



One-day Conference held by EETT in the framework of the Broadband Forum

One-day Conference organized by the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT) for the presentation and discussion of the proposals and the conclusions formulated within the framework of the Broadband Forum, was held in Athens with particular success on February 26th, 2008.

The Broadband Forum is an initiative by EETT, which started in June 2007, within the framework of a multi-dimensional action programme for "2007 Year of Broadband". The Forum's aim has been to review critical aspects for the development of the Broadband market, through an extensive dialogue encompassing the State, market players, academic institutions and community organizations. The issues reviewed by the Forum's work groups are: 1) Digital Content and Internet Applications, 2) Education and Training, 3) Bridging the Digital Gap, 4) Enterprising - Competition - Viability, 5) Public policy for the promotion of the Broadband Services.

The Minister of Transport and Communication Mr. Kostas Chatzidakis, the Secretary General of Public Administration and E-Government, Mr. Vasilios Andronopoulos and the Special Secretary of Digital Planning, Professor Vasilios Asimakopoulos addressed the Conference.

In his opening speech, Mr. Chatzidakis stressed that: "If we exploit properly and timely the opportunities offered by new technologies, we can benefit as individuals, as a state and as a country. We can strengthen Greece's competitiveness. We can create new and good jobs. We can facilitate the daily

routine of the Citizen. New communication technologies may contribute decisively to the lifting of the social exclusion of vulnerable and geographically isolated groups of population".

The Secretary General of Public Administration and E-Government, Mr. Vasilios Andronopoulos referred to the notion of upright Governing which represents a strategic goal of the Business Programme "Administrative Reformation" by the Ministry of Interior. In the conclusion of his salute, Mr. Andronopoulos underlined that efforts, such as the Broadband Forum, contribute to the awareness and the better preparation of Local Self-Government Organizations (LSGO) for their complete response to the upcoming requirements in relation to the introduction and implementation of administrative changes.

The Special Secretary of Digital Planning, Professor Vasilios Asimakopoulos stated: "We want to incorporate potential actions that will result from the Broadband Forum to the actions already being planned, since we are interested in a truly qualitative development of Broadband. If quality broadband services are limited once more, as in the past, into discussions on connection speeds and infrastructures, then we may have produced

some sort of positive outcome, but this will once more involve only a few, not all".

In his opening address, EETT's President, Professor Nikitas Alexandridis, characterized 2007 as a milestone for electronic communications in Greece. Professor Alexandridis referred to the significant progress that has been achieved and underlined that despite the significant efforts, there is still a long way ahead, until Greece covers the distance to more advanced markets. In addition, he stressed: "We consider this aim to be multidimensional and unable to be restricted merely to infrastructure networks and subscriber numbers. It requires (1) applications that offer a useful and attractive content to broadband services, (2) new skills from the citizens, the enterprises and the state mechanism and (3) new business models and new policies. Naturally, it requires the contribution of all of us, the State with its coordinated organizations, the business world, the local communities and social organizations. A gigantic effort has been put forth in the last 8 months within the framework of the Broadband Forum, in order to coordinate the representatives of the organizations who responded to our invitation".