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## ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΕΣ ΕΝ ΤΑΧΕΙ

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## Message of the President



*Dear readers,*

I have recently read, to my satisfaction, that our country became a global leader in a certain sector — the global broadband sector. More specifically, Greece achieved the highest increase rate in DSL subscribers in the second quarter of 2006 (among all countries having over 100,000 DSL lines). In the above quarter, the increase exceeded 44%, whereas India had a 40% increase and South Africa had a 24% increase. I hope that our actions, as the National Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT), have contributed to the above mentioned achievement, as well as that our country will continue to have similar achievements, and thus reversing the current negative image with regard to broadband.

Some of the key factors that have contributed to the above achievement are the significant drop of ADSL rates due to the ever-increasing competition, as well as the fact that companies have offered customers higher connection speeds without additional charges.

It is noted that some individual factors that are closely linked to the development of DSL and broadband in general in our country are the Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) and the physical collocation in the facilities of the incumbent. Within the framework of LLU and thanks to the upbuilding efforts made by EETT and its ongoing cooperation with the incumbent and the alternative providers, it was possible to increase the 7,000 lines that existed at the start of the year to 13,000 lines today. Our goal is to have an additional 60,000 lines until the end of the year. Furthermore, within the framework of physical collocation in the facilities of the incumbent, it was possible to achieve the increase of just one facility at the beginning of the year to over 20 centers at present. Our goal is to have over 170 centers in one year. The achievement of the goal above will be ensured by having OTE assign the construction of the centers to a single Contractor for the entire territory of Greece.

It is noted that, in addition to DSL, wireless WiMAX networks play a complementary role in the above-described development of broadband. These types of networks will make a significant contribution towards the goal of offering broadband Internet access even to the remotest parts of Greece, mountainous and island areas. These areas in particular comprise the largest part of the total territory of Greece. Thus, people living in the rural areas of Greece will be able to participate in the society of knowledge and information, and the digital gap -which is large, especially in the above-mentioned areas- will be significantly reduced. Within the framework of developing such networks, EETT successfully completed the tender for the fourth WiMAX license in August, while at the same time having ensured, as part of its roll-out obligations, the existence of all necessary synergies with the "Development of local access network infrastructures" operational program, in order to increase its chances of success.

As a result of our ongoing efforts, and through effective communication and upbuilding cooperation with the incumbent, the alternative providers, consumers, and all stakeholders, we are assisting in all possible ways the planning and promotion of Electronic Communications in Greece.

Marousi, October 2006  
Professor **Nikitas Alexandridis**  
President