

# Introduction by the President

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 was a turning point in the evolution of the telecommunications sector in Greece, as it signalled the start of full liberalisation in the market for telecommunications.

Under the new legislative framework established by L.2867/2000, EETT was assigned with the demanding and significant task of establishing the regulatory framework for the operation of the liberalised market, with the aim to promote competition to the benefit of the consumers and of Greek economy. At the same time, EETT undertook the task of timely auditing interventions, in order to ensure observance of the above-mentioned regulatory framework. The new Law strengthened significantly the responsibilities of EETT, which works methodically and efficiently in order to meet its obligations.

Our aim is to enable, in cooperation with all market actors, the creation of modern infrastructures and the development of new services, for achieving the participation of our country in the Information Society, the provision of high-level services to all citizens and their active involvement in developments and in economic growth. Towards these goals, the activities of EETT in 2001 focused on the following action lines:

- ▶ Promotion of the development of an integrated regulatory framework.
- ▶ Increase of the number of operators.
- ▶ Ensuring and intensification of competition.
- ▶ Supervision of the telecommunications sector and safe guarding consumer interests.
- ▶ Provision of information to consumers and market players.
- ▶ Participation in international bodies.

In particular, during the year EETT:

- A. Issued regulations aiming to ensure smooth market operation and effective functioning of liberalisation to the benefit of the consumers. These regulations concern the entire range of telecommunications activities, and especially the licensing framework, the usage of radio frequencies, the numbering system and the principles followed in costing and pricing services.

- B. Granted a large number of licences for the exercise of telecommunications activities in our country. Using transparent procedures above any contestation, EETT granted, as a result of competitive procedures, Individual Licences for the development of business activities in mobile telephony and third generation (3G) Mobile Communications, seeking to strengthen competition and to avoid monopoly and oligopoly cases, strengthening in parallel the confidence of citizens in institutions and securing substantial financial benefits to the State.
- C. Intervened in cases of complaints, imposing substantial administrative penalties in many cases, with the aim to ensure that the telecommunications market and the postal market operate in accordance with the laws and principles of competition.
- D. Ensured smooth implementation of the new National Numbering Plan.
- E. Established the institution of Public Consultation as a process preceding each one of its important actions, contributing significantly to the consolidation of a positive climate between all interested parties.

In spite of the adverse conditions prevailing internationally, we believe that the above actions taken by EETT made a significant contribution, by opening-up the market, strengthening competition and significantly increasing market and –especially in what concerns highly qualified scientific personnel– employment figures. Moreover, the positive results of the actions taken by EETT and the alignment of Greece with global developments led to the recognition, at the international level, of the progress made in liberalisation, and confirmed that **the Greek communications market forms part of the European one and operates based on the same principles, laws and practices as those applying in the corresponding markets of the other EU Member States.**

Strengthening confidence in institutions is one of our key concerns. In 2002, EETT will continue the important task of creating a modern competitive market for telecommunications and postal services to the benefit of the consumers.

Athens, March 2002

Emm. Giakoumakis  
EETT President