



Media Release- 5 October 2005

ComReg launches its Strategy Statement for 2005 to 2007

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today issued its second strategy statement outlining ComReg's views on possible developments in the telecommunications and postal sectors for 2005 to 2007.

ComReg is legally obliged to publish a strategy statement every two years setting out its regulatory strategy in order to meet its objectives and functions as set out in the 2002 Communications Regulation Act.

ComReg Chairperson Isolde Goggin said: "The past few years have seen significant developments in the communications and postal sectors. ComReg is issuing its second strategy statement at a time of significant change and growing optimism within the Irish communications market. The sector is at critical point in its development due in part to the emergence of new technologies such as voice over internet and increased consumer expectation.

"The electronic communications sector plays a vital role within our economy and contributes significantly to our national competitiveness. In a period of dynamic change in the communications sector both in Ireland and globally, it is vital that regulation is predictable, consistent and transparent. This in turn facilitates the promotion of competition for the benefit of consumers as well as encouraging investment. ComReg is continually mindful of its responsibility to promote the interests of users and to protect consumers."

"The formulation of a strategy statement is invaluable to an organisation such as ComReg in that it facilitates stock-taking and planning. It also helps ComReg prepare for near-term change and it enhances our regulatory agility and flexibility."

“In particular issues such as the development of the postal sector and our radio spectrum are key areas of national importance. ComReg has been working to ensure that Ireland’s radio spectrum is used to the maximum benefit of both industry and consumers, alike. In relation to the postal sector, ComReg has also been working to ensure that the sector is ready for full liberalisation which will take place in 2009.”

Today’s document takes into account responses received both to the strategy statements on electronic communications and postal consultation as well as other recent consultations on spectrum and the Forward-Looking Strategic Review of the Telecoms Sector. ComReg wishes to thank all of those who responded to these consultations.

Since the initial consultation was issued there have been a number of significant and important developments which may have an impact on the Irish market in the short to medium term. These include the launch by ComReg of a competition for a fourth 3G mobile licence in August, the full commercial launch by 3 of its 3G service to consumers and the proposed acquisitions of Meteor and ntl Ireland by eircom and Liberty Global respectively. Also, the increased take-up of broadband is further evidence of strong consumer demand for new and advanced electronic communications services.”

ComReg hopes that this Strategy Statement provides the necessary level of regulatory certainty to the market and looks forward to working with our stakeholders in the coming years to implement this Strategy.

ENDS

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