



**Media Release- 15 February 2008**

## **ComReg publishes its 2008-10 Postal Strategy Statement**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its Strategy Statement for the Postal Sector in Ireland for the period 2008 – 2010. The statement sets out ComReg's vision of a dynamic and competitive market offering an increasingly wide range of competitively-priced, quality postal products and services.

Postal services have long been recognised as an essential part of Ireland's economic infrastructure and this is reflected in the Universal Service Obligation and other such safeguards in the interests of users.

The Strategy Statement notes that the European Council and the European Parliament have now adopted a Common Position on the third Postal Directive, setting a deadline of 31 December 2010 for the full market opening of postal markets.

This new Directive will provide Member States with the flexibility to tailor the regulatory framework to suit national characteristics. The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan TD, has already announced that he will consult with stakeholders on the options available to him before transposing the Directive into Irish Law. The need to balance the desire for light-handed regulation with the need for proper controls to deter any potential for anti-competitive activity will be fundamental in determining how this is best achieved.

ComReg will work with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to provide advice and support to this process. The achievement of the appropriate level of regulation necessary to ensure sustainable competition, provide consumers with price, choice and quality and drive innovation is central to Ireland's continued economic success.

Commenting on the Strategy Statement, ComReg Chairperson John Doherty said "The timing of this Postal Strategy Statement is appropriate given the consensus reached at European level on the future of postal services although it will be some time yet before consumers will reap the full benefits that competition brings. That is why the proposed third Postal Directive envisages continued regulatory intervention to protect consumers in terms of the prices, quality and services of the incumbent operator, An Post, which is likely to retain a dominant position in the market for some time to come."

**ENDS**

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