

NATIONAL TELECOM REGULATORS TO WORK ON ROAMING REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION AND COOPERATE WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON NEXT GENERATION ACCESS

1 June 2007

The European Regulators Group (ERG) today agreed on a common approach to implementing the forthcoming regulation on International roaming, which is expected to become law in late June. Common guidance should ensure that consumers will be able to take full advantage of the lower prices proposed by the new Regulation.

The ERG agreed that when the Regulation comes into force, national regulators will ensure that mobile phone operators provide, in a timely manner, the information needed to allow the rules to be applied equally across Europe. To this end, the ERG will put in place systems to collect, monitor and publish information to monitor developments in wholesale and retail charges on a consistent basis.

In particular, the ERG has identified a core set of data that all NRAs will collect from national providers of international roaming services. The ERG will also address the issue of the automatic or requested transfer of existing customers to new tariff plans.

Next Generation Access (NGA)

The ERG has committed to respond to the Commission's request for an ERG opinion on regulatory approaches to NGA. The Group's NGA project team has already undertaken a public [consultation](#) on the issue and the ERG expects to provide its advice, based on the findings from this consultation, to the Commission in the autumn.

Termination rates

The Group's Mobile and Fixed Termination project team made its first report to the Plenary. Work is underway to agree a consistent approach to cost modelling and to the issue of termination rates.

VOIP

The ERG's VoIP Task Force made its first report on the need to reduce unwarranted variations in the regulatory treatment of VoIP across Europe. It is working towards a Common Position, which will cover, among other things, numbering, number portability and access to emergency services, which will be put to public consultation soon.

ERG Common Positions

The ERG has today also approved detailed common positions on the regulation of two important telecoms markets: wholesale broadband access (WBA) and wholesale local access (WLA), with a view to provide more detailed guidance to NRAs.

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Finally, the ERG published two other documents:

- * an updated snapshot on mobile termination rates;
- * an updated report on regulatory accounting in practice.

All of the documents mentioned in this news release will be made available on the ERG website which has changed address (URL) and can be found at 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.

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