



Euro-Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG) 2012

Regulatory Associations Meeting – Global
Symposium for Regulators (GSR) – Sri Lanka
2012

Dr. Amr Badawi
Executive President
NTRA - Egypt

EMERG Establishment

Egypt is this year's EMERG Chair and Portugal is the Vice-Chair.

EMERG was established in mid 2008 following the termination of the NATP project (the New Approaches to Telecommunications Policies) which was launched by the EU for the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The establishment of EMERG was an initiative from the Euro-Med countries based on the success they witnessed in NATP projects, and their will to independently maintain their structured cooperation on the long run.

EMERG ESTABLISHMENT

There are 19 founding members of EMERG, and membership is open for more countries in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the EMERG Charter. (Austria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, The Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey).

Funding for EMERG is channeled through an NATP-3 program (2010-2013) with a 1 million Euros budget, whose main task is supporting EMERG activities. (headed by Mr. Hans Bakker of Regulaid consultancy) to manage EMERG activities.

EMERG is currently facing a funding challenge, where attempts of negotiating for a next round of funds is currently taking place with the commission.

EMERG Objectives

The main objectives of EMERG are:

- To share expertise, know-how, and success stories between European and Southern countries,
- Discuss facing of possible regulatory challenges,
- Attempt to approximate southern Telecoms regulatory frameworks with that of the EU whenever possible.

Current EMERG Activities

EMERG activities include planning an 8-year round events:

- 6 planned-ahead workshops;
- one preparatory meeting for the Contact Network (representatives of EMERG from its member countries);
- Annual Plenary Meeting that includes heads of regulatory authorities of EMERG member countries. The Plenary meeting adopts the yearly work plan, and the presented Benchmarking Report of the year.

Current EMERG Activities (cont'd)

This year workshops tackled the following topics:

- Network Neutrality,
- Network Security,
- International Roaming

Legal Approximation is currently being studied in fields of:

- Licensing,
- Retail Price Regulation,
- Universal Service

N.B. Detailed EMERG reports are published on the website after each workshop

Future Prospects

EMERG deemed it necessary to take further steps towards achieving their independence:

- EMERG Strategy
- EMERG Charter
- EMERG Secretariat (composed of ex-Chair, Chair, Vice Chair, and 2 volunteers)
- EMERG does not yet aim to form unified stances towards international telecom issues

Contact EMERG

- For any further information about any of EMERG documents or activities, please visit EMERG website at: www.emerg-online.org
- Our EMERG focal points Mrs. Dina Kabil dinak@tra.gov.eg and Mrs. Maha Afifi on: mahaa@tra.gov.eg
- NATP-3 project team leader Mr. Hans Bakker on: hbakker@regulaid.com