



Media Release- 11th December 2003

ComReg issues Consultation Paper On Market Analysis for Local Loop Unbundling

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today issued a Consultation Paper (ComReg 03/146) on the market analysis of wholesale unbundled access. The consultation paper is the latest in a series that ComReg is issuing under the market review process.

ComReg proposes that eircom should be designated as having SMP (significant market power) on the market for “wholesale unbundled access” (including shared access) to metallic loops and sub-loops for the purpose of providing broadband and voice services.

In addition, ComReg also proposes to designate eircom with the following obligations:

- Provision of access through Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) including co-location and related facilities;
- Non Discrimination;
- Transparency, including the publication of a reference offer;
- Accounting Separation;
- Cost Orientation.

ComReg’s Chairperson John Doherty said: “it would not be economically viable for any new entrant to attempt to replicate the incumbent’s local access infrastructure. Alternative technologies such as wireless local loops, cable or satellite are valuable alternative providers but they do not provide the level of penetration of the local loop network and are not likely to do so, in the time frame of this review.”

The new EU communications regulatory framework requires that ComReg define relevant markets appropriate to national circumstances. In addition, ComReg is required to conduct an analysis of the relevant markets to decide whether or not they are effectively competitive.

ComReg would welcome comments from all interested parties on the questions posed in this market review. Comments are to be supplied in writing on or before January 30th 2004.

The full consultation paper ComReg 03/146 is available on the ComReg website.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639

Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie