

Inaugural Meeting of European Telecoms Regulators' Group

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The inaugural meeting of the European Regulators' Group for electronic communications networks and services was held in Brussels on 25 October.

The Group will constitute the interface between national regulatory authorities and the Commission. It will contribute to the development of the internal market, and to the consistent application of the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services in all Member States.

In his opening address Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society said : "This is an important day as we embark towards the implementation of the new regulatory framework. This inaugural meeting formally marks the establishment of the European Regulators' Group. It brings into being one of the key components of the EU policy on electronic communications, networks and services.

He continued : "The European Commission and national regulatory authorities need to look together at what specific actions can be undertaken, ensuring that the European markets develop in an efficient and sustainable way. Any actions must take into account two factors : first the need to ensure that the new regulatory framework is fully implemented on time and that it remains stable; second, that the integrity of the European Internal Market and the principles of competition policy are respected".

Jens Arnbak, Chairman of OPTA in the Netherlands, was elected Chairman of the group in the first meeting, which also discussed the future work programme of the group and consultation with interested parties. Details of future meetings, agendas and the future work programme of the group will be published in advance so that market players can be invited to contribute.

The initial work programme will be agreed at the next meeting of the Group in January 2003, and contributions from market players should be received by the 31st December 2002. Proposals should relate to areas where there is a need for harmonisation of regulatory measures to be taken in Member States.

For further information, please visit :

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/regulatory/index_en.htm

Contributions should be sent to :

e-mail : info-Al@cec.eu.int

or

e-mail : salonso@cmt.es

Based on information from the European Commission