

Message from the President

The obligation of EETT to submit the Annual Report is at the same time a chance to evaluate its work as well as the progress of the markets it monitors and regulates. In the telecommunications sector, 2004 was registered as:

- a) The fourth year of operation of the telecommunications market in full liberalization regime.
- b) The year of the Olympic Games in Greece, and of the Olympic Games with the highest use of radio frequencies in the history of the Games.
- c) The year that a modern radio spectrum management and monitoring system operated in Greece for the first time.

Higher competition in the telecommunications market with the introduction of new services, such as Number Portability, and the dissemination of existing ones, such as Carrier Selection and Pre-selection, with the protection of consumers' rights, the effective market monitoring and the imposition of penalties in cases of non-compliance with the telecommunications and competition legislation, confirm that, with EETT's contribution, the liberalization of the telecommunications market is a fact with only positive results for consumers, the Greek economy and the State.

The successful management of the electromagnetic environment during the Olympic Games was a major success, not only for EETT who was responsible for it, but for Greece as well. The greatest use of radio spectrum ever was observed during the Olympic Games, and notably in the Greek electromagnetic environment, which is not distinguished for its order. Nevertheless, we succeeded. And it was not a matter of luck, but the result of systematic preparation, organization and hard work.

Greece was the last country in the European Union (EU) which acquired a radio spectrum management and monitoring system. Naturally, the Olympic Games acted as a catalyst, but the result was the fruit of coordinated efforts taken by EETT which had already started since 2002.

In the postal services sector, Greece keeps up with the pace of the EU, gradually moving to the free market. In 2004, the control of the deregulated market was intensified and we insisted on quality issues of the

Universal Postal Service.

Certainly, the liberalization of telecommunications was a big, significant and decisive step for the development of telecommunications in Greece. But there is still much work to be done. Today, EU in its whole is making another great effort. Successful transition from telecommunications to electronic communications is a criterion for participation in the Knowledge Society. The new effort requires positive inclusion of the Greek society in the significant steps taken worldwide.

Despite the great delay of our country to harmonize its legislation with the new European Regulatory Framework of Electronic Communications, EETT proceeded to a number of actions in 2004, aiming at the prompt application of the new Framework, immediately after its transposition into the Greek legislation. The new Framework application shall strengthen competition in individual markets and shall encourage undertakings of the sector to invest in technological innovations and implement the appropriate business strategies, in order to meet current demands of the Electronic Communications market.

Finally, I would like to note that eventhough the Independent Regulatory Authorities are a new institution for our country, they have underlined the significance of their role in the operation of competitive markets to the benefit of consumers. In recent years, EETT has made full and effective use of the benefits of the Independent Regulatory Authorities institution. With its work, EETT has contributed to the increase of the social capital of confidence in institutions and has proved the State right for trusting EETT with important competences, great supplies and resources.

At this point, I would like to thank the excellent staff of EETT for its ongoing efforts, the Greek State which ensured the necessary framework for successful efforts and finally, the family of European Regulators and the European Commission, which have contributed to the work of EETT through solidarity and team spirit.

Emmanouil A. Giakoumakis
EETT President

Maroussi, March 2005