



## Media Release- 18 February 2003

### **ComReg Issues Decision Notice on Partial Private Circuits**

Partial Private Circuits are a new wholesale product which enables operators to provide more competitively priced leased lines to end users. This product has already been successfully introduced in a number of other EU countries where it has made a significant contribution to competition in the market for point to point services. The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) considers the availability of this product will stimulate competition, encourage economic efficiency, and so benefit end users.

In order to facilitate the development of this product, ComReg issued a Decision Notice on 13th December 2002 which contained a number of Directions to *eircom*. *eircom* has failed to comply with a number of the Directions issued by ComReg in D17/02. As a result of this, the Partial Private Circuit product, which *eircom* was due to make available to operators from 15th February 2003 will be delayed.

ComReg considers this to be highly regrettable as *eircom* and Other Licenced Operators (OLOs) had worked well with ComReg up to this point on the development of the product. They had also complied with the procedure outlined in the Decision Notice up to this point. As a result of this delay, ComReg has today issued a Direction to *eircom* which requires them to complete the process and sets out the remedies for this failure to implement the earlier Directions.

In order to minimise the effect of this delay on *eircom's* wholesale customers that wish to avail of this product, ComReg has stated that the financial benefit to these operators shall apply from a date such that any benefit is calculated as if no delay took place.

If the delay extends beyond 3 weeks ComReg has reserved its position and will consider whether it is appropriate to impose further obligations on *eircom* in respect of this product.

**ENDS**

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