

Media Release- 1 December 2008

## **ComReg imposes obligations on Hutchison 3G Ireland in relation to voice call termination on its own network**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published the conclusions of its review of the market for the termination of mobile calls on Hutchison 3G Ireland's (H3GI) mobile network. ComReg was obliged to carry out the market review under the European Regulatory Framework for telecommunications.

The services under examination are those for the termination of calls on H3GI's mobile network. A terminating network is the network to which a customer who receives a call is directly connected. ComReg has found that there is a separate market for wholesale call termination services supplied by H3GI. In addition, ComReg has found that in this market H3GI is in a dominant position owing to its 100% market share, the high and non-transitory barriers to entry and the evidence which does not indicate that there is sufficient countervailing buyer power in this market.

The European Regulatory Framework obliges ComReg to impose obligations on an operator with Significant Market Power (SMP). ComReg is imposing the following obligations on H3GI:

- Price Control;
- Transparency; and
- Non-discrimination.

Commenting on the Decision ComReg chairman, John Doherty said: "These obligations are being imposed on H3GI to address competition concerns in the mobile call termination market. Mobile termination charges are the wholesale rates which terminating operators, both fixed and mobile, pay to the originating operator for calls which are connected to subscribers on the originating operator's network. They affect consumers indirectly because they are factored into the prices consumers pay at the retail level for fixed to mobile and mobile to mobile calls. Reductions in these charges, as applied by H3GI in line with the reductions by other mobile operators, will bring benefits to both fixed and mobile customers in terms of lower charges."

The Decision Notice ComReg D05/08 (ComReg Document 08/92) is available on the ComReg website.

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