Spectru

☐ MARKET 4 AND 5 – ANACOM NOTIFIES EC ABOUT DRAFT DECISION

By determination dated 4 December, the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved the draft decision on definition of product markets and geographic markets, evaluation of significant market power (SMP) and imposition, maintenance, amendment or withdrawal of the regulatory obligations involving market 4 (wholesale supply of (physical) access to network infrastructure at a fixed site) and market 5 (wholesale supply of broadband access) of European Commission Recommendation 2007/879/EC of 17 December. The Authority likewise approved the notification to submit to the Commission and national regulatory authorities of the other member States. The adoption of this draft decision was preceded by a prior hearing of interested parties and by the general consultation procedure, whose final report was also approved by the said determination. **(+info)**

☐ DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION – CLARIFICATION

As Portugal is currently undergoing a process of switching from traditional analogue TV to digital emissions, ANACOM has decided to provide a number of clarifications, which do not affect any other information eventually disclosed. Future emissions of digital terrestrial television (DTT) in Portugal will be specifically based on DVB-T technology and MPEG-4/H.264 video compression. Receiver equipment must therefore be able to comply with these two conditions. If not, then users have two options: to acquire an external device, usually a set top box to install between the aerial socket and the television, which together with same meets the two aforementioned conditions; or to acquire a digital television already able to receive DVB-T and decode video in MPEG-4/H.264. The fact that much equipment currently available in Portugal with indication of DVB-T compatibility, namely integrated digital televisions, is only provided with MPEG-2 video decoding, does not by itself enable DTT reception in Portugal. Regarding high definition (HD) DTT reception, beyond the said requirements the television must have a minimum vertical resolution of at least 720 lines (720p), available in equipment identified with the HD Ready logo. An integrated digital television must also be able to decode video for high definition content; the Full HD designation refers to televisions with greater vertical resolution – 1080 lines (1080p). The set top box must also have an HDMI interface (preferably in version 1.3 or later) and capacity to decode video for high definition content; such equipment is usually identified by an HD TV logo. **(+info)**

■ 3RD QUARTER 2008 STATISTICS RELEASED

ANACOM recently released the third quarter 2008 (3Q08) statistical information on postal services operated on a competitive basis, subscription television service (STS), fixed telephone service (FTS), mobile telephone service (MTS), UMTS and data services and internet access service (IAS). Regarding postal services operated on a competitive basis, traffic reached 60.8 million objects, 11 percent less than in the previous quarter and 13 percent less than in the same period of 2007. The drop is mainly due to the performance of addressed advertising correspondence. As for FTS, the number of main telephone accesses installed at customer request stood at nearly 4 million accesses, 0.6 percent less than in the previous quarter. Also, in September there were 122,000 active nomad VoIP customers, 6.2 percent more than in the previous quarter. MTS meanwhile continues to grow: at the end of the third quarter this service counted 14.5 million subscribers, 1.5 percent more than in the previous quarter and 12.4 percent more than in the same period in 2007. Regarding UMTS accesses, there were 1.062 million active users, i.e., 10 percent more than in the previous quarter. Lastly, IAS statistics indicate the existence of 1.64 million customers with fixed internet accesses, approximately 1.6 million of them in broadband. Mobile broadband grew at a fast pace, with more than 185,000 subscribers in 3Q08, a growth rate of nearly 10 percent more than in the previous quarter, for a total of 2.1 million accesses. This figure represents an increase of 77 percent compared to the third quarter of 2007. **(+info)**

ANACOM
AUTORIDADE NACIONAL DE COMUNICAÇÕES

■ **NEWS**

ANACOM ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 13th meeting of the Advisory Council of the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) was held on 18 November, chaired by Álvaro Dâmaso. The gathering saw approval of the opinions on the ANACOM Regulation Report and Activities Report for 2007, as well as on the Strategy Plan for 2009-2011 and the 2009 Budget Guidelines. Also approved was the opinion on the price table for universal electronic communications service (residential price table for telephone service at a fixed location). **(+info)**

ANACOM SEMINARS – 18TH MEETING

The 18th meeting in the ANACOM Seminars series is to be held on 11 December at 3:30 p.m. and serve to present the work on "Identification and Characterisation Radio Frequency Digital Signals", by Manuel Carlos Batista of ANACOM. **(+info)**

ANACOM PUBLICATIONS

The 2008 edition of the Yearbook on the Communications Sector in Portugal (electronic communications and postal services) has been posted online, following release of the paper version. Beyond the sector's growth prospects and position in the Portuguese economy between 2003 and 2007, the Yearbook presents data on the stock exchange performance of sector companies from July 2007 to June 2008, as well as information on operational authorised companies as of 30 June 2008. **(+info)**

Also posted online are the Authority's Activities Report and Regulation Report, both for 2007, and the ANACOM Strategy Plan for the 2009-2011 triennium. The report on the 2007 Communications Situation has also been published. **(+info)**

STANDARDISATION WORKSHOP – PRESENTATIONS

The presentations given in the ANACOM workshop on "Standardisation – evolution of cable infrastructure for buildings", held last 29 October at the Ruy de Carvalho Municipal Auditorium in Carnaxide (Oeiras, outside Lisbon), are now available. **(+info)**

T'COM INFRASTRUCTURES IN BUILDINGS – DEVELOPMENTS

ANACOM has approved registration of the following certifiers for telecommunications infrastructures in buildings (ITED is the Portuguese acronym): PC.Box – *Sistemas Informáticos, Unipessoal, Lda* (order dated 23 October) and Pontisigla, Lda (order dated 11 November). **(+info, Portuguese only)**

By determination dated 29 October this Authority decided to open the administrative processes meant to cancel the registrations of the ITED certifiers Telic – *Telecomunicações e Montagens, SA*, IPRG – *Inspecções Técnicas Gás, Lda.*; and Elevar – Associação de Apoio Técnico e Ensul Meci, SA. A decision was likewise made by determination dated 22 October to provisionally suspend the registration of the certifier Energua – *Engenharia, Electricidade e Telecomunicações, Lda*., for a period of three months counting from the respective notification on 3 November. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE CASES

Upon verification that IRIDIUM ITALIA, as a public communications network operator and provider of personal satellite mobile communications services, had failed to comply with the obligation to send ANACOM the response to the Annual Electronic Communications Questionnaire, 2007 Report, before the set deadline, same was fined 5,000 euros, which was voluntarily paid last 10 November. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

Likewise, for failing to respond to the same questionnaire and to the Annual Telecommunications Questionnaire, WORLDBROKER TELECOMUNICAÇÕES – *Sociedade de Telecomunicações e Multimédia* was fined a single amount of 6,000 euros. As same did not agree with that decision, it has filed an appeal with the Lisbon Petty Crime Court. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

As the Covilhã Voluntary Firemen Association placed on its premises a device for eavesdropping on telephone calls to and from the Association without the prior and explicit consent of the users of the said telephone exchange, thus violating applicable legislation, ANACOM decided to fine same 5,000 euros. The Association was notified of this ruling and decided to contest by filing an appeal with the Judicial Court of Covilhã, which allowed part of the appeal and specifically reduced the fine to 2,500 euros. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

PORTED NUMBERS

There were a total of 1,123,882 ported numbers at the end of November, of which 903,509 pertained to fixed telephone service (FTS), 219,497 to mobile telephone service (MTS) and 876 to non-geographic services (NGS). **(+info)**

OPERATORS – DATA UPDATING

The operator Cabo TV Madeirense has changed its company designation to ZON TV Cabo Madeirense, while CATVP – TV Cabo Portugal is now called ZON TV Cabo Portugal. Data on the companies NETCONEXION (change of address and new activity), VOXBONE and WEBMEETING – *Internet e Consultoria Informática* (both with new activity) has also been updated. **(+info)**

AdC APPROVES PURCHASE OF TVTEL, BRAGATEL AND PLURICANAL

The Competition Authority (AdC) approved last 21 November the acquisition by CATVP – TV Cabo Portugal (now ZON TV Cabo Portugal) of exclusive control of TVTel – *Comunicações*, by means of a number of conditions/obligations. ZON thus pledges to encourage the entrance of a competitor in the distribution of cable television, by alienating a set of network cells (including customers) in geographic areas where there is greater overlap between the ZON network and the network of the company acquired; by freeing up space in infrastructures of the secondary and tertiary networks; and by providing a nationwide wholesale satellite television offer based on ZON equipment. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

The AdC also approved the acquisition of Bragatel – *Companhia de Televisão por Cabo de Braga*, Pluricanal Leiria – *Televisão por Cabo*, and Pluricanal Santarém – Televisão por Cabo, as long as ZON makes identical commitments with regard to the acquired companies. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

INE – SURVEY ON FAMILY ICT USE

The National Statistics Institute (INE) has released the Survey on Family Use of Information and Communication Technologies, concerning the first quarter of 2008. Produced in collaboration with the UMIC Knowledge Society Agency, IP, the report analyses, among other aspects, computer use by Portuguese family households, existence and type of internet access, electronic mail use, and user profiles. The survey indicates, for example, that 49.8 percent of domestic households had home computer access, while 46 percent counted an internet connection. Of the latter, 85.5 percent used broadband accesses. **(+info)**

APRITEL – PLUG PRIZE

"The Momentum for Network Separation: a guide to regulators", by Ricardo Gonçalves and Álvaro Nascimento of the Catholic University of Oporto, has won the PLUG prize, a competition organised by the Association of Telecommunications Operators (APRITEL). **(+info)**

■ OPERATORS/PROVIDERS OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

Operators/Providers of Electronic Communications Networks and Services	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
Operators of Electronic Communications Networks (ECN)		
Cable Distribution Networks (CDN)	14	11
Other Electronic Communications Networks (c)	34	22
Electronic Communications Service Providers (ECS)		
Television Signal Distribution Service (d)	15	14
Mobile Telephone Service (GSM and UMTS)		
Mobile Network Operators (MNO)	3	3
Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNO)	6	1
Fixed Telephone Service (FTS)	26	17
Trunking Mobile Service (TMS)	2	2
Data Transmission Services (DTS)		
- Internet Access Service (Fixed)	45	33
- Voice Service via nomad internet (nomad VoIP) (e)	18	6
- Other Data Services (f)	36	19
Public Payphone Service	15	10
Virtual Calling Card Service	32	20

Postal Service Providers	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
Express Mail Services (g)	62	55
Services Not Covered by the Express Mail Category	11	10

Audiotext Service Providers	No. of authorised entities (a)	Operational entities (b)
Audiotext Services	11	2 (h)

(a) Situation at 30 September 2008
(b) Situation at 30 June 2008
(c) Other Electronic Communications Networks (except CDN).
(d) Includes service provided in the scope of CDN (11 providers – 2 of which hold networks not accessible to the public) and via other platforms (3 providers).
(e) Services provided by recourse to the '30' numbering range.
(f) Other data services (except internet).

(g) Includes 29 companies providing the service under the MRW brand on a franchising basis (the company IBERCOURIER owns the MRW brand) and 19 companies providing the 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 that presented traffic in the second quarter of 2008).

□ CLI USE IN CALL ORIGINATION – CLARIFICATION

Given that electronic communication service providers have asked various questions concerning the type of content and information that may be present in calling line identification (CLI), the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) considered that a clarification was necessary, namely that the information contained in the 'calling party number' parameter, for signalling network and signalling access, should univocally identify the access of the call originator (network termination point or application instance – for example, VoIP);

the operator/provider holding the number is obliged to validate the information if that is supplied by the user. In the cases of calls to national emergency services, this information is used to identify and locate the call origin, when possible, and must therefore be reliable. The information contained in the CLI must also allow calls to be returned to the place or terminal where they originated. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

□ NEW RADIOMÓVEL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

By determination dated 29 October ANACOM approved the draft decision allowing Radiomóvel to use the company's SMRP-CDMA 450 MHz frequencies in the local access network for providing nomad broadband service, as long as various conditions are compulsorily obeyed: access to the services should be via a terminal linked to a single preset BTS when sessions/communications are effected, received and maintained; in exceptional and technically justified cases,

recognised as such by ANACOM, a terminal's association to two or a maximum of three preset BTSs is admissible; these restrictions should be assured for 10 days at most after service activation. This draft decision, which comprises other conditions, was submitted to the prior hearing of Radiomóvel and to the general consultation procedure, after which the final decision will be made. **(+info)**

■ DETERMINATIONS ADOPTED BY ANACOM – 3RD QUARTER 2008

Date	Decision
27.09.2008	Revision of report from consultation on introduction of the GSM-R system. (+info)
24.09.2008	Model for disclosing information on service quality recommended for the FTS providers. (+info)
17.09.2008	Quality of service indicators and complaints system of the CTT – 2006/2007 (draft). (+info)
17.09.2008	Provisional suspension of registration of certifier PSIT, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
15.09.2008	Approva of registration of Certiquadros as t'com infrastructure in buildings (ITED) certifier. (+info, Portuguese only)
10.09.2008	Provisional suspension of registration of certifier Hexafásica, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
10.09.2008	Provisional suspension of registration of certifier Indutora, S.A. (+info, Portuguese only)
10.09.2008	Provisional suspension of registration of certifier Amorlux, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
10.09.2008	Price of television signal dissemination and distribution service (decision). (+info)
03.09.2008	Provisional suspension of registration of certifier Telecvis, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
03.09.2008	Provisional suspension of registration of certifier Instalotécnica, S.A. (+info, Portuguese only)
27.08.2008	Cancellation of registration of certifier Monticanalizações, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
27.08.2008	Maintenance of registration of certifier Astroluz – Sociedade de Electricidade e Construção Civil. (+info, Portuguese only)
27.08.2008	Maintenance of registration of certifier J. Rocha Pinto, Projectos e Consultoria. (+info, Portuguese only)
27.08.2008	Maintenance of registration of certifier SPCABO – Comunicações. (+info, Portuguese only)
27.08.2008	Appointment of committee for public tender on land mobile service in the 450-470 MHz band. (+info)
25.08.2008	Declaration to Funnytel Limited for the provision of electronic communication services. (+info, Portuguese only)
25.08.2008	SemCabo adhesion contract. (+info, Portuguese only)
20.08.2008	Maintenance of registration of certifier Gatipel – Telecomunicações e Informática. (+info, Portuguese only)
19.08.2008	Approval of registration of Fxdomo as ITED certifier. (+info, Portuguese only)
13.08.2008	CEPT decisions adopted by Portugal. (+info)
13.08.2008	Introduction of mobile communication services on board aircraft (final decision). (+info)
07.08.2008	Regulation of public tender to allocate frequency usage right in the 450-470 MHz band (regulation). (+info)
06.08.2008	GSM-R system – Introduction and authorisation type (decision). (+info)
06.08.2008	Approval of registration of ITEÇOR as an ITED certifier. (+info, Portuguese only)
06.08.2008	Price of access to the database on PTC conduits (final decision). (+info)
06.08.2008	Call origination prices in mobile networks. (+info)
04.08.2008	Approval of registration of HENRITED as an ITED certifier. (+info, Portuguese only)
30.07.2008	Declaration to Atena T, S.A., for the provision of electronic communication services. (+info, Portuguese only)
28.07.2008	Declaration to Palco da Vida, Lda., for the provision of electronic communication services. (+info, Portuguese only)
23.07.2008	Designation of universal service provider – final report. (+info)
23.07.2008	Price of television signal dissemination and distribution service (draft decision). (+info)
22.07.2008	Licence for the provision of postal services to CELERIS – Distribuição Postal, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
17.07.2008	Cancellation of registration of Emanuel Teixeira Soares for the provision of audiotext services. (+info, Portuguese only)
17.07.2008	Cancellation of registration of BUSCAMIND for the provision of audiotext services. (+info, Portuguese only)
17.07.2008	Declaration to VALICOM – Gestão de Infra-estruturas de Telecomunicações, EIM, for the provision of electronic communication services. (+info, Portuguese only)
17.07.2008	Declaration to MINHOCOM – Gestão de Infra-estruturas de Telecomunicações, EIM, for the provision of electronic communication services. (+info, Portuguese only)
16.07.2008	Cancellation of registration of certifier CME – Construção e Manutenção Electromecânica. (+info, Portuguese only)
16.07.2008	Proposed price table for universal postal service to be in force from 1 August 2008. (+info)
14.07.2008	Authorisation to provide postal services to SERVIÇOS POSTAIS DA LEZÍRIA, Unipessoal, Lda. (+info, Portuguese only)
09.07.2008	International public tender to conduct audit of statistical information from the MTS operators. (+info, Portuguese only)
09.07.2008	International public tender to acquire receivers of ANACOM measures. (+info, Portuguese only)
09.07.2008	Approval of conventions on prices and quality of universal postal service. (+info)
02.07.2008	Voice call termination in individual mobile networks – Specification of price control obligation. (+info)
01.07.2008	Declaration to MAGIC LASER, Lda., for the provision of electronic communication services. (+info, Portuguese only)

□ UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE – PRICE COMPARISON

The study on "Comparison of Prices of Universal Postal Service Providers (USP) in the European Union", conducted by the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) with a view to making up for the lack of public, systemised and up-to-date comparisons of the extensive range of postal services provided under universal service in the EU, is now available. The study compares the prices for national priority and non-priority postal services for mail weighing up to 20 grams and cross-border intra-community priority and non-priority mail in the EU with the same weight, both in standard format, and for national parcels up to 2 kg; comparisons were made directly using current exchange rates and purchasing power parity. (+info)

☐ EUROPEAN UNION

EC PROPOSES REVISION OF GSM DIRECTIVE

The European Commission (EC) presented last 19 November 2008 a proposal to revise the so-called GSM Directive (Directive 87/372/EEC of 25 June), to allow introduction of new services using third generation (3G) technology in the frequency bands currently allocated to GSM (second generation mobile telephony) services. The revision proposed by the Commission must also be approved by the European Parliament and by the Council. **(+info)**

NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY
– PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The European Commission has launched an online public consultation titled "Towards a Strengthened Network and Information Security in Europe". The aim is to gather information on challenges to network and information security, the priorities and the means needed to achieve a strengthened security policy. Interested parties are asked to submit their contributions by 9 January 2009. The results of this public consultation will be used to help the EC present appropriate proposals for the future policy governing network and information security, and towards determining the future of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). **(+info)**

EU ADOPTS NEW SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

The Council of Ministers adopted last 9 November a new Safer Internet programme for the 2009-2013 period. The 55 million euro budget will be distributed as follows: 48 percent for public awareness, 34 percent for the fight against illegal content and harmful online conduct, 10 percent to encourage a safer online environment and 8 percent to establish a knowledge base. Also on 9 November, a new Eurobarometer survey revealed that "60% of European parents are worried that their child might become a victim of online grooming (when an adult befriends a child with the intention of committing sexual abuse) and 54% that their children could be bullied online". **(+info)**

ERG PLENARY SESSION AND IRG GENERAL ASSEMBLY
– CONCLUSIONS

Dublin hosted last 9-10 October the 26th plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group (ERG), during which the group welcomed the progress on European legislative reform of electronic communications. It nevertheless underscored the importance of the independence of national regulatory authorities (NRAs) in the operation and application of the new regulatory framework, namely implementation of proper remedies to their national markets. Parallel to the gathering, the 3rd General Assembly of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) was also held. **(+info)**

BROADBAND – COCOM REPORT

On 1 July 2008 there were nearly 107 million broadband lines in the European Union, corresponding to growth of 19.3 percent (17 million new lines) compared to July 2007 and to a 3.5 percent increase in the broadband penetration rate (which rose from 18.2 percent to 21.7 percent over the course of one year). This data is included in the Communications Committee (COCOM) report on the state of broadband in the European space, recently released by the European Commission. The document also indicates that the gap between the national penetrations rates has been reduced; it now varies between Denmark's 37.2 percent (34.1 percent in 2007), Portugal's 15.8 percent and Bulgaria's 9.5 percent (5.7 percent in 2007) – the European average stands at 21.7 percent. **(+info)**

EUROPEAN DIGITAL LIBRARY LAUNCHED

The European digital library known as Europeana was launched on 20 November and may be consulted at www.europeana.eu. The project facilitates access to the digital content of more than 2 million books, maps, recordings, photos, archive documents, paintings and films from the 27 European Union member States, including the digital collection of the National Library of Portugal. **(+info)**

☐ INDEPENDENT REGULATORS GROUP (IRG)

CONTACT NETWORK

Brussels hosted last 13-14 November the fourth meeting of the IRG Contact Network. **(+info)**

PT INTERNATIONAL ROAMING

The IRG project team (PT) on International Roaming met last 17 November in Barcelona. **(+info)**

☐ EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ETSI)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The French city of Nice hosted last 25-26 November the 52nd General Assembly (GA) of ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute). **(+info)**

■ OJEU

Recommendation C(2008) 5925 – Of the European Commission (EC) of 15 October, concerning notifications, deadlines and consultations envisaged in article 7 of Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002, referring to a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. Published on 12 November.

Communication (2008/C280/05) – Of the EC, in the scope of application of Directive 2004/108/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning approximation of the member States' legislation with respect to electromagnetic compatibility and which revokes Directive 89/336/EEC. Published on 4 November.

Communication (2008/C280/06) – Of the EC, in the scope of implementation of Directive 1999/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment and mutual recognition of their conformity. Published on 4 November.

Regulation (EC) no. 1007/2008 – Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September, which modifies Regulation (EC) no. 460/2004 setting up the European Network and Information Security Agency vis-à-vis the agency's duration. Published on 31 October.

(+info)

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

ECC – WGFM PT22

Group WGFM PT22, concerning spectrum monitoring, held a meeting last 21-24 October in Budva, Montenegro, organised by the Agency for Telecommunications and Postal Service. **(+info)**

ASSEMBLY – WG ITU ISSUES

The working group on ITU Issues (WG ITU) met last 10-11 November in Geneva. **(+info)**

☐ INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ITU-R/STUDY GROUP 4 – WP 4B

The second meeting of working party (WP) 4B of Study Group 4 (Satellite Services of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) was held last 24 September to 1 October in Geneva. **(+info)**

ITU-R/STUDY GROUP 6 – WP 6A

Geneva also served as venue last 24-31 October for a meeting of working group 6A of ITU-R Study Group 6 (Broadcasting Services). **(+info)**

UIT-R/STUDY GROUP 5 – WP 5C

The second meeting in the 2008-2011 study cycle of WP 5C of ITU-R Study Group 5 (Terrestrial Services) was also held in Geneva, last 27 October to 5 November. **(+info)**

EXPERT GROUP FOR PREPARING WTPF-09

The Swiss city also served as venue last 24-25 November for the second meeting of the group of experts for preparing the 2009 World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF-09). **(+info)**

WTSA-08 – CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA-08) held last 21-30 October in Johannesburg, South Africa, are now available. The WTSA-08 decisions can be grouped in four major areas: Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) working methods, reorganisation of the study groups (SGs), relevant issues in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and bridging the standardisation gap. WTSA-08 adopted measures to reorganise its working methods and the SGs' organisation, which include not only sizing them down but also more emphasis on co-located meetings and remote participation. **(+info)**

COUNCIL

Geneva hosted last 12-21 November the meeting of the ITU Council, a 46-member body that runs the organisation between Plenipotentiary Conferences (PPs). **(+info)**

☐ UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)

JOINT CA/COP MEETING

The UPU's Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC) held a joint session last 27 October to 14 November in the Swiss capital, Berne – the first such gathering since the constituent session at the Union's 24th Congress. **(+info)**

☐ CO-OPERATION

WITH SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Following the action plan determined for ANACOM's co-operation policy, an evaluation visit to the Autoridade Geral de Regulação (AGER), its counterpart in São Tomé and Príncipe, was conducted last 21 November. This visit, the first to that institution, served to evaluate co-operation between the two authorities in recent years and to produce an Annual Co-operation Plan.

WITH ECUADOR

Lisbon hosted last 13 November a meeting between ANACOM and the recently founded postal regulator of Ecuador, the Agencia Nacional Postal de Ecuador, held in the scope of this Authority's co-operation and external relations. Subjects such as market regulation, operator registration and user protection were discussed.

☐ SECTOR STUDIES

WIK-Consult recently released a study on "The Economics of Next Generation Access – final report", which aims to show how in fibre optics investment and market regulation affect the business model of incumbent and alternative operators in six European countries (Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden and Portugal). **(+info)**

☐ ITU LAUNCHES ONLINE CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recently launched a global project meant to protect children who use the internet, specifically in developing countries. Titled "Child Online Protection" (COP), the initiative is part of the Agenda for Global Cyber-Security launched in May 2007 and has five goals: to identify the main risks and vulnerabilities children face when consulting the internet; to enhance awareness of these issues; to promote/develop practical tools that minimise risks; to share knowledge and experience; and to encourage international partnerships. **(+info)**

■ NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY – *Bundesnetzagentur* (BNetzA)
• The regulator has approved the new rates that Deutsche Telekom should charge for transit services in the fixed public telephone network, applicable since 1 December. As for the rates approved two and a half years ago, the average increase was 4.4 percent. **(+info)**

AUSTRIA – *Rundfunk & Telekom Regulierungs* (RTR)
• Legal cases settled through conciliation increased by 22 percent in 2007 compared to the previous year, for a total of 3,494. Of these, nearly 30 percent of the cases involve amounts of between 20 and 150 euros. According to the RTR, prospects are even more positive in 2008, with nearly 4,800 conciliation cases expected, a figure which would surpass the record of 4,766 cases in 2004. **(+info)**

BELGIUM – *Institut Belge des Services Postaux et des Télécommunications* (IBPT)
• The regulator has published an addendum to its market analysis of 10 January 2008, to include the impact of next generation networks and next generation accesses on the broadband access markets. **(+info, French only)**

BRAZIL – *Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações* (ANATEL)
• With 4,007,056 new subscriptions in October 2008, Brazil how sums 144.8 million mobile telephones service (MTS) subscribers. Some 117.6 million (81.24 percent) of total accesses are prepaid, while 27.2 million (18.76 percent) are postpaid. In the first ten months of 2008 MTS growth was 19.69 percent. The service's penetration rate thus stood at 75.24 percent, corresponding to annual growth of 24.52 percent over October 2007, when the figure was 60.42 mobile phones per 100 inhabitants. **(+info, Portuguese only)**
• Number portability is now available for 9 million more fixed and mobile telephony users in the areas served by national dialling codes 82 (Alagoas), 83 (Paraíba), 12 and 13 (both in São Paulo). Portability is thus within reach of 59.6 million users. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

CAPE VERDE – *Agência Nacional das Comunicações* (ANAC)
• The Cape Verdian regulator has signed a technical and institutional co-operation protocol with ANACOM, which may be effected by the interchange or provision of information and documentation, technical missions, internships and training actions. **(+info, Portuguese only)**

SPAIN – *Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones* (CMT)
• The Spanish electronic commerce companies invoiced 73.4 percent more in the first half of this year, compared to the same period in 2007, with total revenues standing at 1.41 billion euros. Most transactions (71.1 percent) correspond to business carried out inside the country, with the remaining 28.9 percent originating abroad. **(+info, Spanish only)**
• The European Commission (EC) has approved the proposed regulation for market 4 (wholesale supply of (physical) access to network infrastructure – including total or shared access) submitted by the CMT. Regarding the proposal for market 5 (wholesale supply of broadband access), the EC decided to open a two-month revision procedure. **(+info, Spanish only)**
• The CMT has given the green light to Telefónica's commercialisation of its fibre optic to home service offer (FTTH). **(+info, Spanish only)**

FRANCE – *Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes* (Arcep)
• The regulator has published the universal postal service rates La Poste must practice during the 2009-2011 period. The incumbent postal operator may increase the prices by a percentage equivalent to the inflation rate plus a margin of 0.3 percent. **(+info, French only)**
• ARCEP approved last 2 December the final decision on the rates for voice call termination in mobile networks that operators must apply between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2010. **(+info, French only)**
• France recorded last 30 September a total of 17.1 million broadband internet accesses, of which nearly 16 million used ADSL technology. **(+info, French only)**
• The regulator has placed in public consultation until 9 January 2009 a document with proposals to regulate audiovisual dissemination services. **(+info, French only)**
• The regulator adopted last 13 November two decisions on the provision of GSM mobile communications on board aircraft. **(+info)**

The NETHERLANDS – *Onafhankelijke Post en Telecommunicatie Autoriteit* (OPTA)
o The regulator has published a proposed regulation on prices for accessing the KPN-Reggefiber fibre optic network. **(+info)**

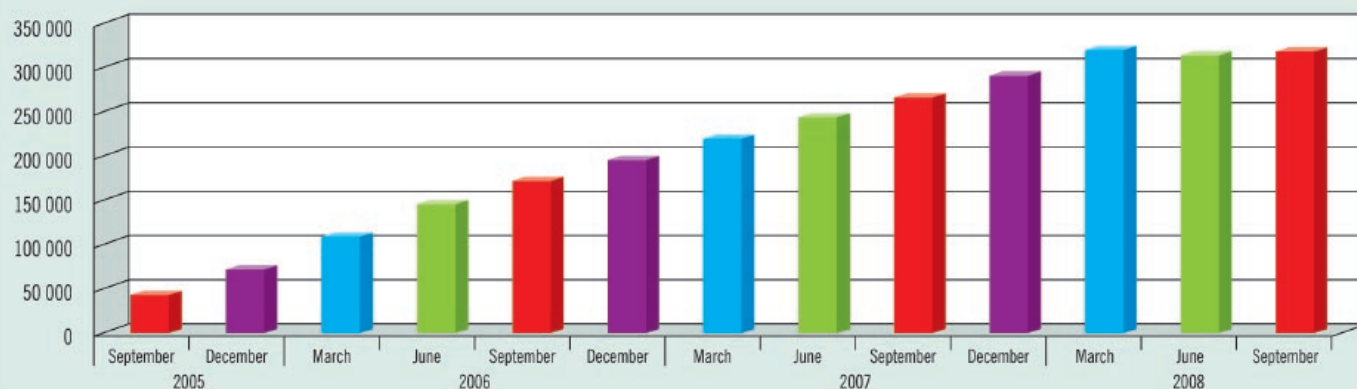**IRELAND** – Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)
• The report on postal service quality in Ireland during the period between 1 January and 30 September 2008 has been published. **(+info)**
• ComReg recently released the Irish radio frequency plan – the fourth edition since it was first published ten years ago. **(+info)**
• The regulator has launched a public consultation, open until 19 December, on regularising the use of personal locator beacons (generally portable radio transmitters that help find people in emergency situations). **(+info)**

UNITED KINGDOM – Office of Communications (Ofcom)
• The regulator has published a set of new advice for users who are victims of silent calls and unsolicited contracting (slamming). Ofcom also disclosed new indications what users can do to complain, if necessary, to their communication service providers. **(+info)**
• An Ofcom-conducted analysis of impact on the independent market concludes that the BBC's launch of a local online video service will be prejudicial to other commercial operators. **(+info)**
• The third edition of Ofcom's "International Communications Market Report" has been released. It analyses the global communications market, especially the availability and use of broadband, fixed and mobile communications, television and radio in 12 industrial countries, along with four emerging economies: Brazil, India, Russia and China. **(+info)**

■ EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF UNBUNDLED ACCESSES

2005		2006				2007				2008		
September	December	March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December	March	June	September
43 127	72 019	108 794	145 614	172 082	195 754	219 653	244 068	266 536	291 175	319 908	314 034	318 374

☐ CTT – QUALITY OF SERVICE IN 2005 AND 2006/2007

By determination dated 13 November the *Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações* (ANACOM) approved and ordered published the respective audit control reports for the quality of service indicators (QSI) and complaints system of the CTT – Correios de Portugal (Portuguese postal service) corresponding to financial years 2006 and 2007. A number of determinations and recommenda- tions were also addressed to the postal operator with a view to perfecting said systems. **(+info)**

Also on 13 November, ANACOM decided to conduct a prior hearing of the CTT regarding the report to be published by this Authority about results of the control process for the service quality levels offered by the operator in 2005. **(+info)**

☐ UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE RATES

By determination dated 26 November, ANACOM decided not to oppose the entrance into force of the proposed price table for universal service to take force on 1 January 2009, submitted by the CTT – *Correios de Portugal* per the Price Convention for Universal Postal Service.

☐ POSTAL ESTABLISHMENTS – NETWORK ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2008

The most recent report on the post office network of the universal postal service concessionaire, CTT – *Correios de Portugal*, is now available. The study indica- tes that at the end of the first quarter of 2008 some 2,852 postal establishments were operational, one less than at the end of 2007. Of these post offices, 907 are permanent post offices, 12 are mobile post offices and 1,933 are postal service offices. The report also indicates that there is at least one post office located in every county, while in 291 counties (94.5 percent of the total) there are two or more postal establishments. Regarding the situation in the European Union (EU), and based on data provided by the Universal Postal Union for 2006, Portugal's figures compare favourably with the EU average, in terms of both postal density and coverage. **(+info)**

☐ EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS – NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND ROAMING

The European Union's Council of Ministers of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy met last 27 November in Brussels and reached political agree- ment, with the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Sweden abstaining, on revi- sion of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. The agreement will service as the basis for negotiation with the European Parliament (EP), with a view to reaching an understanding between the two institutions, on second reading, before the legislature's term ends. Among others, the Council rejected the creation of a European telecommuni- cations regulator, rejected the proposal to give the European Commission (EC) the right to veto decisions by the national regulators, which was replaced by an 'Opinion', and was also against the EC's proposals to expand the spectrum use harmonisation measures, considering that existing agreements between the member States are entirely satisfactory. On the positive side, the minis- ters accepted the proposals concerning the national regulatory authorities' imposition of functional network separation (while stressing their exceptional nature), as well as the proposals to strengthen user rights and consumer protection. Lastly, the Council of Ministers agreed on a general guideline for revising the international roaming regulation, and also considered the scope of universal service and adopted conclusions on networks and the future of the internet. **(+info)**

Specifically about roaming, the Council ruled in favour regarding the prices applied to end users, whereby as from 1 July 2009 the operators must pro- vide customers with an 'SMS Euro-tariff' applicable to intra-community SMS roaming communications, subject to an upper limit of 11 cents (without VAT) per message proposed by the EC. Also welcomed was the proposal that oper- ators should freely provide each customer with the possibility of 'automatic cut' for roaming data service, whenever a given invoice figure is reached (a figure which cannot be less than 50 euros, without VAT). The Council also approved extending the Euro-tariff application deadline in intra-community voice calls made or received in roaming for three more years, as well as the maximum limits for that tariff proposed by the EC. **(+info)**