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ComReg Issues Information Notice on progress to date and remaining stages for introduction of FRIACO Product

Information Notice 02/122, the last for 2002, sets out the current position and outlines the remaining steps to ensure the introduction of competitive FRIACO wholesale services.

The provision of the wholesale product FRIACO, is under EU legislation mandatory where either an incumbent offers such a retail service or where there is a reasonable request from another licensed operator for such a wholesale product. To date, eircom have chosen not to offer such a retail service but in July 2002 two licensed operators requested the provision of this service and ComReg have been working with the industry to ensure the early provision of their demands for service. Following regulatory intervention, the product description is close to completion and the remaining steps will be set out early in 2003.

One of the key enablers of internet usage in many countries has been the provision of a FRIACO service which is a wholesale product provided to operators, allowing those operators in turn to offer at a retail level the provision of a flat rate internet product. This enables companies and residential customers to have a predicable, competitive and 'always on' service. In this context, the availability of a wholesale FRIACO product can be a catalyst for enhancement of the internet services available to consumers and therefore supports the objective of offering competitive pricing, choice and quality.

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