

**STATEMENT TO WSIS**  
**Communications Regulation Commission (CRC)**  
**Bulgaria**

The communications regulatory body CRC fully recognizes the vital role of Information Society developments and particularly ICT, in all aspects of modern life:

- A competitive national economy with high growth potential;
- Facilitated access to information, enhanced health and educational services and knowledge;
- Access to a generous bouquet of entertainment, cultural and information media services;
- Efficient government to business and government to citizen services.

*Sine qua non* conditions under competence and influence of the CRC for successful development of ICT are:

- A secure and well developed communications infrastructure;
- A national legal framework and pro-competitive regulatory policies aiming to attract investments in the telecommunications and media sectors;
- A variety of up to date electronic network services – telecommunication and media;
- Communications and media Universal Services for all.

The Communication Regulation Commission perceives its priorities in creating propitious conditions for ICT growth and access to information and media services for business and citizens as follows:

- a) Defining realistic goals bearing in mind the evolution of economic and financial factors allowing a sustained demand for services;
- b) Fostering maximum competition in the sector;
- c) Assuring that Universal Service is delivered to all;
- d) Performing in a business-comforting manner being predictable, transparent, consultative and accountable.

Realistic goals means in Bulgaria a five-year digitalisation plan of the incumbent's network, confining Universal Service to its standard definition, minimising the pressure on retail prices.

Fostering competition means no regulatory barriers to market entry, except for scarce resources, plain level field for operators, deregulation and simplification of procedures, defining a pro-competitive numbering plan, maintaining a low level of frequency usage fees and cost orientated licensing fees.

Maintaining the feasibility of Universal Service provision for all, based on '98 framework definition, best adapted to the level of digitalization of the incumbent's network.

ICT main drivers are:

- a) Government spending, including e-government;
- b) Telecommunication service industry software spending, including
- c) Digital television broadcasting platforms and services;
- d) Successful SME with higher ICT budget.

The communication regulator CRC with additional supervisory electronic document and electronic signature functions helps ICT enablers by:

- Supporting e-government initiatives and e-signature spreading;
- Maintaining low prices for fixed satellite terrestrial frequencies;
- Promoting DVB-T infrastructure and services;
- Authorising alternative operators that offer cheaper and better services to small corporate businesses.

CRC takes into consideration also the fundamental role of education and training in ICT service development by transferring funds for ICT education and related promotional activities.