

Media Release- 8th June 2004

ComReg concludes mobile operators dominant in termination markets and consults on measures to decrease termination charges

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published the conclusions of its review of the mobile termination markets and also published a consultation paper covering obligations it proposes to impose on mobile operators.

Mobile termination charges are the wholesale rates which operators, both fixed and mobile, pay to mobile operators for calls which are connected to subscribers on their networks. They affect consumers indirectly because they are factored in to the prices consumers pay at retail level for fixed-to-mobile and mobile-to-mobile calls.

ComReg found that the market for voice call termination services on mobile phone networks in Ireland was not competitive and has decided that four operators: Vodafone, O₂, Meteor and 3 should each be designated with significant market power on their own networks. In line with the procedures of the new regulatory framework, ComReg is notifying the EU Commission and other European regulators for comment before making its conclusions final.

ComReg has also concluded that mobile voice call termination rates in Ireland need to be cost-oriented and is proposing a number of ways to reduce voice call termination charges to efficient operator levels. ComReg, in coming to its conclusions, is taking into account that Vodafone and O₂ have already committed to voluntary reductions in their termination rates and that Ireland's mobile termination rates are low in comparison to other EU countries.

ComReg is asking for comments on the obligations set out in the Consultation Paper. Both of the papers in relation to this matter ComReg 04/62a and ComReg 04/62b are available on the ComReg website: www.comreg.ie

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler, Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie