



Media Release – 19 September 2006

ComReg seeks views on competition in the fixed retail calls markets

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published a call for input on its review of the markets for retail fixed calls. ComReg was obliged to carry out the market reviews under the new EU telecommunications framework.

These markets have previously been notified and accepted by the European Commission; however, before issuing a Final Decision ComReg considered it appropriate to review the analysis and the conclusions. This allowed consideration of changes or developments in the markets from the time of the initial review and other relevant inputs from the EU Commission regarding future regulation in the retail calls markets.

ComReg proposes to define four national markets for retail calls from a fixed location. These are:

- Retail residential domestic calls from a fixed location;
- Retail residential international calls from a fixed location;
- Retail non-residential domestic calls from a fixed location; and
- Retail non-residential international calls from a fixed location.

In this review, ComReg is consulting on whether the retail fixed calls markets warrant retail regulation. ComReg seeks views on whether, given the availability of wholesale inputs (CPS and SB-WLR¹), efficient and sustainable entry is likely.

ComReg has examined eircom's market share in the respective markets; retail call prices, and the impact of VoB among non residential users². At this point, ComReg has not taken a final position but seeks views from interested parties whether the retail calls markets tend towards effective competition.

ComReg has identified that some potential restrictions of competition may still exist but where such strategies constitute an abuse of dominance, ComReg seeks views as to whether competition law provides the appropriate instruments to effectively address such market failures.

¹ Carrier Pre Select and Single Billing Wholesale Line Rental.

² Voice over Broadband is a managed type of Voice over Internet service (VoIP) and is one of a sub-group of VoIP services.

The paper is a national consultation and seeks input from interested parties on preliminary findings. Comments must be submitted by October 31, 2006. The supporting document in relation to this matter ComReg 06/51 is available on the ComReg website www.comreg.ie.

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