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FOR INFORMATION

SOURCE: Communications Regulation Commission, Bulgaria

TITLE: Data collection and dissemination process of Communications Regulation Commission



Data collection and dissemination process of Communications Regulation Commission, Bulgaria

Scope and coverage of the data collection process of CRC until 2007

For the implementation of its regulatory functions the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC) collects and processes on a regular basis data on the national telecommunication activities. Information is requested directly from the operators via

questionnaires - filled in by the licensed/registered telecommunications operators and the internet services providers, the latter not subject to any authorization or notification and providing services on a free regime until May 2007.

The CRC data collection process cycle for 2007 was based on the Telecommunications Law in force until May 2007. According to the license provisions every telecommunications operator is obliged to submit data on annual basis, while every fixed or mobile operator has to provide information twice per year (in a period of six months). For this purpose a set of questionnaires covering the following telecommunications activities is used:

- ✓ Provision of fixed telephone services;
- ✓ Provision of fixed telephone service through public payphones;
- ✓ Provision of mobile services (through NMT, GSM, UMTS and TETRA networks);
- ✓ Provision of leased lines;
- ✓ Provision of data transmission services;
- ✓ Provision of cable TV and communication services through cable distribution networks;
- ✓ Provision of services through „point to point” networks in the fixed radio service;
- ✓ Provision of services through satellite networks in the fixed radio service
- ✓ Broadcasting services (radio and TV)
- ✓ Provision of Internet access

Regarding the current monitoring of the national market development, set of indicators defined by CRC are being followed.

On the basis of the information collected, database is maintained and updated by types of telecommunication activities.

Detailed revision of the indicators included in the questionnaires is made regularly every year in order to verify that the scope of data collected brings relevant and consistent information.

New data collection practice is coming

As a new Member State of the European Union (EU) since 1 January 2007, Bulgaria is committed to follow the EU legal and regulatory framework for the electronic communications sector. For this purpose in 2008 CRC shall

start market definition, analyses and assessment of the relevant electronic communications markets in the country susceptible to ex-ante regulation.

In compliance with the EU regulations in May 2007 a new Electronic Communications Act was adopted. This new regulatory framework modifies the current authorization regime as follows:

- Provision of electronic communications networks and services without use of scarce resources is subject to notification;
- Electronic communications with use of scarce resource numbers from the National Numbering Plan and frequency bands are carried out based on authorization after competition/tender hold.

New data collection practice...

In view of the above, the CRC data collection practice should undergo the following changes:

✓ **Restructuring of the current questionnaire format**

The new authorization regime of electronic communications activities requires aggregation of the present separate questionnaires by telecommunications activities into one single questionnaire. The new questionnaire is to be filled by every undertaking carrying out electronic communications and shall have separate chapters for the different networks/services offered.

✓ **Need of additional information for the purposes of market definition, analysis and designation of SMP operators**

This particular information on the operators' telecommunications activities shall be collected through special questionnaires.

✓ **Building up of a relevant data base and elaboration of electronic format to fill-in questionnaires.**

Dissemination and use of data

The information obtained from the CRC questionnaires gives grounds to identify the current market situation of the Bulgarian telecommunications sector and is being used for different purposes and disseminated as follows:

At national level:

- ✓ CRC Annual Report, as well as for performance of the specific regulatory functions (see attached the short version of CRC Annual Report 2006)
<http://www.crc.bg/section.php?id=42&lang=en> (full version of the Annual Report 2006)
<http://www.crc.bg/archive.php?lang=en&id=14> (annual reports for the period 2000-2005)
- ✓ Data provided for other organization and institutions: State Agency for Information Technologies and Communications, Competition Protection Commission, etc.

At international level:

- ✓ Implementation Report on the Regulatory Framework for electronic communications of the European Commission
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecommlibrary/communications_reports/index_en.htm
Bulgaria will be included in the next 13th Implementation Report -expected at the beginning of 2008.
- ✓ ITU World Telecommunication/ICT indicators data base and World Telecommunication Development Report
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/informationsharing/index.html>
- ✓ Country comparative report "Supply of services in monitoring of South East Europe - telecommunications services sector and related aspects".

In 2007 was completed the Project for Monitoring of Telecommunication Markets in South East Europe "SEE Observatory". The reports (1st, 2nd and 3rd) are available at:

<http://www.cullen-international.com/documents/cullen/cipublic/studies/studiesprogress.cfm>

The last 4th Country Comparative Report is going to be published soon.

- ✓ European Regulators Group (ERG)/Independent Regulators Group (working groups and projects): <http://www.erg.eu.int>

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