

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Further progress toward consistent regulatory approaches across Europe**

14 December 2007

The European Regulators Group (ERG) held its final plenary meeting of 2006 in Bratislava, Slovakia, at the end of last week. The ERG expanded on plans, announced at its last meeting in October, to deliver an increasingly harmonised approach to the regulation of electronic communications markets in the EU.

To improve its operational efficiency and effectiveness, the ERG intends to establish a permanent, enhanced secretariat to support its work (and that of the Independent Regulators Group which also includes the EFTA countries and the accession countries). This is intended to support the ERG's commitment to regulatory disciplines adopted in Madeira in October 2006, and enable it to continue to work towards consistent regulatory approaches across Europe.

The ERG will continue the work which began in 2006 on next generation networks (NGNs), to encourage investment in new technologies while continuing to promote competition.

"The ERG has made a significant amount of progress this year, but still has work to do," said outgoing Chair Kip Meek.

"The importance of a harmonised regulatory approach is well understood for VoIP, but in addition ERG must make significant progress on common policies towards NGNs in 2007."

**New chairman for 2007**

ERG has also announced today the appointment of Roberto Viola as Chair, effective January 1 2007 through to the end of the year. Roberto Viola is currently Secretary-General at Agcom, the Italian national regulatory authority.

Roberto Viola said "I firmly believe the ERG can play a constructive role in delivering the benefits of a single market for electronic communications and services."

"I am honoured to be asked to chair the ERG and I would like to thank Kip for the invaluable work done under his leadership in 2006. I will strive to improve ERG as an organisation to deliver preferred outcomes for both industry and consumers," he continued.

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-five EU Member States whilst the four EFTA States (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and five EU Accession/ Candidate States (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) participate as observers.

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