

P 2 : NATIONAL NEWS

P 3 : COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY ANACOM IN 2008

P 5 : EUROPEAN UNION

P 7 : NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

P 8 : 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2008 STATISTICS DISCLOSED

P 8 : NGN – NEW INSTRUMENT IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## □ REGULATORY APPROACH TO NEW ACCESS NETWORKS

By determination dated 18 February, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the report on the regulatory approach to next generation access networks (NGNs), which joins analysis of the responses received in the public consultation to which the document was subject and a summary of ANACOM's fundamental position. In the end, the most general conclusion that can be drawn from the public consultation is the existence of two radically different positions on NGN regulation. While the historic operator defends an almost entire break with the currently prevailing regulatory logic, the alternative operators seek to extend it, with almost no changes, to the development of NGNs. In the search for a balanced solution in terms of regulation goals, more open to future developments, ANACOM will have to establish clear guidelines.

Given the significance of conduit access to developing NGNs, ANACOM recognises that it is important for such access to be processed according to the equivalence principle, i.e., PT Comunicações must supply access to its infrastructure in the same conditions to itself, PT subsidiaries or third parties. This obligation of access equivalence, which implies equivalent information access, response and supply deadlines, and publicity of performance levels, is particularly relevant in a phase where both the regulated operator and the other operators will very likely

subject such infrastructures to more intense usage, should they decide to install fibre optics for access.

Also standing out among these guidelines is the approach, eventually supported in the analysis of markets 4 and 5, in which in addition to obligations of non-discrimination and transparency, associated to the transition from the models based on local loop unbundling (LLU) to those based on NGNs: i) in competitive areas only conduit access is imposed, with improvements and access equivalence, with other obligations imposed (access to own fibre or dark fibre) only when there is no space in conduits – as a last recourse, when there is agreement between the parties involved, the alternative to own fibre or dark fibre by means of a virtual network access may be chosen; and ii) in non-competitive areas, in addition to conduit access, also imposed is access to the own optic fibre or dark fibre and virtual network access (advanced bitstream).

This approach must nevertheless be basically understood as a departure point, given that this Authority's eventual determinations with respect to NGNs (as with others) complies with the consultation procedures set out in Law no. 5/2004 of 10 February and in some cases require that the European Commission be notified previously. (+info)

## ■ APPROVED REGULATIONS – PORTABILITY (MODIFICATION) AND E112

By determination dated 4 February, ANACOM approved the regulation amending the Portability Regulation (Regulation no. 58/2005 of 18 August), published in Series II of the *Diário da República* (DR – official gazette) of 18 February as Regulation no. 87/2009. Some of its rules have been in effect since 4 March; Regulation no. 87/2009 will nevertheless only take full effect three months after the update and publication of the Portability Specification on the ANACOM website. The following stand out among the changes: the eligibility of new numbering ranges for portability; shorter times associated to the process; establishment of a maximum period of three working days for end users in the case of mobile number portability; strengthened verification of the portability request signatory's identity; simplification of the causes for denying portability; increased daily portability capacity; the possibility of keeping the number for subscribers who are clients of a company that drops the service; the setting of a maximum price, equal to the one indicated in the reference interconnection offer (RIO) – the price of porting an individual number currently stands at 4.01 euros (without VAT) – and which will be paid by the operator who receives the customer to the operator who cedes the customer with number portability; and the introduction of compensations for cases of undue portability, service interruption or failure to comply with mobile telephone service deadlines.

(+info, Portuguese only)

Also on 4 February, ANACOM approved the E112 Regulation, published in Series II of the DR of 23 February as Regulation no. 99/2009, which establishes the principles and rules to be followed by the operators of publicly accessible telephone networks and services when providing emergency services with information on the location of callers to the European single emergency number 112. Also approved was the report from the consultation on the respective draft regulation. The instrument took force on 2 March. (+info)

## NEWS

**LMS TENDER 450-470 MHz – BONDS**

By determination dated 18 February the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) ratified the order dated 13 February in which it dismissed the request by RNT-*Rede Nacional de Telecomunicações* to extend the deadline for complying with the obligations to increase the provisional bond and provide the bond concerning the development of information society projects, both envisaged in Regulation no. 474/2008 of 22 August – regulation of the public tender to allocate a nationwide frequency usage right for the offer of publicly accessible land mobile service. (+info)

**STUDY ON “e-INITIATIVES”**

The work titled “e-Initiatives – study on its take-up and impact” has been published, produced by the Studies and Forecasting Office of ANACOM per its duties to advise the government and monitor the market by conducting studies concerning development of the information society. The document’s main aim is to study the impact of e-initiatives (encompassing the e-opportunities, e-school and e-teacher actions launched by the government in June 2007) and evaluate the associated policies, which involve the adhesion to and use of communication technologies (specifically broadband). (+info)

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES**

Upon verification that TMN-*Telecomunicações Móveis Nacionais* had failed to comply with any of the determinations addressed to same by ANACOM, according to which it should send to this Authority a copy of the contract signed with the CTT-*Correios de Portugal* (Portuguese postal service) to access the former’s mobile network, a document considered indispensable for analysis of market 15, TMN was fined the amount of 75,000 euros. As it did not agree with this action, the company lodged a judicial appeal of the ruling on 22 January.

(+info, Portuguese only)

**COMMUNICATION SERVICES – DECLARATIONS ISSUED**

ANACOM issued in an order dated 10 December 2008 the declaration allowing the company CORED-*Comunicações e Serviços em Rede* to offer a public telecommunications network, as well as the offer of voice over internet, internet access and virtual private network services. (+info)

**ANACOM PRESENTATION**

The presentation in English by ANACOM Chairman José Amado da Silva on “The Fibre Challenge: ensuring a level playing field” has been posted online. It was given during his speech in the parallel session on “Regulation in Europe. Quo Vadis?” of the annual conference of the Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) Council Europe, held last 11-12 February in Copenhagen. (+info)

At the same event it was announced that the next FTTH Council Europe will be held in February 2010 in Lisbon, and count for that purpose on sponsorship from ANACOM. Note that the FTTH Council Europe is an organisation that promotes the availability of broadband access networks supported by optic fibre, which enable a flow of new services to consumers and companies. (+info)

Also available now are the statements made to the Lusa news agency on 26 February by ANACOM board member José Ferrari Careto following the release of the final report from the consultation on the regulatory approach to next generation access networks (NGNs). (+info)

**DIGITAL TELEVISION – GLOSSARY**

The ANACOM website now contains a glossary on digital television, enabling an integrated knowledge of some of the terms and concepts associated to that subject. (+info, Portuguese only)

**TCOM INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS – DEVELOPMENTS**

An order dated 13 February approved the registration of NWC Network Concept and Electricpoint *Engenharia* as certifiers for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings. On 11 February Domodelta-*Instalações Electrotécnicas* was also approved as an ITED certifier. (+info, Portuguese only)

**PORTED NUMBERS**

The total number of ported numbers stood at 1,191,533 at the end of February, of which 956,626 pertained to fixed telephone service, 234,011 to mobile telephone service and 896 to non-geographic services. (+info)

**OECD/ANACOM WORKSHOP – PRESENTATIONS**

The speech by the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications, Mário Lino and the presentations given at the workshop jointly organised by the OECD and ANACOM on Statistical Indicators of Postal Services Provided by Mobile/Wireless Technologies and held last 19-20 February in Lisbon are now available. (+info, Portuguese only)

**STUDY ON VIRTUAL FUNCTIONAL SEPARATION**

By determination dated 4 February, ANACOM approved the final report from the public tender to acquire a study on vertical functional separation in the electronic communications sector, whose launch was approved by determination dated 11 December 2008. The study was awarded to the company Oxera Consulting.

(+info, Portuguese only)

**ERC BARS APPLICANTS FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> TV CHANNEL**

The Regulatory Board of the Media Regulatory Council (ERC-*Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social*) decided last 19 February to propose the exclusion of two applications presented in the public tender regarding the licence for a nationwide broad-ranging programming service with unconditioned free access, as same did not fulfil the legal and regulatory requirements for admission to the tender. The tenderers may now express their position with respect to this proposed decision in the prior hearing of interested parties, per the terms of articles 100 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. (+info)

**FAMILY ICT USE: 2005 TO 2008**

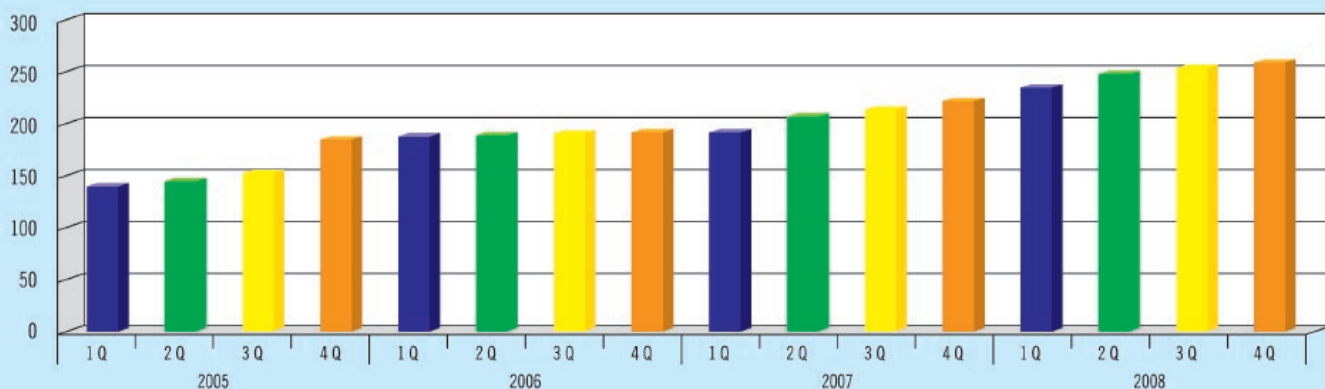
This report from the National Statistics Institute presents main results of the survey on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by families comprising at least one individual between 16 and 74 years of age, living in primary residence family households. The study reveals, for example, that in the first quarter of 2008 some 96.6 percent of individuals between 10 and 15 years old used computers and 92.7 percent the internet, while mobile telephone use stood at 84.6 percent. (+info)

**INFORMATION SOCIETY IN PORTUGAL IN 2008**

The UMIC-Knowledge Society Agency released last 9 February the latest data gathered in the annual compilation on the information society in Portugal. The published information encompasses electronic communications, the population and ICTs, e-government, ICT education and training, and ICTs in hospitals and companies. It was carried out in collaboration with the National Statistics Institute (INE), with additional data provided by the following entities: ANACOM; the Education and Statistics Planning Office (GEPE) of the Ministry of Education; and the Directorate of Higher Education Statistical Information Services (DSIEES) of the Office of Planning, Strategy, Evaluation and International Relations (GPEAR) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education. (+info)

## ■ EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES WITH CO-MINGLED OPERATORS – 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2008

2005				2006				2007				2008			
1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
139	144	152	184	187	188	190	191	191	206	213	221	234	247	253	258



## □ ANACOM RECEIVES NEARLY 34,000 COMPLAINTS IN 2008

In 2008 the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* received in writing 33,814 complaints, 421 information requests, 123 petitions, 34 suggestions and 287 communications of other kinds, for a total of 34,679 solicitations addressed to this authority. Compared to 2007, the overall volume of complaints in 2008 increased on the order of 36 percent, largely due to the constant increase in the volume of complaints book pages. As in previous years, most complaints concerned situations involving the electronic communications sector (79 percent) and postal sector (20 percent). In the former, the highest number of complaints per 1,000 customers concerned internet access service, followed by fixed telephone service and cable television distribution service. As for the postal sector, most complaints involved mail service (about half the total volume of complaints). Note also that 7,319 solicitations were registered in the ANACOM

public attendance services, of which 6,622 corresponded to complaints and the remaining 697 to information requests. The vast majority of solicitations were presented over the telephone and concerned electronic communications; fixed telephone service was the object of most complaints. (+info)

Regarding ANACOM's online attendance, 2008 data indicate that in that year 1,711 electronic forms were received which involved the postal services provided by this Authority to its clients (ANACOM services). The solicitations submitted electronically accounted for 27 percent of the total for such services (6,264 solicitations); the services most affected were Personal Radio Service/Citizen Band (CB) and the system governing telecommunications infrastructures in buildings, respectively corresponding to 61.7 percent and 32 percent of the 1,711 forms received electronically. (+info)

## ■ NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

- **Presidential Decree no. 11/2009 and Resolution of Parliament no. 5/2009** (Series I – *Diário da República* of 26 February) – Approve and ratify the amendments to the Convention for Creation of the European Radiocommunication Office (ERO), as well as the Convention for Creation of the European Communications Office (ECO), resulting from these amendments, adopted by the ERO Council in Copenhagen on 9 April 2002.
- **Regulation no. 99/2009** (Series II – D.R. of 23 February) – Concerning provision to the authorities responsible for emergency services of information about the location of callers to the European single emergency number 112 (E112 Regulation).
- **Notice no. 4006/2009** (Series II/Part E – D.R. of 19 February) – Concerning provision of the statement of conformity of the cost accounting system of CTT-*Correios de Portugal*, SA, for financial years 2005 and 2006.
- **Regulation no. 87/2009** (Series II – D.R. of 18 February) – Modifies Regulation no. 58/2005 of 18 August (Portability Regulation).
- **Notice no. 3911/2009** (Series II – D.R. of 18 February) – Concerning the provision of reports on the quality system for universal postal service supplied by CTT-*Correios de Portugal*, SA, in the years 2006 and 2007.
- **Rectification Declaration no. 16-A/2009** (Series I/2<sup>nd</sup> Supplement – D.R. of 13 February) – Rectifies Administrative Rule no. 1473-B/208 of 17 December, which approves the fees due for the issuance of declarations verifying rights, the practice of the activity of electronic communications network and service supplier, the allocation of frequency and number usage rights, and radio spectrum usage, as well as other fees due to ANACOM, published in the *Diário da República*, Series I, no. 243, supplement, of 17 December 2008.

## ■ OPERATORS/PROVIDERS OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

### Operators/Providers of Electronic Communications Networks and Services

	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
<b>Operators of Electronic Communications Networks (ECN)</b>		
Cable Distribution Networks (CDN)	15	12
Other Electronic Communication Networks (c)	33	21
<b>Providers of Electronic Communication Services (ECS)</b>		
Television Signal Distribution Service (d)	17	15
Mobile Telephone Service (GSM and UMTS)		
Mobile Network Operators (MNO)	3	3
Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNO)	5	1
Fixed Telephone Service (FTS)	25	17
Trunking Mobile Service (TMS)	2	2
Data Transmission Services (DTS)		
- Internet Access Service (Fixed)	52	33
- Nomad Voice over Internet Services (Nomad VoIP) (e)	18	7
- Other Data Services (f)	35	19
Public Payphone Service	17	8
Virtual Calling Card Service	32	21

### Providers of Postal Services

	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
<b>Express Mail Services (g)</b>	61	56
<b>Services not covered by the Express Mail category</b>	11	10

### Providers of Audiotext Services

	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
<b>Audiotext Services</b>	10	2 (h)

(a) Situation at 31 December 2008.

(b) Situation at 30 September 2008.

(c) Other Electronic Communication Networks (except CDN).

(d) Includes services provided in the scope of CDN (12 providers – 2 of which possess 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 28 companies providing service under the MRW brand on a franchising basis (the company IBERCOURIER owns the MRW brand) and 17 companies providing service under the NACEX brand on a franchising basis (the company LOGISTA owns the NACEX brand).

(h) Source: PT Comunicações, S.A. (no. of entities presenting traffic in the third quarter of 2008).

## □ CHARACTERISATION OF ANTI-SPAM ACTIVITY – SURVEY

The establishment of codes of conduct or rules for using the internet and electronic mail are one of the main organisational measures to promote security. This is one of the major conclusions of the survey launched by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) in May 2008 to characterise activity in the fight waged against unsolicited communications (spam) by the internet access

providers (ISP) and email service providers. It was also noted that most ISPs provide free anti-spam and anti-virus services; when an internal security failure occurs, specifically related to spam, the ISPs adopt measures that include warning users, technical team support, sometimes operational 24 hours a day, adjustment of the content filter and quarantine reports as per incidents. (+info)

## □ FWA – MODIFICATION OF THE ONITELECOM FREQUENCY USAGE RIGHT

By determination dated 4 February, ANACOM modified, at the request of the interested party, the frequency usage right allocated to ONITELECOM to operate

a fixed wireless access (FWA) system in the 24.5–26.5 GHz band, with respect to the minimum number of central stations to install. (+info)

## □ UMTS – SONAECOM FREQUENCY USAGE RIGHT REVOKED

Following the company’s relinquishment, ANACOM decided last 4 February to revoke the right of SONAECOM-*Serviços de Comunicações* to use the 5 MHz bloc of UMTS TDD frequencies, corresponding to the 1900–1905 MHz frequen-

cies assigned to same for the operation of an international mobile telecommunication system (IMT-2000/UMTS), and to proceed with the respective recovery. (+info)

## □ EUROPEAN UNION

### MINISTERS DISCUSS FUTURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The telecoms ministers of the European Union (EU) and a delegation from the European Commission (EC), headed by the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, met informally last 17 February in Prague at the ministerial conference on "Next Steps in EU Telecoms". They concluded that a functional internal market and quality regulatory framework are two fundamental conditions for development of the telecommunications sector in Europe. The Czech EU presidency stated in a communiqué that "to find a compromise on the telecoms package, agreement will have to be negotiated on five crucial issues: radio spectrum policy, next generation access networks, the power of the Commission to harmonise the internal telecommunications market, the veto power of the Commission on decisions of national regulators and strengthening the cooperation between independent regulators". Meanwhile on 16 February, the EU Council of Ministers adopted a common position on the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications proposed by the European Commission. The EU Council position is based on the political agreement of the Council of Ministers of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy of 27 November 2008. (+info)

### SWITCH FROM ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL TV: REVIEW

In a recently published review of the switchover from analogue to digital television in Europe the European Commission (EC) considers that same "on course", given that five European Union (EU) member States (Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Sweden) have already completed the transition process. Digital broadcasting has also reached the Flanders region of Belgium and parts of Austria. In 2010 the process should be very advanced throughout the Union and should culminate with the switch-off of analogue television transmissions in nearly all member States in 2012. Besides the countries that have already stopped terrestrial analogue TV, same will end by the end of 2010 or beforehand in the rest of Austria, Denmark, Spain, Slovenia, Estonia and Malta. Portugal is among the countries where terrestrial analogue TV will only be switched off between late 2010 and late 2012, along with Belgium (Wallonia and the Brussels capital region), Bulgaria, Cyprus, Slovakia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, United Kingdom and Romania. In Poland closure will come in 2015 at the latest. (+info)

### INTERNET TO REVITALISE EUROPEAN RURAL AREAS

To reach the "broadband for all" goal by 2010, the European Commission considers it vital to connect the 30 percent of the European Union's rural population that is still without high speed internet access. In a communiqué released on 3 March, the EC states that "improved internet connectivity is a powerful tool to stimulate swift economic recovery". The Commission also indicates that "while an average 93% of Europeans can enjoy access to a high speed online connection, the figure is only 70% in rural areas, and in some countries (such as

Greece, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania) high speed broadband internet networks cover just 50% or less of the rural population". (+info)

### SPECTRUM POLICY – 18<sup>TH</sup> RSPG MEETING

The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Commission's Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was held last 11 February in Brussels, where an opinion was adopted on good practices for spectrum use by public sectors. The RSPG also considered topics such as the digital dividend and wireless broadband, besides examining co-ordination of the European Union's interests in spectrum matters ahead of the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The group also decided to publish online its working programme for 2009. (+info)

### EUROPEAN 112 DAY

The European Day for the 112 emergency number was celebrated on 11 February with various events held in the scope of the European Commission (EC) and European Parliament (EP). In Portugal, the reorganisation of the 112 operational model developed in compliance with Council of Ministers Resolution no. 164/2007 of 20 September, in co-ordination with ANACOM, is noteworthy, along with this Authority's development of the E112 Regulation, which contains the principles and rules to be followed by companies supplying public telephone services and/or networks with a view to locating 112 callers. (+info)

### MOBILE BROADBAND – LONG TERM EVOLUTION

Long Term Evolution (LTE) is the designation of what the European Commission (EC) considers will be the next step in the transformation of mobile telephone networks into mobile broadband networks, which will become the fourth mobile telephony generation. The EC holds that LTE is the main technological option for next generation mobile networks; it is currently the most plausible radio access technology ready to enter the market. LTE optimises the capacities of existing networks and is a smooth evolution path for operators, supplying very high data rate speeds (up to 100 Mbps in downlink and 50 Mbps in uplink). (+info)

### EC AND ITU TOGETHER ON SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day was celebrated last 10 February, this year as a joint initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Commission (EC) with the theme topic of protecting children in online environments. "Child online safety must be on the global agenda," warned ITU Secretary General Hamadoun Touré, stressing that "we must ensure that everyone is aware of the dangers for children online". He also praised ongoing initiatives such as Europe's Safer Internet programme. Viviane Reding warned in turn of the risk of underestimating the dangers of online services such as social networking and mobile internet, underscoring that "the safety of children who use [the internet] is a concern for everyone". (+info)

## ■ OJEU

**Regulation (EC) no. 107/2009** – Of the European Commission of 4 February, which applies Directive 2005/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with respect to the ecological conception requirements for simple television decoders. Published on 5 February.

(+info)

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

### ECC PT1

The German city of Mainz hosted last 2-4 February the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of project team (PT) 1 of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC). [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC WG SE

The 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ECC working group on Spectrum Engineering (WG SE) was held last 26-30 January in Dublin. [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC WG SE PT42

The French city of Maisons-Alfort served as venue last 20-22 January for the 17<sup>th</sup>

meeting of PT 42 of the ECC Spectrum Engineering working group (WG SE). [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC WG NNA TASK FORCE CLI

The CLI (calling line identification) task force of the ECC working group on Numbering, Names and Addressing (WG NNA) met last 29-30 January in Lisbon. [\(+info\)](#)

### ECC PT2 TRIS

PT2-TRIS (Technical Regulation & Interconnection Standards) of the ECC met last 9-10 February in Copenhagen. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Independent Regulators Group (IRG) held a General Assembly last 26 February in Berlin. [\(+info\)](#)

### CONTACT NETWORK

Vienna hosted last 5-6 February a meeting of the IRG/European Regulators Group Contact Network. [\(+info\)](#)

### PT END USERS

The IRG project team (PT) for End Users of electronic communication services held a meeting last 13 February in Barcelona, co-chaired by Portugal (ANACOM) and Romania (ANRCTI). [\(+info\)](#)

## □ EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

### COCOM

The Communications Committee (COCOM) of the European Commission met last 18 February in Brussels. [\(+info\)](#)

### COCOM – SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR MSS 2GHz GROUP

Brussels also hosted last 17 February the second meeting of the group set up by COCOM to conduct comparative analysis of the selection procedure for pan-European mobile satellite service (MSS) systems in the 2 GHz frequency bands. [\(+info\)](#)

### EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP

The European Regulators Group (ERG) held a plenary meeting last 26-27 February in Berlin. [\(+info\)](#)

### RSPG – EU INTERESTS IN SPECTRUM MATTERS SUBGROUP

The first meeting of the RSPG subgroup for co-ordinating European interests in spectrum matters was held on 16 February in the French city of Maisons-Alfort. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

### EXCELLENCE CENTRE IN AFRICA

The first training action conducted by the ITU Excellence Centre in Africa took

place last 16-20 February in Maputo, Mozambique. The main theme topic was "Regulation of Telecommunications/ICTs". [\(+info\)](#)

## □ LATIN AMERICAN FORUM OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (REGULATTEL)

### CO-DIRECTORS MEETING

The eighth meeting of the co-directors of Regulatell, in which Portugal and Spain also participate, was held on 9-12 February in Havana, Cuba. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ ARCT-CPLP – ELECTION OF GOVERNING BODIES

The first General Assembly of the Association of Communications and Telecommunications Regulators from the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (ARCT-CPLP), held in Maputo, Mozambique, saw the directors of its governing bodies elected. On 19 February David Gomes (president of the Cape Verdean regulator ANAC) was elected chairman and Ronaldo Sardenberg (from the Brazilian regulator ANATEL) deputy chairman, with the secretariat placed under ANACOM's Filipe Batista. On 20 February the Assembly approved the activities plan for 2009, the association's logo and the ARCTEL brand name. [\(+info\)](#)

## □ VIDEO COMPETITION BRINGS WINNERS TO WTPF IN LISBON

Tangible, creative and innovative ideas about the future of information and communication technologies (ICTs) may bring young people from 18 to 26 years old to the Fourth World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), scheduled for this coming 22-24 April at the Lisbon Congress Centre. Candidates must submit entries by 20 March to the respective ITU video competition, whose theme topic is "The Future of ICTs". The videos must have a maximum length of three minutes, use only official ITU languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian or Chinese), respect intellectual property rights, contain no illegal or offensive information, and comply with the terms and conditions required by YouTube (to compete you must have a YouTube account). The winners will be awarded the trip and accommodations (for one person) to participate in the WTPF. [\(+info\)](#)

## NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

### **BRAZIL – Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL)**

- Number portability is now available throughout Brazil, reaching more than 193 million subscribers, of whom 41.1 million subscribe to fixed telephony and 151.9 million to mobile telephony, spread through the 5,564 municipalities of the 27 units of the Brazilian federation. **(+info, Portuguese only)**
- At the end of January the number of mobile telephone service (MTS) subscribers in Brazil stood at 151.94 million, of which 123.97 million (81.59 percent) pertained to prepaid modes and 27.97 million (18.41 percent) to postpaid subscriptions. The MTS penetration rate was 79.9 subscribers per 100 inhabitants. **(+info, Portuguese only)**
- The regulator recently created the Attendance Performance Index, a new indicator to gauge the quality of consumer attendance based on solicitations of the Agency's Attendance Exchange. **(+info, Portuguese only)**
- Anatel has decided to extend for 30 days counting from 28 February 2009 the deadline for suspending the effectiveness of articles 29, 30 and 32 of the Regulation on the Protection and Defence of Subscription Television Service Subscribers' Rights. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

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

- The regulator recently released statistical and financial data on the private conventional television market, including information on profitability, revenues and expenses of television stations in the broadcasting year ending on 31 August 2008. The document published by the CRTC also includes historical data back to 2004. **(+info)**

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

- E-commerce recorded a business volume of 5.18 billion euros in Spain in 2008, for growth of 40 percent compared to 2007. The activity generating the most revenue was the sale of airline tickets, a total of 707 million euros, followed by travel agencies and tour operators, who took in 633 million euros. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- The regulator has approved a decision according to which the first operator to install a fibre optic network inside a building is obliged to share all network components (terminal equipment, cables, network nodes and other infrastructure that facilitates sharing) with the other operators who later wish to access the building to offer fibre to the home (FTTH) services. **(+info, Spanish only)**
- Spanish broadband grew by 12.9 percent in 2008 and surpassed the figure of 9 million lines, for a service penetration rate of 20 lines per 100 inhabitants. In technological terms, DSL services totalled 7.28 million lines (annual growth of 13.9 percent), while the cable option accounted for 1.77 million connections (8.8 percent growth over 2007). **(+info, Spanish only)**

### **USA – Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**

- The regulator has published the report and order concerning adjustment of television operator licensing terms to the DTV Delay Act, whereby the US Congress postponed completion of the switch from analogue to digital television until 12 June 2009. **(+info)**

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

- A public consultation open until 23 March has been launched, concerning ways to implement fixed number portability and the routing of calls to ported numbers, whether fixed or mobile. **(+info)**

- The regulator has published a report on the current status of its action in the allocation of frequencies to operate broadband and ultra-fast mobile telephony networks (third and fourth mobile generation), as well as on developments in the area of fibre optics. **(+info)**
- A summary has been published of the public consultation on the wholesale terrestrial television broadcasting market and respective analysis conducted by ARCEP; the Competition Council and the High Audiovisual Council were notified of same. **(+info, French only)**
- The regulator has published results from the fourth report on the service quality of 118 (directory services), produced in October and November 2008. **(+info)**

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

- The regulator has published under the Telecommunications Act a set of guidelines on information policy involving internet security, meant to help internet service providers (ISPs) improve the quality of the information they supply to consumers. **(+info)**

### **IRELAND – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)**

- Following the request submitted by Irish Civil Protection, the regulator is proposing that the institution be included in the MDRS (Managed Digital Radio Services) network, an infrastructure for the exclusive supply of digital radio communications to state emergency and safety services, as well as to non-business bodies supplying public authorities or respective support services. **(+info)**
- The regulator has placed in public hearing until 20 March its proposed revision concerning determination of the economic life to assign the fixed assets (conduits, cables, boxes, etc.) of the incumbent operator Eircom. **(+info)**

### **MACAU – Direcção dos Serviços de Regulação de Telecomunicações (DSRT)**

- A public tender has been launched to allocate a fourth licence to operate public third generation (3G) land mobile telecommunication networks and to provide the corresponding public terrestrial mobile telecommunication services. **(+info)**

### **MOROCCO – Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT)**

- The regulator reports that as of 7 March Moroccan telephone numbers have ten digits instead of the previous nine. This applies to fixed, mobile and non-geographic numbers. **(+info, French only)**

### **UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)**

- The regulator has published the approach it aims to follow in the future regulation of next generation networks. **(+info)**
- Colette Bowe has been elected chairperson of the Ofcom Board of Directors. **(+info)**
- The reference terms for the strategic review of spectrum pricing, planned for late 2009, have been posted online. **(+info)**
- The proposed decision on the future of spectrum currently allocated to second and third generation mobile telephony (the 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2.1 GHz bands) has been placed in public consultation until 1 May. **(+info)**

### **SINGAPORE – Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA)**

- The regulator has published the 2008 results of the annual survey on domestic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). **(+info)**

## ■ FOURTH QUARTER 2008 STATISTICS RELEASED

The *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) recently released statistical data for the fourth quarter of 2008 (4Q08) concerning fixed telephone service (FTS), mobile telephone service (MTS), subscription television services (STS), internet access service (IAS) and postal services operated on a competitive basis (PS): FTS – at the end of 4Q08 there were 24 entities authorised to provide the service, of which 17 were operational, and the number of main telephone accesses installed at customer request stood at 4.1 million, 0.3 percent less than in the third quarter of 2008; MTS – there were 14.9 million subscribers at the end of 4Q08, 2.6 percent more compared to the third quarter of 2008 and 10.8 percent more than in the fourth quarter of 2007 – the penetration rate stood at 140.4 subscribers per 100 inhabitants; STS – cable television counted 4.27 million cabled households at the end of 4Q08, 30,000 more households than in the previous quarter and 230,000 more than in the fourth quarter of 2007. The total number of cable subscribers was 1.48 million (4Q08), 0.7 percent less than in the previous quarter and 1 percent less than in the fourth quarter of 2007. Direct to Home (DTH) technology grew by 4.5 percent between 3Q08 and 4Q08, for a rise of 21.3 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2007, and counted 586,000 subscribers. The remaining STS offers, specifically for the public telephone network (xDSL/IP), FWA and fibre (FTTH), counted 224,000 subscribers at the end of 4Q08, 59,000 more customers than in the previous quarter (36 percent growth); IAS – at the end of 4Q08 there were 2.43 million users with mobile broadband internet accesses and about 1.68 million customers with fixed accesses, of whom 1.63 million in broadband; PS – postal service attained the figure of 71.6 million objects (4Q08), a 16 percent increase over the previous quarter, though 7.4 percent less than in the fourth quarter of 2007. **(+info)**

## □ NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS – NEW INSTRUMENT IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNTIL 17 MARCH

The instrument determining the applicable system for the construction, access and installation of electronic communication networks and infrastructure, approved in general by the Council of Ministers of 26 February, and which the government considers to be “one more step in the emphasis on developing next

generation networks”, has been placed in public consultation – deadline is 17 March. Interested parties may consult the instrument on the website of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications, and are asked to send their contributions to the email address [gseaopc@moptc.gov.pt](mailto:gseaopc@moptc.gov.pt). **(+info)**

## □ DENIAL OF ELECTRONIC PORTABILITY REQUESTS – ANACOM CLARIFICATION

A company with portability obligations questioned ANACOM about whether it was legitimate to deny an electronic portability request by a donor/holding provider when the receiving provider does not send the number of any of the documents identifying the subscriber. This Authority understood that it should namely clarify that until the date the entire Regulation no. 87/2009 of 18

February (Regulation Amending the Portability Regulation) takes force, the subscriber identification document number’s absence will not be grounds for denial; electronic portability requests should be validated by verifying the subscriber’s name and the corresponding telephone number. **(+info)**

## □ COUNCIL OF MINISTERS – DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION

The Council of Ministers (CM) approved last 26 February the resolution establishing the base methodology for the switch to the digital terrestrial television broadcasting system, a process to be led by ANACOM with the support of a “digital television transition monitoring group”. The CM communicated that the end

of nationwide analogue emissions should take place by 26 April 2012; there will nevertheless be a period of simultaneous analogue and digital terrestrial broadcasting (simulcast) not less than 12 months long, with a view to minimising the impact on consumers. **(+info)**

## □ PORTUGAL AMONG THE 5 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ALREADY PROVIDING 116000

Portugal is one of only five European countries in which the 116000 number, a hotline for missing children, is already operational. The others are Greece, the Netherlands, Hungary and Romania, which will soon be joined by Belgium and Slovakia. Publicly available throughout the European Union (EU), 116000 has been allocated to hotline service providers in nine member States. The European Commission has also indicated that application of the other two numbers, 116111 (children’s help line) and 116123 (psychological support line), reserved in October 2007, is also progressing well. The Commission’s

data indicates that 16 member States (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden) have already allocated the 116111 number, which is operational in nine of them. As for 116123, it has been allocated in seven member States (Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden) and is operational in Austria; it will soon become operational in Germany, Slovenia and Sweden. **(+info)**

## □ ITU YOUTH FORUM – CANDIDATE SELECTION UNTIL 27 MARCH

The national process to select four university students (two males and two females) to comprise the Portuguese delegation to the Youth Forum of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is under way until 27 March. The ITU will select two of the four (one of each sex) to accompany the Forum, which will be held in the context of ITU Telecom World 2009, scheduled for 5-9 October in Geneva. As the Portuguese administration’s representative at the ITU, ANACOM will be responsible for guiding the applicants. Interested parties must

be between 18 and 23 years old and Portuguese nationals, able to communicate in English, French or Spanish and have completed two years of study at a university or technical institution by 30 June 2009. Applications should be delivered to the respective university before the deadline set by the latter, which will then forward them to ANACOM accompanied by a recommendation letter explaining the reason for the selection and declaring that the applicants will not be obliged to attend classes during the event (5-9 October plus travel time). **(+info)**