

## VI. NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

In relation with the expiration of the monopoly of BTC PLC in 2003 (as of January 1, 2003) CRC started the preparation of a new legislation for administration of numbers and addresses under the conditions of liberalized telecommunications market. The issues related to the introduction of carrier selection and numbers and addresses to be used for provision of services by alternative operators were studied.

At the beginning of the year, licenses granted to Comnet Bulgaria OOD, BTC-NET EOOD and Sofia Communications AD gave the possibility for providing the service "national access to Internet". For that purpose, CRC provided three short national numbers of the National Numbering Plan (NNP) for dial-up access to the Internet in the "133" and "134" ranges.

Rapid development of the mobile cellular networks raised the necessity for further numbering resource, which could not be provided by the existing structure of the National Numbering Plan. Together with the representatives of the respective public operators – BTC PLC, MobilTel EAD, Cosmo Bulgaria Mobile EAD and RTC OOD, CRC discussed the possibilities for answering the needs of numbering resources of the licensed operators and the expected new ones. Extremely limited capabilities of providing new two-digit access codes (NDC) necessitated the preparation of various options to solve the problem, including a possible change in the numbering structure. For solving the problem in the long-term period, CRC decided to lengthen the National Significant Number (NSN) for mobile cellular networks by one digit, which increased the subscription numbers to 7 digits after the two-digit access code (NDC) to the mobile cellular networks. This guaranteed:

- Sufficient numbering capacity for long-term development of mobile cellular networks;
- Unification of the National Numbering Plan in the area of mobile cellular networks (two-digit NDCs having first digit 8).

In 2003, the mobile operators were given the possibility of own international interconnection negotiations and an additional subscriber capacity (MobilTel EAD – with 2 000 000 and Cosmo Bulgaria Mobile EAD – with 1 000 000).

In addition, the number and address resources taken by licensed operators were closely examined, the free numbering space per towns was analyzed and numbering and addressing resources envisaged for new operators on the telecommunications market were determined.

CRC provided a total of 145 000 geographic numbers and 12 addresses (4 international and 8 national signalling point codes) to the new telecommunications operators for provision of voice telephone service – Orbitel AD, Netplus OOD, Globaltech – Bulgaria EOOD, East Telecommunication Company AD and Nexcom – Bulgaria EAD. For providing the service "access to voice telephone service" through the service "carrier selection" the licensed Orbitel AD, Netplus OOD, East Telecommunication Company Act and Nexcom – Bulgaria EAD were furnished also with 10xy codes for carrier selection.

Due to the lack of an approved format of non-geographic numbers for provision of service within the ranges of "700", "800" and "900", applications of the operators for having such numbers were not granted. A discussion with the concerned public operators was held reference to the allocation principles and the value-added services within the range of "900" and their numbering. Provision of non-geographic numbers within the ranges of "700", "800" and "900" will begin after the Ordinance for the rules of allocation and procedures for assignment, reservation and withdrawal of numbers, addresses and names is being published.

The expiration of BTC monopoly on the realization of international connection of the Bulgarian telecommunications networks led to the necessity for introduction of additional international signaling point codes. By providing an international signaling point code to Orbitel AD, 75 percent of the total 8 international codes given to the Republic of Bulgaria by that moment, was covered. In this relation, ITU-T provided a new group of 8 international signalling point codes, three of which were granted to East Telecommunication Company AD, Netplus OOD and MobilTel EAD, respectively.

For the purposes of network interconnection realization at a national level, Orbitel AD, Netplus OOD and East Telecommunication Company AD also received national signalling point

codes – one for Orbitel AD and for Netplus OOD, and six for East Telecommunication Company AD.

In 2004 the new regulatory policy regarding the use of numbers and addresses provides an optimization of the National Numbering Plan and the release of numbering resources for new type of networks and services.