



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ERG (07) 69**

**ERG stepping further in promoting greater regulatory harmonisation on  
electronic communications markets**

**23 October 2007**

The European Regulators Group (ERG), meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October in Athens, have taken substantial steps further in their strategy to promote greater harmonisation on the EU electronic communications regulatory framework and have shared views on the forthcoming European Commission's proposals for the review of the EU framework and of the Recommendation on Relevant Markets.

The ERG agreed on a harmonised data model for the bi-annual data collection which will support the implementation of the international roaming regulation.

The ERG also approved the draft Work Programme for 2008 for public consultation.

**Mobile Termination Rates**

The ERG has also approved for publication the update of the ERG MTR (mobile termination rates) snapshot.

The benchmark reveals a 4% reduction in average MTRs since January 2007, and a 30% reduction since 2004. As a general observation, MTRs are continuing to go down. The benchmark also reveals a progressive reduction in the differences between MTRs across Europe.

To promote further reductions in the price spread between MTRs in member states the ERG is actively working, in close collaboration with the European Commission, on the harmonisation of methods used by national regulatory authorities (NRAs) to implement the cost orientation remedy for MTRs. The ERG has therefore developed a new line of activity aiming in the long run to have common positions and best practices on principles and methods used by national regulatory authorities to set mobile termination tariffs.

**Draft Common Positions on Wholesale Leased Lines and Voice over IP**

The ERG has approved for public consultation two draft Common Positions (CP) on Wholesale Leased Lines and Voice over IP.



The Wholesale Leased Lines markets are amongst those markets where the claim for greater harmonisation was raised by market players. The Common Position, once finalised, should be taken into the utmost account by NRAs instances where SMP is found in the relevant Wholesale Leased Line markets (trunk and terminating segments of leased lines) or a separate identified “backhaul” market.

Voice over IP (VoIP) is one of the most important areas where the need to come to a more harmonised framework is generally held, both by the industry, in terms of the ability of market players to develop pan-European commercial strategies, and by consumers who benefit through the simplification of the usage. The draft CP is aimed at ensuring harmonised conditions in the regulatory treatment of VoIP across Europe, mainly regarding numbering, number portability and access to emergency services.

### **Draft IRG/ERG Work Programme 2008**

The ERG has approved a proposal for the IRG/ERG Work Programme. The draft Work Programme for 2008 is built in close continuity with the 2007 one and is based on the following objectives:

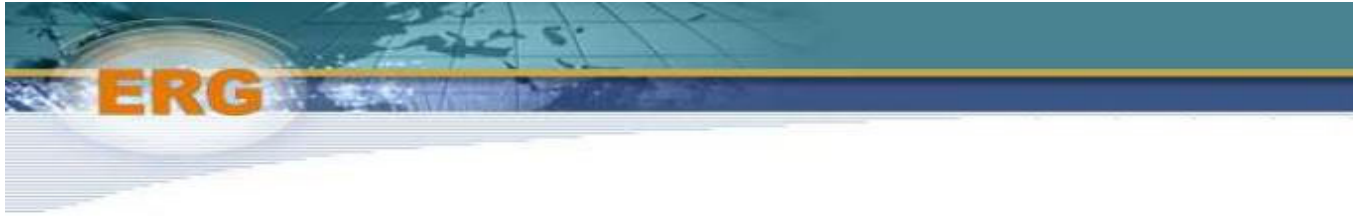
- it is focused in developing IRG/ERG views and engagement in the institutional discussion about the review of the regulatory framework and other ongoing regulatory processes;
- in further developing the strategy towards greater harmonisation (by means of new Common Positions and of refined monitoring tools of national compliance to them);
- in continued monitoring of the implementation of the EU regulation on roaming, in close cooperation with the European Commission.

### **Regulatory Principles of Next Generation Access**

With the publication of the Next Generation Access (NGA) Supplementary Document (ERG (07) 16rev2b) the ERG concludes the NGA Opinion/Common Position published on 3rd October 2007. The document contains among other things the consultation report and various annexes to the NGA Opinion/Common Position. With the NGA Opinion/Common Position the ERG provides clarity regarding the regulatory principles of NGAs to its members and market players thus contributing to a stable regulatory environment.

### **International Roaming**

A short overview of the press conference on international roaming (IR) on Oct 4 was given (an ERG report on the first results of implementation of the EU international roaming regulation is available via



[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=3670](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3670)); the ERG and the European Commission stressed their good cooperation on IR. A harmonised data model for the bi-annual data collection was approved, which will be used by the NRAs to safeguard compliance of mobile operators with the regulation.

All of the documents mentioned in this news release will be made available on the ERG website ([erg.ec.europa.eu](http://erg.ec.europa.eu)).

Ends.

#### NOTES FOR EDITORS

The European Regulators Group (ERG) was created to act as an advisory group to help the European Commission develop the internal market for electronic communications and services and ensure the consistent application of the regulatory Framework.

The ERG takes into account in its work the objectives given to NRAs in Article 8 of the Framework Directive (2002/21/EC) to promote competition, contribute to the development of the internal market and promote the interests of EU citizens.

The ERG consists of European National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). Its full members are the twenty-seven EU Member States whilst the four EFTA States (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and three EU Accession/Candidate States (Turkey, Croatia and Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) participate as observers.

#### CONTACT

ERG Secretariat  
[erg-secretariat@ec.europa.eu](mailto:erg-secretariat@ec.europa.eu)  
+32 (0)2 295 6462