



Media Release – 18 May 2006

## **ComReg to host OECD workshop on Spectrum Management**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) will host a joint meeting with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the O'Reilly Hall, University College Dublin on Wednesday 31 May 2006. At the all-day workshop a range of high-profile international speakers will focus on the reform of radio spectrum management and challenges for the future. The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey TD, will make the opening address to the meeting.

The radio frequency spectrum is a valuable global resource that is used to support a large number of electronic communications services and applications. Access to radio frequencies is an essential requirement for telecommunications, aviation, shipping, defence services, public safety, broadcasting and public mobile services. In addition, many businesses and consumers rely on such communications services on a daily basis.

As mobile communications become more prevalent, and as demand for new, bandwidth-hungry services such as mobile broadcasting and high-speed data increases, pressure on spectrum is driving industry and regulators to seek new ways to make the most of this finite resource.

The workshop is entitled '**Toward more flexible spectrum use: the digital dividend?**' and will explore the factors that are driving changes in spectrum management. It will also deal with the issue of new technology and the experience of regulatory changes. The workshop will be attended by government representatives from over thirty OECD member countries, as well as technology experts, industry representatives, economists and spectrum experts. There will be a wide range of speakers from countries such as France, Japan, USA, UK and Ireland.

Speakers at the workshop will include:

**Jim Norton** – Head of e-Business Policy at the UK Institute of Directors, and a former Chief Executive of the UK Radiocommunications Agency, who has pioneered innovative approaches to spectrum management.

**Ruprecht Niepold** - Head of the Radio Spectrum Policy Unit in the European Commission's Directorate General for Information Society and Media, Dr. Niepold has been at the forefront of radio spectrum policy development from a Community perspective.

**Thomas W. Hazlett** – Professor of Law and Economics at George Mason University, USA, a former Chief Economist of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission and an internationally recognised innovator and expert on telecommunications policy.

The workshop will be open to OECD members, industry, government, and other interested parties. For further details, please contact Sinead Devey on 01 804 9621 or at [sinead.devey@comreg.ie](mailto:sinead.devey@comreg.ie)

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

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