

BEREC Inaugural Meeting

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 BEREC

The inaugural Meeting of the newly established Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) took place in Brussels on 28 January 2010. The outgoing Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Mrs Viviane Reding, and the new European Digital Agenda Commissioner and Vice President of the European Commission, Mrs Neelie Kroes, addressed greetings to the meeting participants, among whom was also the EETT President, Dr Leonidas Kanellos.

This inaugural Meeting set the bases for the operation of the BEREC as successor to the European Regulators Group (ERG), and also approved the rules for its internal operation and staff recruiting in view of its increased powers under the new European Regulatory Framework. Furthermore, it approved the relevant Work Programme for the year 2010, which was released for Public Consultation so as to record the views of economic bodies across the European market of Electronic Communications on the impending actions of this body.

Following a relevant ballot, the presidency of the BEREC for 2010 was assigned to Mr John Doherty, head of the Regulatory Authority of Ireland (Commission for Communications Regulation-ComReg). Also, Messers Matthias Kurth, Chris Fonteijn and Reinaldo Rodriguez, respectively heading the Regulatory Authorities of Germany (Federal Network Agency-BNETZA), the Netherlands (Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority of the Netherlands-OPTA) and Spain (Telecommunications Market Commission-CMT), were elected as Vice Presidents.

The formation of the BEREC promises to strengthen the institution of Regulatory Authorities and play a decisive role in the creation of a single European market of Electronic Communications, to the benefit of businesses and consumers. According to its founding Regulation¹, the new body does not form part of the European Commission but replaces the ERG as a forum of cooperation among Regulatory Authorities for Electronic Communications,

as well as between these Authorities and the European Commission.

The BEREC will bring together as members the Regulatory Authorities of the 27 member states of the EU, while representatives of the European Commission and of the respective Authorities of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries (Island, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)

and of the three EU accession candidates (Croatia, FYROM and Turkey) will participate in its meetings as observers.

The new body is expected to have taken up its full duties by May 2011, when the new Regulatory Framework for Electronic Communications will have been transposed into the domestic legal order of all EU member states.



¹ Reg. 1211/2009.