



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Statement by Etain Doyle, Director of Telecommunications Regulation re: European Commission's proposed Regulation on Unbundling the local Loop

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator, today welcomed the proposed Regulation on unbundling the local loop issued by the European Commission.

She said, "The Independent Regulators had requested that the Commission provide a means of fast tracking a legal framework for unbundling the local loop. I am pleased that the principles as set out in the regulation are what we wanted to see and appear to meet what is required. This initiative is one of a series of measures introduced by the Commission to update and advance the regulatory framework."

Unbundling the local loop allows other telecom companies and service providers access the *eircom* local network and provide services directly to customers. It is particularly relevant to the provision of broadband services. It can be used as a means of delivering added choice to consumers, encouraging growth of the telecommunications market, complementing alternative access infrastructure and providing delivery of new services. In short, it enhances competition and helps deliver the best in price, quality and choice to consumers.

She continued "Work on issues common to all types of unbundling the local loop is already well underway with two working groups up and running. One of these is focusing on the operational issues while the second is dealing with issues relating to access to shared facilities."

ENDS

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