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ComReg Decides on Fees Payable by Broadcast Distributors

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today issued a decision as to how contributions payable by broadcasters to ComReg will be calculated and also how fees for any spectrum used by broadcasters should be calculated under the new regulatory regime which came into effect on 25 July.

ComReg has in the past raised two types of charge on industry, administrative charges and fees for using spectrum. ComReg has decided to continue its established practice of applying administrative charges on all regulated entities. Because the scope of the new regulatory framework is slightly broader than the old framework some companies will now have to pay charges that previously did not. In the broadcasting sector this means that both RTE and the BCI will now be liable to pay a relatively small sum to ComReg. ComReg will harmonise the amounts payable by all providers of communications services and has therefore decided on a basis for levying cable and MMDS operators which would represent a significant reduction in their contributions.

ComReg has also decided to calculate fees for spectrum use on a basis consistent with all other communications providers such as telecomms companies. RTE and the BCI will not pay spectrum fees as ComReg does not have the power to charge them.

This document is part of the series on the future framework for authorisations under the new EU Directives for Electronic Communications Networks (ECN) and Electronic Communication Services (ECS) which came into effect on 25 July 2003. The document outlines decisions made following ComReg's consultation on fees applicable to broadcasting networks and services issued in July (ComReg 03/78) and general conclusions on fees contained in its fees paper issued in May (ComReg 03/46).

A previous ComReg decision, 03/46, set out the fees and charges payable by the rest of the electronic communications sector.

ENDS

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