 15-year concession for the fixed and mobile telecommunications system in the world's most recent independent state has again been postponed. See <http://www.gov.east-timor.org/>.

**SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE** - The country's first mobile service is called *Mobicel* and was launched on 4 April by the *Companhia Santomense de Telecomunicações*, in which *Portugal Telecom* holds a stake. ▶

# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

## COUNCIL

Preparation of the work agenda for next autumn's Plenipotentiaries Conference (PP02) in Marrakesh, Morocco, dominated the annual session of the Council of the International Telecommunications Union, held in Geneva between 22 April and 3 May.

Another issue subject to considerable debate was ITU reform, a matter that has been followed by the Experts Group set up by the Council in 2001 to prepare the technical wording of resolutions and eventual proposals to modify the Constitution and Convention.

The report of that group, of which Portugal is a member, has now been appreciated by the Council, which continues to maintain some reservations and disagreement over some of the positions contained therein. It thus decided to forward the document to the member-states for further consideration and study in PP02.

Also in focus were assessment of the ITU's draft Strategic Plan for 2003-2007, the draft Financial Plan for 2004-2007 and the question of the link between the strategic, operational and financial plans.

The draft Strategic Plan was prepared by the member-states and not by the Secretariat, as previously. Much of the work was carried out in the context of Sector Advisory Group meetings. The document aims to endow the ITU with a Plan containing more focused actions that can guide it through the challenges of upcoming years.

The Council also reviewed progress on preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which will be split between Geneva, Switzerland in December 2003 and Tunis, Tunisia, in 2005. The World Radiocommunications Conference and Assembly (WRC03 and RA03) and the Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC04/05) were also discussed.

The Council also approved the theme for World Telecommunications Day 2003: "helping the world to communicate". The aim is to disseminate information on subjects related to telecommunications and also to stimulate reflection on relevant aspects of public policy and encourage debate among society's partners.

## SG2

The meeting of Study Group 2 (Operational Aspects of Service Provision, Networks and Performance - SG2) of the Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) took place at ITU headquarters in Geneva between 7 and 17 May.

Discussion focused on questions related to numbering, names and addressing, with one of them, ENUM (Telephone Number Mapping) dominating

the proceedings.

Regarding the E.A-ENUM Recommendation, progress was made on the principles and procedures for the administration of country codes to register in the DNS (Domain Name System) context. A supplement on "operational and administrative questions associated to national implementation of ENUM functions", an important document for the upcoming establishment of this protocol, was also approved.

As for drafts of the new E.INRA.IP (Interworking of Routing Addresses and IP-Names/Addresses) and E.353.1 (Criteria and Procedures for the Allocation of International Routing Addresses (INRA) and Serving Service Provider Identities (SSPIs) to Telecom Providers) Recommendations, a decision was made to suspend them until eventual justification for their future approval has been assessed by an appropriate commission.

Other recommendations were approved, concerning the Application of Numbering Plans for Universal Personal Telecommunications (UPT), Procedures for the Assignment of UPT Numbers and application of the numbering plan for universal international numbers of Recommendation E.164 in international telecommunications services, using country codes for global services.

## WP 9B

Working Party 9B of the Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R), which handles matters concerning fixed service (FS) - studies and recommendations on radio-frequency planning, features of radio systems, interconnection, maintenance and various applications - met in Geneva from 3 to 11 April. The work was undertaken in three subgroups, with subgroup 9B-1 responsible for the systems used by high-altitude platforms (HAPS), subgroup 9B-2 for undesirable emissions from fixed service systems and 9B-3 for the requirements and future vision of the fixed service spectrum.

Three drafts for new recommendations (DNRs) were approved, along with five draft revised recommendations (DRRs), to be submitted to Study Group 9 for adoption. The following stand out: DNR ITU-RF (on HAPS systems, mentioning technical characteristics and operational ability of the system to operate in the 27.5-28.35 GHz and 31.0-31.3 GHz bands; DRR ITU-R F.746-5 (frequency plans for FS systems); DRR ITU-R F.387-8 (frequency plans for FS systems to operate in the 11 GHz band); DRR ITU-R F.595-6 (frequency plans for FS systems to operate in the 18 GHz band); and DRR ITU-R F.1498 (characteristics to use in studies on frequency sharing in FS systems operating in the 37-40 GHz band).

SEE [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)

# INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP

## PLENARY SESSION

Analysis of the new European Commission draft decision on formation of the European Regulators Group (ERG) and formalisation of a secretariat for the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) occupied the agenda of the latter's plenary session, held in Paris on 23-24 May.

*Note: more details on the plenary session will be provided in the next edition of Spectru.*

## MOBILE ACCESS WG

The sixth meeting of the IRG's Mobile Access Working Group (WG), held in Stockholm on 6 May, focused on international roaming and mobile network access regimes.

## LLU WG

Yet another meeting of the WG on Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) was held in Lisbon on 2-3 May. Among other issues, the participants debated expansion of the group's scope, which may eventually cover all aspects related to the fixed network, particularly competition in the local loop.

Also discussed were cost maintenance models applicable to the shared access modality, the supply of access to debit existing in various IRG member-countries and indicators of performance and service quality levels applicable to LLU. Plans call for the next meeting to be held in Dublin on 24-25 June.

## SPANISH PRESIDENCY - EU MEETINGS - LATIN AMERICA

The official launch of the @lis (Alliance for the Information Society between the European Union and Latin America) co-operation programme marked the 26-27 April meeting in Seville of Information Society ministers from those two world regions.

The @lis programme - Alliance for the Information Society seeks to become a permanent instrument for dialogue and co-operation between the European Union and Latin America in the area of Information Society.

The aim is to promote telecommunications, electronic trade, electronic governance and matters such as standardisation, besides planning for enhanced research networks among the respective scientific communities. Plans call for some 20 innovative projects on Information Society applications to be created in four areas: e-inclusion, e-learning, public health and local government.

The @lis budget is on the order of 85 million euros, most of it (nearly 63.5 million euros) provided by the Commission.

## HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE

The European Union's delay in approving the Data Protection Directive and the adoption of the Internet IPv6 protocol were in focus at the last meeting of the High Level Committee on 23-24 April.

Those points were discussed in the context of EU dialogue with the United States of America; they worry the American authorities, who want to speed the adoption of a measure to fight computer crime.

Regarding broadband access in Europe, the Commission reported that it expects to launch, probably in July, a sectorial inquiry on the matter, including a hearing on discrimination, whose likely date is the 8th of that month. The regulators identified rights of passage and infrastructure sharing, operators' financial weaknesses and stalling manoeuvres by incumbents as being

## NATO FMSC PWG

The Brussels headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) hosted on 25 April a meeting of the Frequency Management Sub-Committee Civil/Military (FMSC CIV/MIL), which had been preceded on 23 and 24 April by a meeting of the Frequency Management Sub-Committee - Policy Working Group (FMSC PWG), in a joint civilian/military session.

The PWG was informed of approval of the mandate for NATO CIV/MIL FMSC by the North Atlantic Council.

Also drawn up was a proposal to revise the NJFA (NATO Joint Frequency Agreement) supplement to use in emergency situations, with the "restricted"

The programme was born at the November 2001 @lis Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro under the auspices of the European Commission and the Brazilian government.

The conclusions of that ministerial meeting were debated at the 2nd Summit of Heads of States and Government from the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in the Spanish capital on 17-18 May. The goal was to enhance strategic ties between the two regions. On the sidelines of that meeting, high level meetings were held with Mercosul, the Andean Community and some Central American countries. An agreement on association between the EU and Chile was also signed.

SEE [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/614|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/614|0|RAPID&lg=EN)

SEE [http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alis/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alis/index_en.htm)

SEE <http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/lac/>

SEE [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/02/182|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/02/182|0|RAPID&lg=EN)

SEE [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/la/news/me02\\_93.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/la/news/me02_93.htm)

problems in this area.

In the context of introducing the new regulatory framework, the Commission announced that it expects the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Relevant Markets to be approved by the end of May.

The Commission added that it intends to intervene in certain areas, such as tariff distortion, price squeezing, selection and pre-selection, leased line prices and local loop unbundling, namely the supply of sub-loops, but did not specify how.

The High Level Committee should soon be replaced by the new Communications Committee (COCOM), whose first meeting has been scheduled for 10 July.

security classification.

The FMSC designation was changed to become NATO CIV/MIL FMSC, shortened to NATO FMSC, which highlights the fact that this subcommittee is the only body within the organisation empowered to handle spectrum questions in the common civilian and military context.

A Military Working Group (MWG) was set up to assume the mandate of the disbanded PWG CIV/MIL, while the TWG (Technical Working Group) maintains its mandate.

## IN JUNE 2002

### EU

- Council of Ministers of Transports and Telecommunications (17-18)
- ONP Committee (19)
- Spanish Presidency - Ministry of Science and Technology
- Technical Sessions on Technological Convergence and Digital Television (4-5)

### CEPT

- ECC/ PT3 (3-5)
- ECC/CAF-R (10)
- ECC/ITU WG (10-12)
- ECC/PT5 (11-12)
- ECC/ PT6 (13)
- CPG (24-27)

### IRG

- Contact Network

### ITU

- Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T)
- TSAG - Advisory Group (17-21)

### Satellites

- ITSO (26-28)

### ANACOM

- ENUM (24)
- Seminar on "Divuligation of ITU Standardisation" (25)

### EVENTS

- **Financial Services and Digital Economy**  
4, Lisbon
- **Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics**  
5-8, Potsdam, Germany
- **Java Expo 2002**  
12 and 13, Madrid
- **TV Broadcasting for All**  
13 and 14, Seville
- **International Sessions on Strategy and Management for IT/IS Professionals**  
21-28, Lisbon
- **Electronic Public Administration (eGovernment): The Vision for 2005 (INA)**  
27 and 28, Estoril, Portugal