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The dynamic development of Information and Communications Technology requires an adequate and timely response from the national body assigned with the function to regulate the electronic communications markets. For this purpose, the priorities and work of the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC/the Commission) are subject to the establishment of conditions for the protection and promotion of competition in the relevant markets, which will allow the entry of new undertakings and the expansion of choice options for end users.

One of the priorities of the CRC for 2014 was the start of the second round of the procedure for definition, analysis, and assessment of the markets for (physical) wholesale access to the network infrastructure (including full and shared unbundled access) at a fixed location and for wholesale broadband access. The prepared analysis is consistent with the Recommendation of the European Commission of October 9, 2014 on relevant product and service markets within the electronic communications sector susceptible to *ex ante* regulation, as it defines the relevant wholesale markets for local access provided at a fixed location (3a) and for central access provided at a fixed location for mass market products (3b) according to the list of markets in the Annex to the recommendation.

In fulfillment of another of its main priorities for efficient management of the radio frequency spectrum, taking into account the interests of businesses and end users in the continuously emerging new communication services, at the end of 2014 CRC launched a public consultation procedure in relation to the prospects for use of the free resource in the 1800 MHz radio frequency band. In the public consultation, questions were also asked regarding the interest of undertakings in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2 GHz, and 2.6 GHz bands. The undertakings stated interest in the 800 MHz and 1800 MHz bands for the development of 4G (fourth-generation) mobile networks. In order to explore and discuss the national interest of businesses in the introduction of digital sound broadcasting public consultations were also conducted on the prospects for the introduction of terrestrial digital sound broadcasting in the Republic of Bulgaria. During the consultations, interest was revealed in principle in the introduction of terrestrial digital broadcasting only in the 174-230 MHz band.

As part of the CRC's priorities for 2014 a significant number of inspections were conducted in order to increase the efficiency of the control activities related to the carrying out of electronic communications pursuant to the Law on Electronic Communications (LEC) and observing the requirements of the Law on Electronic Document and Electronic Signature (LEDES). In addition, CRC carries out monitoring and control of the quality of the services provided to protect the public interest and the interests of consumers.

The trend continued of strengthening the interaction between the CRC and international and European institutions. To achieve the goals set, CRC maintains an active dialogue with the European Commission and close involvement in the work of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) and other international and European organizations. Through its international activities, CRC contributes to the implementation and use of the best European and international regulatory approaches in the national practice.

In 2014, CRC substantially contributed with its opinions in the debate on the draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent, and amending Directives 2002/20/EC, 2002/21/EC, 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Regulations (EC) No 1211/2009 and (EU) No 531/2012. The draft Regulation is the next step in the revision of the regulatory framework of 2009, which started in 2013 and will continue in 2015.