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## ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΕΣ ΕΝ ΤΑΧΕΙ

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## Message of the President



*Dear readers,*

The year 2007 has been declared as the "Broadband Year" by the Greek Prime Minister himself who stressed out the significant importance of broadband access for the country's progress and the improvement of the quality of life for all Greek citizens.

The regulating initiatives undertaken by EETT in 2006 - particularly further to the voting of L. 3134/2006 in February 2006 - are already yielding results. The most important results of 2006 are:

- The rapid increase of broadband access (active subscribers have been than tripled, access speeds have increased, availability has expanded to a large part of the country, retail prices were reduced by approximately 60%).
- The encouragement of significant new investments in infrastructure.
- An important reduction of retail prices for basic telecommunications services in fixed and mobile telephony.

We should point out that a necessary condition for the increase of broadband penetration are investments by alternative providers, now that OTE's urban exchanges open up and Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) is being implemented. To that end, EETT has formed a special task force to undertake close monitoring of the joint installations project at OTE's Exchanges (through continuous meetings between providers and OTE, site audits at OTE's installations, etc). The goal is for OTE to fulfill its obligations as to the provision of joint installation services to providers and the provision of the necessary local loops. The result of this effort was an important increase of the number of joint installation points, which from only one at the beginning of the year, were 39 at the end of 2006. We believe that 2007 may be considered as the "Local Loop Year and the Time for OTE to open its Network to Competition" provided that the joint installation project is further promoted and that the providers implement their scheduled investments promptly while routing - in time - the commercial availability of pioneering broadband services. In this framework, EETT shall carry out its regulatory and supervising role so that the above developments are accelerated and all obstacles in the way of free development of the market and competition are lifted as soon as possible.

Another condition for fast development of broadband access is the elimination of the Greek people's "technophobia" and most importantly the poor understanding of issues relating to Internet development and mobile telephony antennas. In this framework, EETT has scheduled an extended, nationwide informative campaign that will last through the entire year, with a full series of events aiming at providing information to the public on broadband Internet and wireless networks. In November 2006, EETT had already held a successful conference on "Mobile Telephony Antennas: A Responsible Dialogue for the Provision of Valid Information and Protection of Citizens", thus initiating the implementation of a systematic and multi-level schedule of events, based on the principle of "Information - Monitoring - Transparency". The particular activity will continue in other Greek cities as well, starting from Thessaloniki at the end of January 2007.

Moreover, two additional initial steps include (a) a special bulletin issue providing the necessary scientific data on mobile telephony antennas and electromagnetic radiation, as well as the enhancement of its site with the publication of the complete relevant legislation on antennas as well as useful answers to frequently asked questions by citizens on antennas and (b) two easy-to-read leaflets, one on mobile telephony antennas and the other on broadband Internet (expected to be released at the end of January 2007).

In conclusion, I must thank all EETT officers for their valuable contribution to EETT's creative work this past year. May 2007 be a year of personal, family and collective success, bringing health and happiness to all.

Happy New Broadband Year!

Maroussi, January 2007

Professor Nikitas Alexandridis  
President