



## International EETT Conference on "Exploring the Global Dynamics of Broadband Internet"

In June 2007 EETT held the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-day International Conference on "Exploring the Global Dynamics of Broadband Internet" at Lagonissi Grand Resort Hotel.

The goal of the Conference was to analyse the international dimension of broadband internet and to promote eminent Greek and foreign specialists in broadband technology and market, who would introduce the participants to their know-how. The Minister of State, Mr. Theodoros Roussopoulos announced the opening of the conference while the main speaker was the EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Mrs. Viviane Reding. Mr. Gerasimos Papadopoulos, Finance Sector Coordinator for KKE party and Mr. Nikos Voutsis, Member of SYNASPISMOS party Political Secretariat also welcomed the participants.



The Minister of State  
Mr. Theodoros Roussopoulos

The first day of the Conference (Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007) was dedicated to development policies for broadband internet and particularly to applied national policies, international co-operations that are formed for the promotion of broadband internet as well as the approaches of the political parties. The Chairman of EETT Professor Nikitas Alexandridis, welcomed the Participants and pointed out that: "Today, the broadband communications and services market in our country is ready to take off... We are running, but we need to run faster. And when we are left so much behind compared to other European countries, we must all make additional efforts and invest more to reach those in front of us".



The Commissionaire  
Mrs Viviane Reding

In his welcome speech, Mr. Theodoros Roussopoulos pointed out that "EETT, with its fast, responsible and effective response has put its stamp on broadband internet development that we are currently experiencing. And I am sure that with the status, the will, as well as its available means, EETT may become the corner stone for healthy development of the Electronic Communications network and services market and the achievement of the national goal, which is to see all



Chairman of the European Regulators  
Group (ERG) Mr. Roberto Viola

Greeks have access to the Information Society".

The Commissionaire, Mrs Viviane Reding, while addressing the Participants, congratulated the progress made in the Greek market as a result of the transfer of the European regulatory framework to the Greek legislation. She referred to the reductions made on the prices of broadband services that reached up to 80%, the 600.000 new broadband lines installed as well as the 250% increase in unbundled access loops since the beginning of the year.

At the end of her speech, Mrs Reding declared: "I welcome your efforts to progress both of the State as well as of the Regulatory Authority. These efforts are fruitful. However, this is not a sprint, but a marathon, in which you must run as fast as in a sprint. It is hard, but Greece must necessarily accelerate in order to catch up".

The second day of the Conference (Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007) was dedicated to international applications of broadband internet while special emphasis was given to the regulatory actions for their promotion. Furthermore, the importance of broadband for Public Administration, Regional Development, Education and Entrepreneurship was analysed.

The key speakers during the second day of the Conference were the Minister of Transport and Communications Mr. Michalis Liapis and the Minister of Development Mr. Dimitris Sioufas. The Chairman of the Romanian Regulatory Authority, Mr. Dan Georgescu, also spoke on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

Mr. Liapis characterised the conference of EETT as an important institution in the field of electronic communications in our country that has been registered as a point of recording and decoding the latest information, experience as well as best practices for broadband expansion.



From left: Vice-president of Electronic Communications Mr. Nikolaos Koulouris, EETT's President Professor Mr. Nikitas Alexandridis, Minister of Transport and Communications Mr. Michalis Liapis, Minister of Development Mr. Dimitris Sioufas, Vice-president of Postal Services Mr. Thodoris Dravillas, Adviser of Minister of Transport Mr. George Jovlas, President of the Hellenic Competition Commission Mr. Spyridon Zisimopoulos, KEPKA's President Mr. Nikolaos Tseberlidis

Moreover, the Minister underlined the critical role that EETT is successfully playing, with a broad spectrum of activities and interventions, in the promotion of the citizens' broadband access to electronic communication networks and services as well as in the identification and management of problems that may act as an obstacle in this effort.

In his speech, the Minister of Development, Mr. Dimitris Sioufas, focused on the goal of "digital convergence" pointing out its "great importance" for the government. To meet this goal we are developing actions that focus on three parallel axes: Encouraging investments in new, modern and viable infrastructure, enhancing demand in broadband services by citizens, businesses and the state, developing

new advanced applications and services, of increased added value."

The third and last day of the Conference (Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007) was dedicated to the presentation of the situation prevailing in the field of Broadband Internet in Greece and the views expressed by the telecommunications market and the consumers' representatives. The key speakers were the Chairman of the European Regulators Group (ERG) Mr. Roberto Viola, the Deputy Minister of Development Mr. Anastasios Nerantzis and the Special Secretary for Digital Planning Mr. Vasileios Asimakopoulos. The General Consumer's Secretary, Mr. Ioannis Oikonomou also addressed a speech.

During his speech, Mr. Viola, pointed out that one of the main goals of ERG is to promote broadband and new generation networks. He also pointed out that investments are a prerequisite for their development. Mr. Viola also mentioned that a critical issue for discussion at European level is the functional separation of providers with significant power in the market (incumbents), as well as the fact that the ERG has recently launched a consultation on the characteristics of the Next Generation Access Networks.

The Deputy Minister Mr. Anastasios Nerantzis congratulated EETT for its contribution in defending the rights of consumers, developing national resources, such as the radio frequency range and developing the electronic communications market.



View from the EETT's International Conference, that took place in the Hotel Grand RESORT Lagonissi