



EETT hosted the Conference of the European Regulators Group (ERG) in Athens

On October 11th and 12th, EETT hosted the Conference of the European Regulators Group in Athens. Within the framework of the Conference proceedings, various issues were discussed. Those issues were related to the new European regulatory framework on electronic communications, as well as to the common strategy of the European regulatory authorities on issues such as the next generation access networks, wholesale broadband access, fixed and mobile telephony termination fees, international roaming service and convergence of services.

Furthermore, a Press Conference was held within the framework of the proceedings, which was attended by Mrs. Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Mr. Kostis Hatzidakis, Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Roberto Viola, Chairman of the European Regulators

the last position in broadband development, which is a negative fact for the country's competitiveness and the citizens. However, within one year, it has managed to multiply broadband penetration rate, reaching 6.8%. Constant progress is being marked and for this reason congratulations are in order for EETT. Nevertheless, EETT's work has not yet been completed, since Greece can and must reach the European Union average. All competent organizations must work together towards this goal, as broadband is the solution for Greece, mainly due to its particular morphology". Also, Mrs Reding noted that on November 13th, the European Commission will adopt the reform of the European institutional framework for telecommunications.

The Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Kostis Hatzidakis stated: "The telecommunications

In the telecommunication sector many opportunities are eminent and numerous new jobs can be created. Personally, I would not want to miss this opportunity".

The President of EETT, Professor Nikitas Alexandridis, underlined the following: "It is with pleasure that we realised that thanks to the efforts put forward by the State, the Enterprises and the Regulator, the growth rate of broadband connections is accelerated, while at the same time the average access speed is systematically improved. Competition becomes more and more intense, bringing in new investments, more players and new network infrastructures to the market and contributing to a further reduction of the cost of broadband connections. The strict implementation of recent regulatory regulations has already brought very encouraging results.



From left: Professor Nikitas Alexandridis EETT's President, Mrs Viviane Reding Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Mr Kostis Hatzidakis Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr Roberto Viola Chairman of the European Regulators Group (ERG)

Group (ERG) and Professor Nikitas Alexandridis, President of EETT.

During the Press Conference, Commissioner Reding stated the following: "There are many reasons why the four of us are sitting at this table. This fact constitutes a message by itself. Our goal is to render the European Union a leader in new technologies. To this effect, we want to have a powerful national Regulator in each member state, who will contribute towards an open market in favor of competition, the economy and the consumers. The Regulator must be independent and perform his work on the basis of European and national legislation. I would like to express my support to EETT and the excellent work it performs. This has not been an easy work, since Greece was late in implementing European legislation. Greece occupied

market must be supported in order to attract large investments and protect the consumer's interest. In this sector, EETT must have a dominant role. Besides, we support EETT's effort in facilitating the smooth operation of the market. All of these areas left behind in the implementation of the European Law and telecommunications, we must accelerate the adaptation process. The government invests a lot in telecommunications, not only in terms of hope, but money as well. There is plenty of room for all in this particular market, both for OTE, who has made significant progress in recent years under the supervision of its President, Mr. Panagis Vourloumis, as well as for high quality alternative providers. Our goal is to develop broadband services, the new generation of optical fibers as well as to bridge the digital gap.

Nevertheless, since as a country we must not tolerate being the last, we must realize that more coordinated and drastic efforts are required by all of us – the State, the Enterprises and the Regulator – in order to converge with the European average as far as the utilization of electronic communications is concerned".

The Chairman of the European Regulators Group (ERG), Mr. Roberto Viola stated: "ERG is particularly satisfied with the work of EETT and the cooperation between EETT and the other independent regulatory Authorities. Also, we are pleased with the progress of the Greek broadband market and we look forward to further development and constructive cooperation".