



Media Release- 19 May 2005

ComReg finds eircom dominant in telephone interconnection markets

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published the conclusions of its review of the wholesale interconnection markets on fixed-line telephone networks. ComReg was obliged to carry out reviews of these markets under the EU regulatory framework for telecommunications.

In telecommunications, interconnection services permit interoperability between competing telephone networks, which may occur at different points on a network. In broad terms, wholesale interconnection consists of three elements – call origination, call transit, and call termination. (The individual markets reviewed are contained in a note at the end of this statement.)

ComReg has concluded that eircom has significant market power (SMP) in all of the markets defined. In addition, ComReg concludes that all operators providing fixed termination services for calls also have significant market power on their individual networks. The EU regulatory framework for telecommunications requires ComReg to impose obligations on operators who have significant market power.

The obligations imposed on eircom are in keeping with those which exist already under eircom's Reference Interconnect Offer. ComReg is also imposing price control obligations on Other Authorised Operators to address competition concerns in the call termination market.

ComReg is among the leading group EU regulators who are completing the market reviews. This set of reviews marks the completion of notification to the European Commission of all of the main markets set out by the Commission.

The papers contain both the response to consultation on the market review and an additional consultation on the draft decision setting out all of the obligations. In line with the procedures of the new regulatory framework, ComReg is notifying the EU Commission and other European regulators, so that they may comment before ComReg makes its final decisions.

ComReg welcomes comments from interested parties on the draft decision. Comments must be submitted by the 15th of June 2005. All the relevant documents in relation to this matter – ComReg 05/37a, ComReg 05/37b, ComReg 05/37c and ComReg 05/37d are available in the publications' section of ComReg's website www.comreg.ie

Note to editors

ComReg has defined the interconnection markets for fixed networks as follows:

- A national market for wholesale call origination services;
- National markets for wholesale call termination services;
- A national market for wholesale call termination services used to provide retail calls to service providers; and
- A national market for wholesale national call transit services on the public telephone network provided at a fixed location.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie