Spectru

Contents

☐ USE OF FREQUENCIES RESERVED FOR BWA – FINAL DECISION

By determination dated 24 January, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the final decision limiting the number of frequency usage rights reserved for broadband wireless access (BWA) in the 3400-3800 MHz frequency bands, as follows: two frequency usage rights in each geographic zone, corresponding to 1 bloc of 2x28 MHz each in the 3400-3600 MHz sub-band, and two frequency usage rights in each geographic zone, corresponding to 1 bloc of 2x28 MHz each, in the 3600-3800 MHz sub-band. Auction was also set as the procedure for allocating those frequency usage rights; the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) currently in effect was altered to comply. **(+info)**

☐ QUALITY OF SERVICE – ANACOM MAINTAINS SCOPE OF REGULATION

ANACOM decided on 16 January that it would not modify the Regulation on Quality of Service (RQS), which will consequently continue to be applied only to the service of access to the public telephone network at a fixed location and telephone service accessible to the public at a fixed location, regardless of the support technology used. Its considered extension to internet access service was put off for the time being, following completion of the consultation process launched by ANACOM on 11 October 2006, concerning the draft modification of the RQS, whose report has now also been approved. It is considered that there are other faster and less onerous ways to ensure that users obtain maximum benefit in terms of price, choice and quality, as well as to promote clear explanation of the quality of service provided for internet access. ANACOM will thus follow through on its current actions and will implement in the near future a number of additional actions in this area. **(+info)**

☐ USE OF FREQUENCY BANDS IN THE 450-470 MHZ BAND – FINAL DECISION

ANACOM decided last 17 January to limit to one the number of frequency usage rights to allocate in the 450-470 MHz frequency band for the provision of publicly accessible land mobile service (LMS) and determined that public tender would be the procedure for allocating that usage right. Also granted was permission for the trunking mobile service (TMS) providers, upon their request and by altering the respective authorisations, to provide offers of publicly accessible LMS in the 450-470 MHz band per the public tender, without jeopardising the TMS operators' compliance with determinations to be issued by ANACOM in the scope of the ongoing procedures. This ANACOM decision implies modification of the current National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP). **(+info)**

■ PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO ANACOM

ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

The annual questionnaires on the electronic communications and postal sectors have already been posted on the ANACOM website. For both questionnaires there is a model A, for companies that responded to the 2007 survey, and a model B, basically meant for new companies with authorisations issued during the year 2007. Replies should be sent to ANACOM by mail or to dee.stats@anacom.pt within a maximum of 30 consecutive days counting from the date of reception of the communications sent to the network operators and service providers covered. Eventual requests for clarifications on how to fill out the questionnaires may be requested through the same email address. **(+info)**

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SERVICE

ANACOM approved last 30 January the set of statistical information the subscription television service providers must submit, as well as the report on the prior hearing of interested parties concerning the corresponding draft decision. The approved information includes the following indicators: number of customers of cable television service, satellite (DTH) and other technologies, as well as the number of cabled households per municipality; and the service revenues per platform. As for deadlines, the providers were given a period of 60 days to implement those indicators, after which they should regularly submit the information in question. **(+info)**

ANACOM
AUTORIDADE NACIONAL DE COMUNICAÇÕES

■ **CURRENT EVENTS**

ANACOM WORKSHOPS – PRESENTATIONS

The presentations given by speakers at the workshops of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) on revision of the regulatory framework for electronic communications, held last 15, 25 and 31 January are now available. They concerned the following specific subjects: "The Authority (EECMA) and the New Powers of the European Commission", "The New Radio Spectrum Regulation" and "Functional Separation". **(+info)**

NEW POSTAL OPERATORS

By order dated 10 January, ANACOM granted authorisation to provide postal services not reserved and not covered by the scope of universal service (express mail services) to the company EVOCARGO – *Transportes e Distribuição de Mercadorias, Lda*. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

The same type of authorisation was granted on 22 January to the company TOTALMÉDIA – *Entregas ao Domicílio.* **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

T'COM INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS – PRESENTATIONS

The presentations given in the ambit of the seminars on telecommunications infrastructures in buildings (the Portuguese acronym is ITED), held last 11 December in Lisbon, are now available. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

OPERATORS/PROVIDERS – 3RD QUARTER 2007

Updated third quarter 2007 information on the active operators and providers in the area of electronic communications/telecommunications, audiotext and postal services has been released. **(+info)**

ADHESION CONTRACTS

By order dated 18 January, ANACOM approved the adhesion contract of BRAGATEL – *Companhia de Televisão por Cabo*, to offer electronic communication services. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

AMATEUR SERVICE

New information is now available on the ANACOM website concerning the call indicators for amateur stations, with respect to the assignment and listing procedures, and on evolution of the number of licensed national amateur service stations. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY LAB

The test request form of ANACOM's Electromagnetic Compatibility Laboratory (LCEM) has been updated. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

NEW FREE ACCESS TV CHANNEL

Under the process of introducing Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) in Portugal, the government decided in a 3 January Council of Ministers that the remaining radio spectrum capacity in Multiplexer A, associated to the public tender to allocate a nationwide frequency usage right for DTT service, would be used for the diffusion of a new service of unconditioned free access television programmes. Also planned is the diffusion in non-simultaneous mode, until the switch-off of analogue television broadcasting, of high definition emissions of the programmes distributed in Multiplexer A and, if there is still spectrum capacity, of other electronic communication services per the applicable legislation.
(+info, *Portuguese only*)

APRITEL POSITION ON NGNs

The Association of Telecommunications Operators (Apritel) recently published its position on next generation networks (NGNs), which stresses that the NGNs "are nowadays an opportunity to place Portugal on the front line of Europe and the world, enabling 80 percent of the Portuguese population to be reached with speeds above 100 Mbps". **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

PORTUGAL IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY – APDSI

The High Level Group of the Association to Promote and Develop the Information Society (APDSI) presented last 30 January in Lisbon its position on "Two Years of the 17th Government in Development of the Information Society in Portugal", which discloses the High Level Group's appreciation of the policies undertaken by the government in the areas that influence Portugal's affirmation in the information society. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

PT MULTIMÉDIA FINED 200,000 EUROS

The Lisbon Appeals Court has maintained a 200,000 euro fine of PT *Multimédia* by the Securities Market Commission (CMVM), for deceitful violation of the duty to provide truthful information envisaged in the Securities Market Code.
(+info, *Portuguese only*)

COMPETITION AUTHORITY (AdC)

The most recent edition of the AdC newsletter, e-Competition, highlights the online posting of the following working papers: "Unbundling and Incumbent Investment in Quality Upgrades and Cost Reduction" and "Access Regulation under Asymmetric Information about Demand", by João Vareda, and "The Race for Telecoms Infrastructure Investment with Bypass: can access regulation achieve the first best?", by João Vareda and Steffen Hoernig.
(+info, *Portuguese only*)

STUDY "TMT PREDICTIONS 2008"

The Deloitte consultancy recently released the study "TMT Predictions 2008", which presents the main global trends in the technology, media and telecommunication (TMT) sector. Regarding the telecommunications market, the study considers, among others, the scenario of a possible economic decline in the sector, the impact of launching a very low cost mobile telephone (10 dollars), the future of GSM and uncertainty in the broadband market with respect to the correlation between revenue and bandwidth. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

ANETIE – ROADMAP FOR COMPETITIVENESS

With the goal of considering the main problems affecting the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, the National Association of Information Technology and Electronics Companies (ANETIE) has released a document that identifies a number of challenges and proposes eight concrete action plan measures. Titled the "Roadmap for ITC Sector Competitiveness", the Association's communication covers three large areas: dynamics of human qualification, growth dynamics and other competitiveness factors. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

QREN SUPPORTS R&D IN CONSORTIUM

In the scope of the first notice in the Reference National Strategy Plan (RNSP), 29 February is the deadline for candidates to apply for support for co-promoted research and development (R&D) projects. Regarding the previous programmes to support research in consortium, some significant differences stand out: besides the consortiums between companies and entities in the Science and Technology System, consortiums involving only companies are also supported and the incentive is not reimbursable up to 1 million euros.
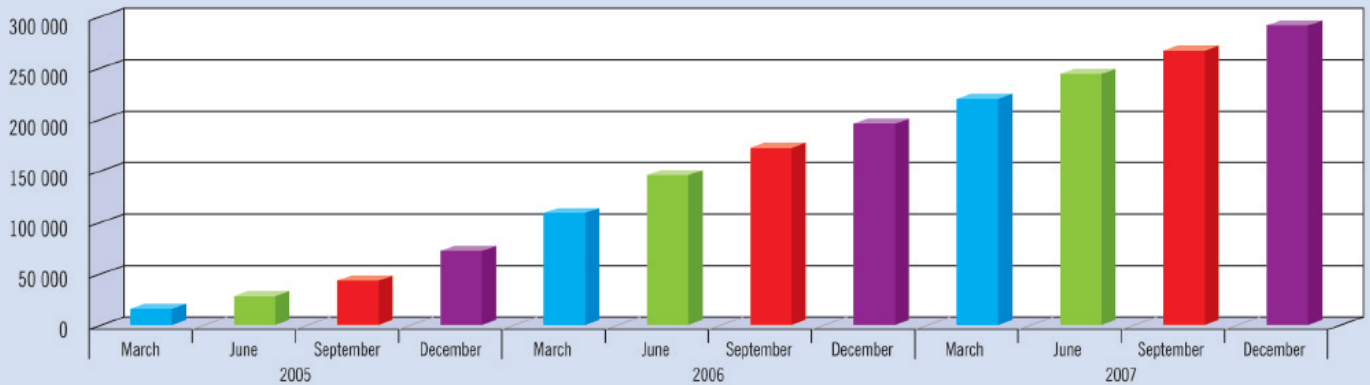**(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT – TENDER

The National Public Procurement Agency has launched a public tender to negotiate framework agreements with land mobile service providers; interested parties are asked to submit their proposals by 20 March (5 p.m.).
(+info, *Portuguese only*)

■ EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF UNBUNDLED ACCESSES

2005				2006				2007			
March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December
15 916	27 987	43 127	72 019	108 794	145 614	172 082	195 754	219 653	244 068	266 536	291 175

□ QUALITY OF MOBILE SERVICES AND NETWORKS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicação* (ANACOM) has posted online the most recent report evaluating the service quality of mobile services and networks in the autonomous island regions (Azores and Madeira). The work covers mobile voice services (GSM), video telephony (UMTS) and network coverage (GSM and WCDMA) provided by the operators Optimus, TMN and Vodafone in the main urban areas — Ponta Delgada, Angra do Heroísmo and Funchal — and road arteries on all the islands. A total of 9,076 test calls were made and 1,259,005 measurements of radio signal level, corresponding to more than 83 hours of measurements over 3,269 kilometres. It was generally noted that GSM coverage is more extensive than WCDMA coverage, although in both technologies large areas with poor or even inexistent radio coverage persist, especially along road arteries. Voice service performs well in urban areas, but along road arteries a deterioration of service was noted. The performance of video telephony service is below that of voice service, specifically in the indicator 'service accessibility', due to the existence of large areas without WCDMA radio coverage; the lowest levels are observed on road arteries. **(+info)**

□ ANACOM DISCLOSES 2007 STANDARDISATION ACTIVITY

ANACOM recently released the balance of its activity as a sector standardisation body in 2007. In the area of telecommunications and electromagnetic compatibility, 274 documents were placed under consultation, while in postal activity 13 documents were subject to discussion. **(+info,** *Portuguese only***)**

□ TARIFF MONITOR — REGISTERED TRADEMARK

The National Industrial Property Institute (INPI) has granted the registered trademark title to the name *Observatório de Tarifários* (Tariff Monitor), the designation of the interactive price simulator developed by ANACOM, which enables free consultation and comparison of the price tables in effect for individual consumers nationwide, for voice calls, written messages (SMS) and multimedia messages (MMS). In 2007 the Monitor registered nearly 20,700 accesses and more than 21,700 simulation operations, corresponding to a media of about 1,090 accesses and 1,808 simulations per month. **(+info)**

■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Administrative Rule no. 70/2008** (Series I — *Diário da República* of 23 January) — Amends Administrative Rule no. 1288/2005 of 15 December, which approves the model, publication, price, supply and distribution of the complaints book to be made available by the suppliers of goods and service providers covered by Decree-Law no. 156/2005 of 15 September.
- **Council of Ministers Resolution no. 12/2008** (Series I — D.R. of 22 January) — Determines the destination of the radio spectrum capacity remaining in Multiplexer A, associated to the public tender to allocate a nationwide frequency usage right for digital terrestrial television broadcasting service.
- **Administrative Rule no. 31/2008** (Series I — D.R. of 11 January) — Establishes the percentages to apply to the amounts of ANACOM's net results for financial year 2006.
- **Administrative Rule no. 1629/2007** (Series I — D.R. of 31 December) — Sets at 1 million euros the amount to transfer from ANACOM to the ERC — Media Regulatory Body.

(+info, *Portuguese only***)**

■ OPERATORS/PROVIDERS OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

Operators/Providers of Electronic Communications Networks and Services

	No. of Authorised entities (a)	No. of Authorised entities (b)
Operators of Electronic Communications Networks (ECN)		
Cable Distribution Networks (RDC)	11	11
Other Electronic Communications Networks (c)	30	23
Providers of Electronic Communications Services (ECS)		
Television Signal Distribution Service (d)	14	14
Mobile Telephone Service (GSM and UMTS)	3	3
Fixed Telephone Service (FTS)	24	15
Trunking Mobile Service (TMS)	2	2
Data Transmission Services (DTS)		
- Internet Access Service (Fixed)	42	33
- Voice Services via Nomad Use Internet (Nomad VoIP) (e)	13	7
- Other Data Services (f)	36	20
Public Payphone Service	17	12
Virtual Calling Card Service	28	17

Providers of Postal Services

	No. of Authorised entities (a)	No. of Authorised entities (b)
Express Mail Services	55 (g)	38
Services Not Covered by the Express Mail Category	10	10

Audiotext Service Providers

	No. of Authorised entities (a)	No. of Authorised entities (b)
Audiotext services	9	3 (h)

(a) Situation at 31 December 2007.
(b) Situation at 30 September 2007.
(c) Other Electronic Communications Networks (except CDN).
(d) Includes service provided per the CDN (11 providers – 2 of which hold networks not accessible to the public) and via other platforms (3 providers).
(e) Services provided with recourse to the '30' numbering range.

(f) Other data services (except internet).
(g) Includes 27 companies providing services under the MRW brand on a franchising basis (the company IBERCOURIER owns the MRW brand) and 14 companies providing service under the NECEX brand on a franchising basis (the company LOGISTA owns the NACEX brand).
(h) Source: PT Comunicações, S.A.

☐ EUROPEAN UNION

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS: INFRINGEMENT CASES

The European Commission (EC) has filed 95 infringement proceedings for non-compliance with rules against the 27 European Union member States, including Bulgaria and Romania, per application of the regulatory framework for electronic communications. The cases are grounded in the Treaty of the European Community, which envisages recourse to the Court of Justice whenever a member State does not fulfil its obligations and presents no respective justification. These proceedings – most have been shelved; only ten remain pending – involve matters such as the independence of the national regulatory authorities (NRAs), designation of the universal service provider, financing of universal service and market analyses, among others. Portugal is on the list of member States targeted in recent cases. One of them concerns the fact that the public consultation has yet to be launched on universal service provider designation, while the second involves special rights (golden shares) held by the Portuguese State in Portugal Telecom. A third case, derived from Portugal not having communicated to the EC data concerning the first analysis of markets, was shelved because the notification in question was filed in the meantime. **(+info)**

EP ENDORSES NEW POSTAL DIRECTIVE

The European Parliament (EP) adopted last 31 January the new Postal Directive, thus paving the way to reform of the postal sector in the European Union (EU). The final date for application of the directive that liberalises the market is 31 December 2010. It is nevertheless possible for some member States to postpone market liberalisation for two more years at most, by means of a temporary reciprocity clause applicable to the member States who decide to use this transition period. The new postal directive also confirms the scope and standards of universal service, strengthens consumer rights and reconfigures the role of national regulatory authorities, and provides a list of measures that the member States can adopt, if necessary, to safeguard and finance universal service. **(+info)** The EC has meanwhile published its report to the Council and to the EP on application of the Postal Directive, which makes a comprehensive assessment of the overall situation of its transposition into the national legislation of the EU member States, specifically regarding application of the directive's key elements and market trends (including economic, technical, social, job-related and service quality aspects). **(+info)**

□ EUROPEAN UNION (*CONTINUATION*)

ERG DEVELOPMENTS

The European Regulators Group (ERG) has published the report on the first comprehensive collection of data on international roaming service carried out since the publication of EC Regulation no. 717/2007 of 27 June, concerning roaming in the European Union's public mobile telephone networks. The ERG emphasises that although it is still not possible to draw definitive conclusions about the new regulation's impact, the information gathered (covering the period from April to September 2007) enables perception that there has been a reduction in roaming service rates. The group considers that this and future information, to be gathered on a half-yearly basis, will be the basis for the European Commission's planned revision of the Regulation in late 2008. The ERG also released the final document with roaming guidelines, based on the guidelines disclosed by the group in July and August 2007 and which complement the Regulation. **(+info)**
The ERG has also published results of the public consultations on the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and on the IRG/ERG working programme for 2008, held until 6 and 23 November 2007, respectively. **(+info)**

CONSUMPTION – NEW INVESTIGATION SYSTEM

The European Commissioner for Consumer Protection, Meglena Kuneva, announced on 31 January the launch of the new Consumer Market Watch, which investigates how various markets perform from a consumer standpoint. The first step of the process consists of comprehensive screening of retail markets against five consumer indicators: prices, complaints, switching rates, satisfaction and safety. The detection of irregularities that may reveal practices that distort consumer choice and hinder retail competition will lead to an eventual second step, comprising comprehensive investigation of a specific consumer market and the subsequent application of corrective measures. **(+info)**

eCONTENTPLUS – INFORMATION DAY

The European Commission has scheduled for 19 February in Luxembourg an Information Day on the eContentPlus community programme, in which it will present the area objectives identified for 2008. The proposed invitation, work programme and guide are already available, concerning the eighth call to present proposals under this programme. The EC is also to provide more information; the official notice of this call should take place in the middle of March 2008, with the proposals accepted up until the following 12 June.
(+info, *Portuguese only*)

EUROSTAT PUBLISHES STUDY ON EU CONSUMERS

The European Union Statistics Office (Eurostat) recently released the 2007 edition of the publication "Consumers in Europe – facts and figures on services of general interest", which focuses on the network industries that provide general services such as water, transport, electricity, telecommunications and postal services. This document contains important data for the assessment of market liberalisation in Europe and respective consequences for consumers, enabling comparison between various services and European countries. An additional aim of the publication is to help European policymakers understand consumer needs, contributing towards enhanced consumer defence policy. It also seeks to be useful for developing the activities of other parties interested in those issues, such as consumer organisations, public authorities and suppliers of goods and services. **(+info)**

EUROPEAN DAYS – SAFER INTERNET AND 112

European Safer Internet Day is to be celebrated on 12 February. As in other years, various activities have been undertaken by the member States with the main goal of spreading information about how to positively and clearly use the internet. In Portugal one of the backers is the Internet Segura project, whose information is posted at www.internetsegura.pt. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**
The European Union has also set aside 11 February to mark the first European 112 Day. For the first time since 1991 and since the creation of the European emergency number (112), the European Parliament and the European Commission have jointly organised an event to publicise the emergency number and inform the member States about the need to improve service. **(+info)**

2007 eTEN PROJECT – FINAL OUTCOME

Results of the online vote to elect the best project for 2007 under the eTEN programme have been released. The winner was Helping Answers Decision Service (HANDS), an online communications service that aims to facilitate and perfect communication between citizens and public institutions. The projects eBooks on Demand (EOD/DoD) and EUropean PAYment circuit (EU Pay) came in second and third place, respectively. **(+info)**

STUDY ON ICT STANDARDISATION

The final report from the study ordered by the European Commission to examine the current status of European standardisation policy for information and communication technologies (ICTs) was recently published. Titled "EU Study on the Specific Policy Needs for ICT Standardisation" and prepared by the DLA Piper company jointly with the Universidade Nova de Lisboa and the Delft University of Technology, the document stresses the importance of standardisation as a tool able to support and complement various European policies, specifically with respect to competition, industry, health, eLearning and eAccessibility. **(+info)**
The European Parliament has released a study titled "A Common European Spectrum Policy" which underscores the importance of radio spectrum for economic and social progress in the European Union. **(+info)**

■ OJEU

Notification 2008/C29/10 — Request, under article 30 of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, submitted by a member State (Italy) and concerning the national, international and express mail services of that country. Published on 1 February.
Decision 2008/60/EC — Of the Commission of 21 December 2007, amending Decision 2003/548/EC concerning the elimination of specific types of leased lines from the minimum set of leased lines. Published on 18 January.

(+info)

☐ CEPT (EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS) MEETINGS

WG ITU

Copenhagen hosted last 15-16 January a meeting of the ITU Affairs WG (WG ITU), the CEPT working group responsible for basically policy and strategy issues involving the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). **(+info)**

ECC PT1

The 28th meeting of project team 1 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC PT1) was held last 14-16 January in Helsinki. **(+info)**

☐ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

PT 2006 REVIEW

The project team (PT) on the 2006 Review met last 17 January in Budapest. **(+info)**

PT CONVERGENCE

PT Convergence held meetings last 3-4 January in Athens and 21-22 January in Barcelona. **(+info)**

PT FTR

Berlin hosted last 31 January a meeting of the PT on harmonisation of termination rates in the fixed networks. **(+info)**

PT MTR

The PT on asymmetry in mobile termination rates (PT MTR) met on 30 January, likewise in Berlin. **(+info)**

MINI-PLENARY

Brussels served as venue last 29 January for an IRG mini-plenary meeting that focused solely on studying alternatives to the European Commission's proposal to create a European regulator for the electronic communications market. **(+info)**

☐ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

WG ON PARTICIPATION IN WSIS ACTIVITIES

The 4th meeting of the working group (WG) on the study of the participation of relevant speakers in activities concerning the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) took place in Geneva on 29-30 January. Recall that WSIS was a two-step process: the first phase was held on 10-12 December in Geneva and the second on 16-18 November 2005 in Tunis. **(+info)**

WG ON IMPLEMENTATION OF WSIS RESULTS

Geneva also hosted on 25-28 January the 12th meeting of the WG on implementation of the WSIS results. **(+info)**

☐ UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)

ROUND TABLE ON TERMINAL CHARGES

The Swiss city of Berne served as venue last 21-22 January for the World Round Table on Terminal Charges of the UPU, with the aim of fostering debate on the final proposal for a new global terminal charges system for the organisation. **(+info)**

☐ ANACOM AT HIGH LEVEL MEETING IN LITHUANIA

A delegation from the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* travelled to Lithuania last 15 January to establish high level contacts with that country's national regulatory authority, and its Communications and Interior ministries. The work meeting served to analyse the situation based on the experience of each country and to project future actions, namely regarding collaboration on various subjects involving communications security, specifically: management of security incidents, evaluation of the security status of information networks and systems, and particularly Lithuania's proposed legislation on network and information security.

☐ URSI 2008 – CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline to submit contributions to the 29th General Assembly of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI), to be held in the American city of Chicago on 7-16 August 2008, has been extended until 15 February. All contributions must be submitted in electronic format. The deadline for candidates for the Young Scientist Programme and the Student Paper Competition was also extended to the same date. **(+info)**

☐ UPU FUND TO IMPROVE POSTAL SERVICE QUALITY

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has revealed that the respective Fund to Improve Service Quality financed 75 projects in more than 50 countries in 2007, for a total of 15.8 million dollars. These projects cover various areas, specifically improved distribution of international mail, improved security conditions, the creation of mobile post offices in rural areas and the implementation of accounting programmes oriented to costs. **(+info)**

☐ RECRUITMENT IN THE ITU AND ETSI

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is accepting until 20 February applications for the following vacancies: Radiocommunication Engineer, in the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), and Conference Organisation Administrator, in the Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau (TSB). **(+info)**

Applications may also be presented until 29 February for a technician vacancy in the Mobile Competence Centre of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), based in the French city of Sophia Antipolis. **(+info)**

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY – Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)

· The Cologne Administrative Court has rejected most of the suspension request submitted by Deutsche Telekom (DT) concerning a June 2007 BNetzA decision that established the obligation for DT to supply local loop access to the other operators through access to its ducts network or, if there is not enough capacity, by sharing its dark fibre network. **(+info)**

· The regulator has disclosed the general conditions for using frequencies in the 30 MHz-10.6 GHz band for ultra wide band (UWB) applications, stressing the complex usage conditions and the need to use modern technology to guarantee the protection of other radio services. **(+info)**

BELGIUM – Institut Belge des Services Postaux et des Telecommunications (IBPT)

· The regulator published on 10 January its decision on markets 11 and 12. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)

· The regulator has decided that the fixed telephony service concessionaires (Brasil Telecom, CTBC Telecom, Embratel, Oi, Sercomtel and Telefónica) must set up 46 user councils. The deadline for their implementation was set at 180 days; the councils' mission will be to evaluate services and attendance quality and to propose settlements for disputes between users and providers. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

· The distribution of the 2,740 Brazilian municipalities with less than 30,000 inhabitants that will be covered by wireless broadband services was recently released. The providers who won licences to operate third generation (3G) telephony have eight years after publication of the Authorisation to ensure 3G service provision to those regions. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

· The most recent Anatel data reveals that the figure of 120 million mobile telephone subscribers has been passed. In December 2007 there were 120,980,103 mobile telephones registered in the country, for growth of nearly 21 percent over 2006. Some 97,576,507 (80.66 percent) of total accesses are prepaid, while 23,403,596 (19.34 percent) are postpaid. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

CAPE VERDE – Agência Nacional das Comunicações (ANAC)

· The regulator has released a number of explanations concerning electromagnetic radiation, specifically non-ionising radiation coming from the ground stations of mobile telephony operators. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

· The Cape Verdean State, through its Ministry of Infrastructures, Transport and the Sea, and the Cape Verdean Postal Service signed last 18 January a concession contract to provide public postal services. The concession contract aims to structure the market for postal communications in Cape Verde in order to liberalise postal communications and open the market to competition. For the time being a number of licensed candidates to enter the Cape Verdean postal market already exist. **(+info, *Portuguese only*)**

FRANCE – Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes (ARCEP)

· The regulator, together with the General Council on Information Technologies (Conseil Général des Technologies de l'Information – CGTI), has released results of the seventh annual inquiry on the diffusion of information and communication technologies (fixed telephony, mobile telephony, internet and personal computer use) in France. **(+info)**

· The certificate of conformity with the cost accounting and separate accounts system of France Télécom for 2006 has been published. **(+info, *French only*)**

SPAIN – Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)

· The regulator has disclosed a decision it adopted on key aspects of the future regulation to apply to next generation networks, whose aim is to boost the operators' investment and technological innovation in fibre optic networks. **(+info, *Spanish only*)**

DENMARK – IT- og Telestyrelsen (ITT)

· The regulator has opened a public tender to receive proposals regarding administration of the '.dk' internet domain. Interested parties are asked to submit their responses by 1 April. **(+info)**

The NETHERLANDS – Onafhankelijke Post en Telecommunicatie Authoriteit (OPTA)

· The regulator gave a presentation addressed to market analysis with a balance of the status of the electronic communications and postal sector, which has been posted online. **(+info)**

IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)

· Guidelines for the granting of temporary radio licences have been published, specifically for special events such as concerts, festivals, sporting events and parades. **(+info)**

· The fixed telephony and mobile telephony operators must submit by 29 February information on the costs associated to number portability, as per a ComReg decision dated 30 November 2007. **(+info)**

· The regulator has published a study evaluating the operators' interest in the existence of sub-loop unbundling (SLU) offers and is trying to determine whether this new offer is commercially attractive when compared to existing local loop unbundling. At present there are no commercial SLU offers in Europe, but the issue has already been raised in some countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom. **(+info)**

MOROCCO – Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT)

· The regulator has approved the technical offers and price tables for interconnection (fixed and mobile) as well as the local loop unbundling offer, for 2008, It also establishes price cuts of from 2 to 15.5 percent by 2010. **(+info, *French only*)**
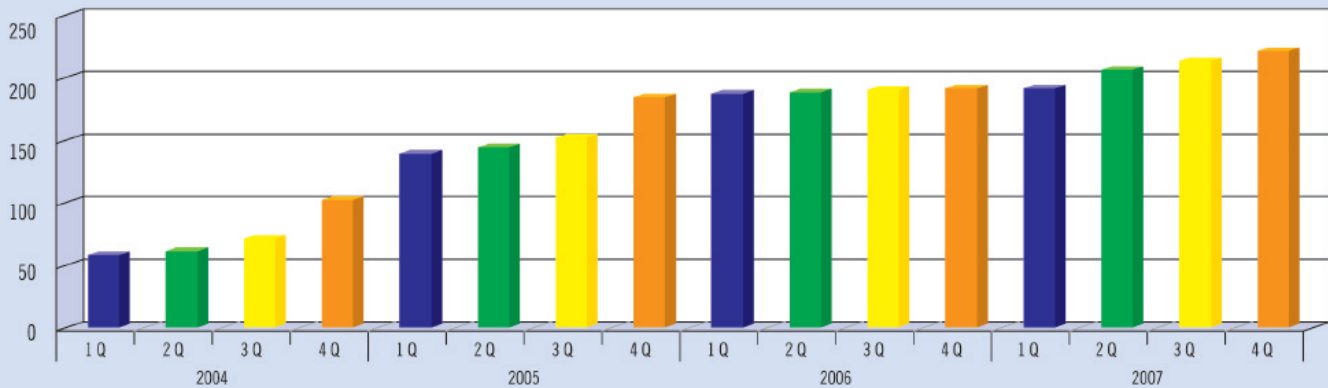
UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)

· The regulator has announced a plan to liberate, share or sell spectrum held by the government, its bodies and various public entities, including the Ministry of Defence. Ofcom hopes the agreements will free up some of the most valuable spectrum for new wireless services. An independent study conducted in 2005 indicated that the spectrum held by the public sector would have a market value of between 3 and 20 billion pounds (between 4 and 27 billion euros). **(+info)**

ROMANIA – Autoritatii Nationale pentru Reglementare in Comunicatii si Tehnologia Informatiei (ANRCTI)

· The regulator has published the decision establishing the technical and commercial conditions for the implementation of number portability.

■ EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES WITH CO-MINGLED OPERATORS – 4ᵀᴴ QUARTER 2007

2004				2005				2006				2007			
1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
58	61	71	102	139	144	152	184	187	188	190	191	191	206	213	221

☐ NATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST SPAM

A first work meeting between entities with relevant responsibilities in the fight against spam (unsolicited electronic mail) was held last 31 January on initiative of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*, through its Communications Security Office, and gathered the UMIC Knowledge Society Agency, the National Data Protection Commission (CNPD) and the Foundation for National Scientific Computation (FCCN). The aim is to establish a national anti-spam action plan.

☐ FREQUENCY USAGE RIGHTS FOR RTP ANALOGUE TV – CONSULTATION

By determination dated 3 January, ANACOM placed in public consultation until 19 February the draft decision that includes among the conditions associated to the frequency usage rights and to be included in the titles to issue to Portuguese Radio and Television (RTP) to exercise the activity of analogue television broadcasting, the recovery by this Authority, at no charge, of the frequencies in question. This decision follows on changes made to the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP), particularly the date for the switch-off of analogue system television emissions. All interested parties are asked to submit their comments in writing to the electronic address televisao@anacom.pt by 19 February. Note that the same kind of frequency recovery, also at no charge, was advised with respect to SIC and TVI by decision dated 6 July 2006, whereby it is now important to issue to RTP the respective frequency usage rights, associating to the corresponding titles, with due adjustments, the same conditions set for the other television operators. **(+info)**

■ IN FEBRUARY 2008

MEETINGS

CEPT
ECC
- WGFM (11-15)
- TG3 (18-20)
- CPG (20-22)
WG ITU Affairs
- PT WTSA08 (11-12)

IRG
Contact Network (7-8)
I/ERG – RSPG (27)
Plenary Meeting (28-29)

EU
Radio Spectrum Policy Group (11)

UPU
CA + Working group (4-6)

UIT
Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)
- TDAG (6-8)
Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)
- RAG (13-15)

IMSO
Advisory Committee (27-29)

CMT/ANACOM
High Level Meeting (11)

EVENTS

- *"Mobility & RFID" Conference*, Lisbon, 26

- *"Electrónica 2008" Competition*, Aveiro, 20 (ANACOM sponsorship)

- *Workshop "Pervasive Broadband Wireless Access – towards long term evolution"*, Lisbon, 19 (ANACOM sponsorship)

- *"World Mail & Express Americas" Conference* Puerto Vallarta (México), 25-26

- *Information Day on eContentPlus*, Kirchberg (Luxembourg), 19

- *"CEN StandarDays"*, Brussels, 14-15

- *"European ICT Standardisation Policy at a Crossroads: a new direction for global success"*, Brussels, 12

- *3GSM World Congress*, Barcelona, 11-14

- *First European 112 Day*, Brussels, 11

(+info, *Portuguese only*)