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□ ANACOM DISCLOSES QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF MOBILE NETWORKS AND SERVICES

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) released last 17 May the most recent studies evaluating the quality of mobile voice services (GSM), video-telephony (UMTS) and network coverage (GSM and WCDMA) provided by the operators Optimus (now Sonaecom), TMN and Vodafone Portugal. The study was conducted in urban areas and road arteries in mainland Portugal from 18 September to 19 October 2007 and indicates significant differences between the GSM and UMTS networks. The former show good coverage levels and good voice service performance, while the UMTS networks were at a distance, without good WCDMA coverage; some areas still had deficient or non-existent coverage, mainly along road arteries. Regarding the study done on the Portuguese Railways (CP) Alfa Pendular service between 18 February and 11 March 2008, major differences were also noted between the GSM and UMTS systems, with the former having better coverage and better voice service performance. (+info)

Meanwhile, a protocol was signed in Lisbon, also on 17 May, between the three mobile operators – TMN, Vodafone and Sonaecom (Optimus) – and the CP, with the aim of improving the service quality of mobile communications (voice and internet) on Alfa Pendular trains. The protocol implies an investment by the three companies on the order of 1 million euros and the installation of a number of GSM and UMTS signal repeaters in all carriages, which the mobile operators would be responsible for maintaining. It will be up to the CP to provide the spaces and power for them to operate. This initiative is the culmination of a negotiating process promoted by ANACOM and begun in 2005, in the wake of results from the studies on land mobile service quality conducted by this Authority, which identified major problems in the service the mobile operators provide on the CP's Alfa Pendular trains. (+info)

□ OFFER OF NEW COMMUNICATION SERVICES BY RADIOMÓVEL – FINAL DECISION

By determination dated last 28 May, ANACOM approved the final decision on the offer of new electronic communication services by Radiomóvel. Generally speaking, a decision was made to allow the use of the TMS-CDMA 450 MHz frequencies of Radiomóvel in the local access network for the provision of fixed telephone service (FTS) and nomad VoIP service. The company was also recognised to have the right to use the '2' numbering range of the National Numbering Plan (NNP) for FTS and the right to use the '30' numbering range for nomad VoIP service. It was also stipulated that Radiomóvel should maintain a registry of all FTS and associated BTS (base transceiver stations), and should submit to ANACOM a description of the technical process leading to BTS selection.

Also set were the obligations concerning the presentation of clear and transparent information to end users of the new Radiomóvel services. (+info)

Regarding Radiomóvel's licence to provide trunking mobile service (TMS, in Portuguese SMRP – *Serviços Móveis com Recursos Partilhados*), ANACOM decided by determination dated 16 April that the obligations set in the terms of licence no. ICP-ANACOM – 012/SMRP are compatible with the new regulatory framework transposed by Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February. A decision was thus made to proceed with specifying the general conditions associated to the TMS offer, the right to use frequencies and the use of NNP numbers. (+info)

■ PUBLIC CONSULTATION

INTRODUCTION OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BOARD AIRCRAFT

ANACOM has placed in public consultation until 17 June the draft decision concerning the introduction of mobile communication services on board aircraft (MCA) and definition of the respective authorisation type. Interested parties are asked to submit their comments in writing to the headquarters of this Authority, or electronically to the address MCA@anacom.pt. This draft decision broadly envisages modifying the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) to accommodate use of the 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz frequency bands for MCA services above altitudes of 3,000 metres and to authorise the operation of MCA services in the 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz frequency bands on a basis of non-protection and non-interference, subject to the general authorisation regime and in line with the provisions of the Electronic Communications Law (ECL). MCA service providers will also be subject to the fulfilment of conditions set out in section 1 of article 27 of the ECL and will be exempt from paying spectrum usage fees for frequency use. (+info)

■ CURRENT EVENTS

ANACOM SEMINAR – STUDY AND PRESENTATION

The study titled “An Empirical Analysis of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Diffusion” by Sangwon Lee and Mircea I. Marcu and the presentation given by the latter at the 15th meeting in the ANACOM Seminars series, held last 26 May in Lisbon, have been posted online. The study, including the respective premises and conclusions, is the exclusive responsibility of its authors, and neither binds nor conveys any position of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM).

(+info)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES

In the course of its oversight and sanctioning duties, ANACOM fined the companies FLEXIMÉDIA – *Serviços e Meios de Informação e Comunicação* and PT *Comunicações* for infringement of the Electronic Communications Law – they have contested by filing a judicial appeal. A decision to admonish was also applied to SOCO PONTI – *Sociedade de Construções da Pontinha* res judicata on 24 April. (+info, Portuguese only)

Also in an administrative offence case, ROBOT – *Telecomunicações, Projectos e Serviços* voluntarily paid the applied fine. The companies GLOBALTALK – *Serviços de Telecomunicações* and DELTA ONE PORTUGAL (branch) did not voluntarily pay the fine within the legal deadline; same were remitted for execution on 16 and 20 May, respectively. As for the official suspect AKMAL RASHID – *Comércio de Material Eléctrico, Unipessoal*, a penalty was applied for an offence of merely social nature in malicious form; as it did not judicially appeal this decision or voluntarily pay the applied fine, the case was remitted on 7 May to the Lisbon Commercial Court for execution. (+info, Portuguese only)

This Authority has meanwhile disclosed the decisions in administrative offence cases involving the companies PLURICANAL SANTARÉM – *Televisão por Cabo*, C3 Calling Card Company (Ireland) Limited, TVTEL *Comunicações*, CABOVISÃO – *Televisão por Cabo* and ENTRÓNICA – *Serviços na Área de Telecomunicações*. (+info, Portuguese only)

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICES – DECLARATIONS

ANACOM has issued declarations for the provision of specific electronic communication services to the following entities: OnAir N.V. (mobile communications on board aircraft), WING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS (voice services by internet (VoIP), internet access (ISP) and private virtual networks) and UNITELDATA (distribution network for public television emissions, fixed telephone services, VoIP, ISP and leased lines). (+info, Portuguese only)

PORTED NUMBERS

At the end of May there were a total of 985,750 ported numbers, of which 788,388 were fixed telephone service (FTS) numbers, 196,583 pertained to mobile telephone service (MTS) and 779 to non-geographic services (NGS).

(+info)

ADHESION CONTRACTS

ANACOM approved by order dated 19 May the adhesion contract of PT *Comunicações* to provide electronic communications service – ADSL VoIP service.

(+info, Portuguese only)

TITLES REVOKED BY ANACOM

By determination dated 16 April ANACOM revoked the frequency usage right for operation of the FWA (fixed wireless access) system of BROADMEDIA (former Broadnet Portugal). (+info, Portuguese only)

FPC 2008/2009 PRIZE – CANDIDATES ACCEPTED

The deadline for the submission work to be considered for the 2008/2009 prize

given by the Portuguese Foundation for Communications (FPC) is 31 December. This annual award recognises the best research work in the area of communications carried out by collaborators of organisations in the Association of Postal and Telecommunications Operators from the Portuguese-speaking Countries (AICEP) and the regulatory entities of those countries. Candidate information should be sent to the FPC headquarters on Rua do Instituto Industrial no. 16, 1200-225 Lisbon. Besides the prize, valued at 7,700 euros, a maximum of three honourable mentions may also be awarded, each with a value of 1,250 euros (amounts subject to income tax, at the rate of 35 percent withheld). (+info)

APDC – NEW DIRECTORS

The ceremony in which the new directors of the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC) took office was held on 28 May. The new team will be led by Diogo Vasconcelos, who occupies the position of president. Next generation networks (NGN) and the role of ICTs in energy efficiency are priority issues in APDC activities. Regarding the next Communications Congress, the new management has announced the following theme topic: climatic change, energy and information and communication technologies.

(+info, Portuguese only)

OBBERCOM – REPORT ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

Obercom – the Communications Observatory – recently released the study “Web 1.5: sociability networks between email and Web 2.0”, which examines the main instruments of the new social networks, specifically the most popular tools for communicating and interacting in real time – IM (instant messaging programmes), SOE (social online environment) and VoIP (voice over internet protocol). Based on data from the survey on “Online Society in Portugal 2006”, the study focuses on rates of use of IM, SOE and VoIP, the socio-demographic profile of their users and the degree and intensity of online interactions, among others. (+info, Portuguese only)

SIMPLEX – TARGETS UNTIL APRIL 2008

In the first control for the 2008 Simplex programme, up to 30 April, it was concluded that 80 percent of the 10 planned measures had been fulfilled, six included in the period forecast and two by anticipation. Overall and until the end of the year the programme envisages 189 simplification measures, 89 for citizens, 79 for companies and 21 for the public administration, with their completion concentrated in the last quarter of 2008. (+info, Portuguese only)

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND I.S. DAY

World Telecommunications and Information Society day was commemorated on 17 May, this year dedicated to the theme topic of “Connecting Disable Citizens: ICT opportunities for all”. The Portuguese Foundation for Communications (FPC) marked the event on 19 May in a ceremony attended by the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications, Mário Lino, and included presentation of the first volume of a research collection on “Documentary Sources Compiled by Godofredo Ferreira”, which was followed by the opening of an exhibition on “Military Telecommunications”.

ENTRY OF ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Some 177,000 tons of electric and electronic equipment (EEE) entered Portugal in 2007, corresponding to nearly 70 million devices. The data is from the National Association for the Registry of Electric and Electronic Equipment, which also indicates growth of 30 percent over 2006. Of total EEE, 31.7 percent corresponds to lighting materials, 28.2 percent to computer and telecommunications equipment, and 12.2 percent to toys and sports and leisure equipment.

□ ACCESS AND INTERCONNECTION – RIO 2008 APPROVED

By determination dated 16 May, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the final decision on conditions for the proposed reference interconnection offer (RIO) to be in force in 2008. Under the terms of this decision, PT *Comunicações* (PTC) should amend the RIO 2008 to introduce the changes in question, mostly concerning prices. Among others, the following top prices (without VAT) are set: at local level, 0.49 euro cents for call activation,

0.38 euro cents per minute during the normal period and 0.19 euro cents during the economy period (all in force from 12 March). PTC must also transmit to ANACOM detailed information the services and cost items used to obtain the figures it presented for the prices of the billing and charging services and bad debt liability. (+info)

□ QUALITY OF SERVICE – DISPUTE BETWEEN SONAECOM AND PTC

ANACOM ruled in a draft decision dated 30 April to dismiss the Sonaecom request to force PTC to pay an amount as compensation for non-compliance in 2006 with the applicable deadlines for re-establishment of service (repair of problems) with respect to the reference unbundling offer (RUO) and the leased lines reference offer (LLRO), as well as the request for the payment of back

and due delinquent interest on the amount in question. Also dismissed were the searches for proof requested by Sonaecom, on 15 April, as same were deemed to be neither useful nor necessary to establish the facts pertaining to the decision. The process of prior hearing of interested parties has begun per the terms of the Code of Administrative Procedure. (+info)

□ ELECTRONIC FORMS FOR ANACOM SERVICES – USE IN 2007

The use of the ANACOM services' electronic forms in 2007 recorded growth of 19.4 percent over the previous year, for a total of 1,741 forms versus the 1,457 in 2006. Standing out among the received electronic forms are those concerning telecommunications infrastructures in buildings and citizens band (CB),

which respectively account for 38 and 58 percent of the total received in 2007. The 1,741 forms mentioned represent 27 percent of all solicitations received for such services, which rose to 6,385. (+info)

□ 1ST QUARTER 2008 STATISTICAL DATA RELEASED

ANACOM has released first quarter 2008 statistical information for the following services: fixed telephone (FTS), mobile telephone (MTS), subscription TV signal

distribution, internet access (IAS) and postal (PS). The data is posted online and in the statistical supplement accompanying this edition. (+info)

□ CONVENTIONS ON PRICES AND QUALITY OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE

By determinations dated 21 and 28 May, ANACOM approved the principles to obey when producing the texts of the Conventions on Prices and Quality of Universal Postal Service to be signed by this Authority and the CTT – *Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service). A decision was also made to send to that

provider the draft text of the said conventions drafted in light of the said principles, for consolidation with the CTT, with a view to forwarding same later to the consumer organisations for their consideration.

□ ANACOM IN PARLIAMENT

The presentation given by ANACOM President José Amado da Silva on 4 June to the 6th Parliamentary Committee – Committee on Economic Issues, Innovation and Regional Development has been posted online. This Authority's presence in

Parliament was one of a number of hearings of various regulatory bodies associated to the consumer defence policy. (+info)

■ INFRASTRUCTURE IN BLDGS. SEMINAR IN LISBON – 24 JULY

The Auditorium of the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the University of Lisbon will serve as venue this coming 24 June at 2:30 p.m. for the last event in the seminar cycle on issues concerning the regime governing telecommunications infrastructures in buildings (the Portuguese acronym is ITED) promoted by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM). Participation in the event is free though subject to prior registration on the ANACOM website, preferably up to two days before the date of same. The theme topic of the seminars is "Training and Good Practices in ITED" and aim to encourage discussion and clarification of issues concerning the ITED regime, fostering good practices in their application. Faro hosted the first seminar on 21 May, followed by one in Oporto on 4 June. (+info)

□ ANACOM ISSUES LICENCE TO USE RTP FREQUENCIES

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved by determination dated 16 April the issue of titles that assign Portuguese Radio-Television (RTP) the rights to use frequencies to conduct the activity of analogue television broadcasting associated to the programming services of RTP1, RTP2, RTP Azores and RTP Madeira. The rights for RTP1, RTP Azores and RTP Madeira are in force for the duration of the general concession contract for public television service, which expires on 27 August 2019. The frequency usage right for RTP2

is in force for the duration of the special concession contract that expires on 27 August 2011. In either case, these deadlines do not jeopardise any changes that may be introduced in the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP), particularly those deriving from the date set for the switch-off of analogue system television emissions, a situation in which ANACOM will recover, at no charge whatsoever, the frequency usage rights in question. **(+info)**

□ QUESTIONNAIRE ON ACTION FIGHTING SPAM – UP TO 16 JUNE

With a view to stimulating future actions to fight unsolicited communications (spam) and in co-operation with the other entities involved in this issue, ANACOM has launched a questionnaire meant to diagnose the current situation of the fight against spam, particularly addressed to the internet service providers

(ISP) and email service providers (ESP). The responses should be submitted by 16 June by email to combatespam@anacom.pt or on paper to the following address: ANACOM, GSC – Gabinete de Segurança das Comunicações, Avenida José Malhoa, n.º 12, 1099-017 Lisboa. **(+info)**

□ CHANGES TO THE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES LAW – ANACOM ANALYSIS

Law no. 12/2008 of 26 February amending the Essential Public Services Law (Law no. 23/96 of 26 July) took force on 26 May. Given that the Electronic Communications Law (Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February) removed fixed telephone service from the scope of application of the Essential Public Services Law and that Law no. 12/2008 now includes all communications services (electronic and postal) in the scope of that instrument, ANACOM has made public its analysis of

the impact those changes will have on the legal regime applicable to communications services. **(+info)**

Meanwhile, Law no. 24/2008 was published in the *Diário da República* (official gazette) on 2 June. It is the second amendment of Law no. 23/96 of 26 July, but does not affect the ANACOM analysis. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

□ PORTUGAL EFFICIENT IN BROADBAND

Portugal obtained the third best performance in 30 OECD countries in the degree of efficiency adopting broadband, indicates the Technological Plan Office, citing the Broadband Efficiency Index (BEI) included in the study “What Really Drives Broadband Adoption Across the OECD?”, produced and disclosed by the Phoenix

Center Portugal. The BEI measures the efficiency of broadband adoption in the OECD countries, considering the demographic and economic characteristics of those countries that affect the process. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

□ DISCLOSURE OF THE NATIONAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX

The Portuguese Quality Institute will host on 20 June at Monte da Caparica a seminar to disclose results of the 2007 Portugal ECSI – National Customer Satisfaction Index, an indicator that assesses the following activity sectors: banking, fuel, communications, power, insurance and passenger transport. ANACOM is the study’s exclusive sponsor regarding the communications sector

and will be represented by board member Eduardo Cardadeiro, who will give a presentation on the role the disclosure of satisfaction indicators plays in the strategy to protect consumer interests and promote the quality of services.

(+info, Portuguese only)

■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Law no. 24/2008** (Series I – *Diário da República* of 2 June) – Second modification of Law no. 23/96 of 26 July, which establishes in the legal order some mechanisms meant to protect users of essential public services.
- **Order no. 14932/2008** (Series II – D.R. of 29 May) – Fee due for ANACOM’s act of allocating a nationwide frequency usage right to offer public terrestrial service.
- **Decree-Law no. 82/2008** (Series I – D. R. of 20 May) – Amends and republishes Decree-Law no. 143/2001 of 26 April, which transposed into the internal legal order Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May, concerning consumer protection in matters of distance contracts, also regulating domicile and similar contracts as well as other contract modes for the supply of goods and services.

(+info, Portuguese only)

□ EUROPEAN UNION

EC URGES PROMOTION OF '112'

With the aim of encouraging use of the European 112 emergency number, The European Commission (EC) has set up a new website (www.ec.europa.eu/112) that shows citizens how to use 112 and what services can be accessed by same, especially when travelling in the EU. The website also shows how 112 works in each member State, specifically in terms of access, call handling speed, available languages and caller finding. For example, in the Czech Republic, Spain and United Kingdom, at least 97 percent of calls to 112 are answered within 20 seconds; in the Netherlands and Finland at least 71 percent are answered in 10 seconds. The new website also reveals the problems found in some member States, such as Bulgaria, which faces infringement proceedings because 112 is not available throughout the territory. Other examples are the inability to localise calls to 112 made from mobile telephones, which led to infringement proceedings against six countries, or the failure to report the call answer times once connections were made in nine countries. (+info)

EC PUBLISHES BALANCE ON '116' RANGE

The European Commission recently released a report on the status of implementation in the EU member States of numbers beginning with 116, reserved for co-ordinated social services. Available information indicates that 23 countries have completed the preparatory work for allocating the following numbers: 116000 "hotline for missing children", 116111 "child helplines" and 116123 "emotional support helplines". Of these, six member States adopted the number 116000 while six have also implemented 116111, among them Portugal. The number 116123 has been allocated in four member States. (+info)

ELECTRONIC IDENTITY – EC ANNOUNCES PROJECT

The European Commission announced last 30 May a pilot project on transnational recognition of national electronic identity systems (eID) such as the Portuguese Citizen Card, so as to enable easy access to public services in 13 member States. The EC plan consists of co-ordinating and linking these systems without replacing them, in a project expected to last three years. It will be financed by 10 million euros from the Commission and a similar sum from the group of interested participating partners, Portugal among them. Known as STORK (Secure idenTity acROSS boRders linKed), this large scale pilot project aims to

implement electronic identity recognition in the EU, allowing citizens and civil servants to use their national electronic identities in any member State. The project will be open to other countries and will test some of the more useful electronic identity services, determining a number of common specifications that permit recognition of different national electronic identities among the participants. Note that in the EU space about 30 million citizens use national electronic identity cards to access a variety of public services. (+info)

HARMONISATION OF THE 3400-3800 MHZ BAND

The European Commission adopted last 21 May a decision on harmonising the 3400-3800 MHz band for terrestrial systems able to supply electronic communication services in the European Union (EU). This decision specifically stipulates that six months after taking effect the EU member States must designate and make available the 3400-3600 MHz band for terrestrial electronic communication services (fixed, nomad and mobile applications), according to the criteria annexed to the decision. For the 3600-3800 MHz frequency band the deadline has been extended to 1 January 2012. In both cases, the countries should assure adequate protection for the adjacent bands. (+info)

STUDY ON THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET

The EC Directorate General for Information Society and Media recently released a report with information a wide range of European projects in the area of research on information and communication technologies (ICTs) conducted under the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. Titled "The Future of the Internet", the document covers six major areas: future networks, service architectures, networked media systems, internet of things, security and experimental test infrastructures. (+info)

ENISA – STUDY ON SECURITY OF SERVICES

The European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) recently released a study on technical and organisational measures applied by electronic communication service providers to make those services secure and fight unsolicited communications (spam). The study is based on results of a survey submitted to the service providers and national regulatory authorities. (+info)

■ OJEU

- **Decision 2008/411/EC** – Of the Commission of 21 May 2008, concerning harmonisation of the 3400-3800 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems able to supply electronic communication services in the Community. Published on 4 June.
- **Communication (2008/C136/01)** – Of the Commission, in the scope of execution of Directive 1999/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 1999 concerning radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment and mutual recognition of their conformity. Published on 3 June.
- **Decision 2008/383/EC** – Of the Commission of 30 April 2008, which exempts priority and express mail services in Italy from the application of Directive 2004/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning the co-ordination of processes to award contracts in the water, power, transports and postal services sectors. Published on 22 May.

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

ECC WG SE

Nicosia (Cyprus) hosted last 5-9 May the 50th meeting of the Spectrum Engineering working group (WG SE), attended by 55 participants. [\(+info\)](#)

ECC WG RA

Riga (Latvia) served as venue last 6-9 May for the 14th meeting of the working group on Regulatory Affairs (WG RA). [\(+info\)](#)

ERO/ETO JOINT COUNCIL

The Councils of Administration of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) and the European Telecommunications Office (ETO) held a joint meeting

last 14-15 March in Copenhagen. [\(+info\)](#)

CERP – PLENARY MEETING

The plenary meeting of the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) was held last 15-16 May in Riga. [\(+info\)](#)

CERP – PT UPU

The Universal Postal Union project team (PT UPU) of CERP's Policy Issues working group met last 28 May in Lisbon to discuss proposals for the UPU Congress. [\(+info\)](#)

□ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The second IRG General Assembly was held last 29 May in Vilnius (Lithuania). [\(+info\)](#)

PT INTERNATIONAL ROAMING

Paris hosted on 22 April a meeting of the project team (PT) on International Roaming. [\(+info\)](#)

CONTACT NETWORK

The Contact Network met last 8-9 May in Bucharest. [\(+info\)](#)

EMERG

A meeting to prepare for the formal signing ceremony to establish the European Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG) was held on 26-29 May in Malta. [\(+info\)](#)

□ EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP (ERG)

Vilnius hosted an ERG meeting on 29-30 May. Highlights included adoption of the snapshot on mobile termination charges, presentation of provisional

results on application of the international roaming regulation and approval of the Group's position, to be forwarded to the European Commission, on the eventual recommendation on termination charges. [\(+info\)](#)

□ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ITU-R/STUDY GROUP 6 – WP 6D

Working party 6D (WP 6D) of Study Group 6 of the Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R) met last 13-19 May in Geneva. [\(+info\)](#)

MEETING ON WSIS ACTION LINES

Geneva also hosted on 19-21 May the third joint ITU meeting on action lines C2, C4 and C6 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). [\(+info\)](#)

ITU-T/STUDY GROUP 2

Study Group 2 of the Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) also met in Geneva, last 6-15 May. [\(+info\)](#)

TELECOM AFRICA 2008

Telecom Africa 2008 took place last 12-15 May in Cairo. The theme topic of the ITU initiative this year was "ICTs in Africa: a continent on the move". [\(+info\)](#)

□ UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

CSTD

The 11th meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development

(CSTD), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held on 26-30 May in Geneva. [\(+info\)](#)

□ RECRUITMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Applications for the temporary vacancy of Administrator – Information Technologies Professional, in the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM), based in the Spanish city of Alicante, may be submitted until 16 June. [\(+info\)](#)

Applications for vacancies of the European Data Protection Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor, based in Brussels, will be accepted until 24 June. [\(+info\)](#)

The ITU, a United Nations specialised agency based in Geneva, is also recruiting until 29 July candidates for the vacant position of Head, Terrestrial Services Department. [\(+info\)](#)

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY – *Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA)*

- The regulator warns that the allocation of frequencies for CT1+ and CT2 cordless telephones ends on 31 December 2008 and that such devices may not be used after that date. **(+info)**
- Various measures have been announced against three Austrian companies operating under the Friedrich Müller brand, accused of conducting unsolicited telephone communications (spam). The BNetzA measures include deactivation of 14 call numbers and blocking billing and data collection. **(+info)**
- BNetzA has disclosed the rates to apply to the new IP bitstream access wholesale product of Deutsche Telekom. **(+info)**
- Annual statistics have been released on telephone intercepts in 2007, conducted under the criminal procedure law. **(+info)**

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

- The regulator has published its decision on the electronic communication service providers' obligations to publish online comparable, appropriate and updated information concerning quality. **(+info)**

BRAZIL – *Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)*

- The allocation of licences to use radio channels to provide radio taxi services in the 33 MHz, 34 MHz, 38 MHz, 39 MHz, 152-174 MHz, 243-257 MHz and 460 MHz bands in all Brazilian municipalities has been placed in public consultation until 30 June. **(+info, Portuguese only)**
- April 2008 recorded annual year-on-year growth of 167 percent in mobile telephone service (MTS), for a total of 1,931,693 new subscriptions – the most adhesions in the year and the second highest number in the last ten years. Brazil thus reached a total of 127.7 million MTS subscribers, of whom 103.3 million (80.85 percent) use prepaid modes and 24.4 million (19.15 percent) postpaid, accounting for a service penetration rate of 66.84 percent.

(+info, Portuguese only)

CANADA – *Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)*

- The regulator has launched a first consultation on the subject of broadcasting/transmission in the new media environment, aiming to gather public opinion on the scope of the public consultation to be launched in early 2009. Interested parties are asked to submit their comments by 11 July. They may also post their opinions online on a website created for that purpose and which will be available until 15 June. At the same time, the CRTC released a compilation of research and opinions on the subject of broadcasting/transmission in the new media environment, titled "Perspectives on Canadian Broadcasting in New Media". **(+info)**

SPAIN – *Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)*

- The regulator has published a study on broadband prices in Spain, specifically concluding that the best voice broadband offer, in most representative access speed (between 2 and 10 Mbps) is 20.8 percent cheaper than the European average (expressed in purchase power parity). **(+info, Spanish only)**
- Broadband figures for March 2008 have been released. They indicate the existence of 8.4 million connections, accounting for annual year-on-year growth of 18.1 percent and a penetration rate of 18.6 accesses per 100 inhabitants. Most connections (6.7 million) use DSL technology. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- The CMT has decided to allow the alternative operators to access Telefónica

conduits in order to boost the development of fibre optics and foster competition in infrastructures that support next generation networks. The measure will be in force until the regulator finishes analysing markets 4 and 5 (formerly markets 11 and 12 – wholesale broadband markets) and sets the definitive obligations, planned for late 2008. **(+info, Spanish only)**

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

- The first balance on the introduction of third generation mobile telephony in the French overseas departments has been published. It envisages that by 2013 the service will reach 70 percent of the population. **(+info)**
- The study on the digital dividend conducted at ARCEP's request by the consultancy firms Analysys Consulting and Hogan & Hartson has been released.

(+info, French only)

- The regulator has published a synthesis with main provisions of the "Chatel" law of 3 January 2008, which apply to consumers of electronic communication services from 1 June on. **(+info, French only)**

- At the end of March France had 16.225 million broadband internet connections, of which 15.475 million were access via ADSL technology.

(+info, French only)

The NETHERLANDS – *Onafhankelijke Post en Telecommunicatie Autoriteit (OPTA)*

- The regulator has published the activities report for 2007, in which it reviews its intervention and the results obtained, while at the same time reflecting on the evolution of competition and market trends. **(+info)**

IRELAND – *Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)*

- The regulator has placed in public consultation until 24 June the contracting of a study to determine the technical implications of liberalising the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands, bearing in mind the conditions contained in the current GSM licences (including the dates they expire). **(+info)**

- ComReg has disclosed the quality standards to be followed by the incumbent operator Eircom when providing universal telephone service. **(+info)**

- The most recent data on Eircom's performance regarding compliance with its universal service obligations have been posted. **(+info)**

- The regulator has made public its response to the European Commission consultation on mobile communications on board aircraft. **(+info)**

UNITED KINGDOM – *Office of Communications (Ofcom)*

- The regulator published last 5 June a new good practices code that aims for the internet service providers (ISP) to provide clearer information about broadband connection speeds. A total of 37 ISPs accounting for more than 90 percent of broadband customers have agreed to follow the new code. **(+info)**

- The list of 80 television channels that must supply access services (subtitling, audio description, etc.) in 2009 has been released. **(+info)**

- Ofcom has placed in public consultation until 8 August its proposal to revise the prices Openreach can charge operators for the wholesale supply of telecommunications services. **(+info)**

- The regulator's third annual study on the television, radio and telecommunications markets has been published, which provides information at the level of the regions and nations (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) comprising the United Kingdom. **(+info)**

■ PORTUGUESE CANDIDACY FOR ITSO DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Portuguese government recently proposed the candidacy of José Toscano, the current external relations director of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (ITSO) for the position of the organisation's director general. An engineer by training, José Toscano has been active in the telecommunications sector for more than 25 years, both nationally and internationally. He has worked for ITSO, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) and the European Commission, as well as in private enterprise, at university and in various regional and international regulatory bodies, in the scope of the European Union, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), among others. Given his current position at ITSO, his long years of high level international experience, and his leading role in numerous governmental negotiations, the Portuguese candidate is highly qualified for the job and his candidacy is a solid contribution to the development of global satellite communications. Note that the second term of the current director general, Ahmed Toumi, is reaching its end and that the next Assembly of Parties, to be held in Estoril this coming 6-10 October, should elect a new leader. (+info)

□ EU WANTS 25% TO BE IPv6 USERS IN 2010

The main goal the European Commission (EC) sets out in a 27 May 2008 Communication on the action plan for IPv6 implementation in Europe is for 25 percent of European users (public administrations, companies and individuals) to adopt version 6 of the internet protocol (IPv6) by 2010. According to the EC, the transition should be made without major differences vis-à-vis services and content provided by the protocol's current version, IPv4, which carries 4.3 billion

addresses, of which only 700 million (16 percent) remain available. The Communication, titled "Advancing the Internet – action plan for the deployment of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) in Europe", the EC establishes a number of measures to develop IPv6, which has an almost limitless number of addresses. (+info)

□ OECD RELEASES BROADBAND STATISTICS

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has released the latest "Broadband Statistics", a report on the current status of broadband evolution in the organisation's member countries at the end of December 2007. Noteworthy among the main conclusions are the annual growth in the number of broadband subscribers in the OECD countries, which reached 18 percent, for a total of 235 million (there were 200 million subscribers in Decem-

ber 2006). This rise brought the broadband penetration rate up to 20 percent, versus the previous 16.9 percent (December 2006). Another report was also published, titled "Broadband Growth and Policies in OECD Countries", which examines broadband's evolution since 2004 and national plans to promote its growth in all the organisation's countries. (+info)

■ IN JUNE 2008

MEETINGS

CEPT

Assembly (5-6)
ECC (23-27)
- WG SE PT 42 (11-12)
- TG4 (17-19)
CERP
- PT UPU (24)

IRG

PT 2006 Review (11)

EU

RSPG (4)

ITU

WTPF EG (24)
Council
- MBG (25)
Radiocommunications Sector (UIT-R)
- Study Group 1/ WP 1A (18-24)
Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (UIT-T)
- ITR EG (26-1/7)

OECD

Ministerial meeting (17-18)
ICCP (19)

EVENTS

- *ECTA Next Generation Access Workshop: High speed Europe... policies and strategies to boost fibre penetration*, Brussels, 25
- *eGovernment & eHealth*, Lisbon, 24-25
- *Conference Next Generation TV*, Lisbon, 24-25
- *FMCA Interoperability Week, Sophia Antipolis* (France), 23-26
- *The Consumer in the Information Society* 19 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- *21st Annual Western Conference*, Monterey (USA), 18-20
- *CommunicAsia2008*, Singapore, 17-20
- *Symposium to accompany the ITU on ICTs and environmental changes* London, 17-18
- *OECD Ministerial Meeting on the future of the digital economy*, Seoul, (South Korea), 17-18
- *APDC dinner-debate*, Lisbon, 5 (ANACOM sponsorship)
- *ETSI Workshop on Effects of Transmission Performance on Multi-media QoS*, Prague, 17-19
- *15th International Conference on Telecommunications* St Petersburg, 16-19
- *International Conference on Communication and Media (iCOME '08)* Kuala Lumpur, 14-16

(+info, Portuguese only)