

## CONTENTS

### XIV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

#### 1. Projects and Programs

**Participation in programming under PHARE (2004 - 2006)**

**Participation in programming under ITU-D (2004 - 2007)**

#### 2. International organizations and cooperation

**Bilateral cooperation**

#### 3. International coordination and notification

### XIV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

#### 1. Projects and Programs

Regulation of the telecommunications and postal markets under the conditions of full liberalization is a serious challenge and in this respect, CRC relies on the experience of international institutions and organizations, intergovernmental agreements, as well as on technical assistance provided under the EU PHARE Program.

In 2003 project fiches and terms of references were prepared, and additionally, CRC took part in the programming under PHARE (2004 - 2006) and ITU-D (2004 - 2007).

A contract for development of "Management information system" (national co-financing) was signed – component of the project for institutional building of CRC (BG0003.01).

The Commission applied for a consultants project "Twinning Light" (institutional partnership) BG/2001/IB/TE01-TLF – "Strengthening the CRC capacity in postal regulation" for supporting the regulation and control of the postal market and the documentation (Project fiche and Technical terms of reference) was approved by the EC Delegation. Further on a procedure for collection of proposals for documentation assessment and project contracting was announced, which was closed at the end of November 2003.

Project fiche for institutional partnership in four main areas – market regulation, legal regulation, spectrum management and monitoring – "Institutional Building at the CRC" (600 000 EUR, 12 months), was prepared under Financing Memorandum 2002. The project was successfully applied in 2003 and made the contracting for 2004 possible.

The regular 6-months reports on the participation of CRC in the work of the joint sub-committee for monitoring of the Energy and Telecommunications Sector were prepared and submitted according to the specific requirements.

#### **Participation in programming under PHARE (2004 - 2006)**

The following CRC priority projects for the period 2004 – 2006 were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Finance, which is a national coordinator of the support:

- projects related to the implementation of effective mechanism in regulation of networks based on new technologies;
- regulation of certification services;
- projects related to the implementation of new technologies and increasing the efficiency of market regulation;
- projects related to further development of the national system for spectrum control and monitoring.

#### **Participation in programming under ITU-D (2004 - 2007)**

The projects submitted to ITU-D for approval are as follows:

- Project referring to new technologies in the radio and TV broadcasting;
- Project related to spectrum management systems.

Other developments (under Memorandums of understanding – Italy, the Netherlands):

- Project related to the legislation, standardization in carrier selection and carrier preselection;
- Protection and information security of networks, regulation level;
- Development of spectrum management system and preparation for joining the Vienna/Berlin agreement;
- Tariff principles, etc.

## **2. International organizations and cooperation**

At the beginning of the year CRC experts prepared and presented a preliminary plan for the CRC international activity.

The Commission took part in the work of the Communications Committee (COCOM) and of the EC Radio Spectrum Committee (General Directorate "Information society"), which were established according to the new regulatory framework in the area of electronic communications, effective since April 24, 2002 having the status of an observer.

In 2003 CRC made the first step for membership of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) and participated in its plenary meetings. It is expected that the Bulgarian regulator will be accepted as full member in 2004. Within the new IRG initiative for collaboration with the Southeastern European countries, on October 3, 2003 CRC took part in the first joint meeting of IRG together with Turkish and Romanian regulatory authorities in Athens, Greece.

CRC took part as an observer in the meetings of the European Regulators Group (ERG).

At the session of the ITU Board in May 2003 the CRC sectoral membership in 'Development' Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-D) was finally approved.

CRC attended the ITU-BDT seminar for network development, held on 21 – 24 January 2003 in Sofia. The Commission participated in the initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU for on-line global dialogue among regulators - Global Regulator's Exchange G-REX. CRC was provided with an access password to take part in forums and virtual conferences, to use archives, to send replies, comments, to ask questions and provide relevant materials.

The Bulgarian regulator showed its experience in the field of regulatory principles for provision of universal access at the 4-th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) held in Geneva in December 2003.

The Commission took part in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in December 2003, Geneva (Switzerland), where CRC sent in advance its official position on the general statement before the World Summit. The idea was that everyone should join the statement regarding the key role of national regulatory bodies for encouraging the universal access to the information and communication technologies.

CRC representatives took part in the project for development of a Center of Excellence, as well as in the first regional meeting for Europe and the CIS countries, held in February 2003 in Thessalonica (Greece).

CRC participated in the 2003 annual meeting of Study Group 1 of the Development Sector of the International Telecommunication Union held in September 2003 in Geneva.

CRC experts took part in the work of the Universal Postal Union bodies together with representatives of other institutions of the postal administration of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as in the regulation and universal postal service seminar for the Balkan countries, organized in November 2003 in Sofia by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

In September CRC also hosted a ECC-PT3 meeting in Sofia.

In May CRC experts took part in the plenary sessions of the European Committee on Postal Regulation (CERP) held in Vienna (Austria) and in November – in Bucharest (Romania).

CRC representatives participated in the First constituent assembly of the Network of the telecommunication regulatory bodies in the Francophonic Member Countries held in October 2003 in Bamako, Mali, where a Chart and Plan for network operation were adopted.

### **Bilateral cooperation**

Under SETA initiatives a seminar on radio frequency spectrum was held in September in Sofia, and at the beginning of October CRC representatives took part in a seminar on the competition in the telecommunications markets conducted in Tirana (Albania).

The working program for cooperation with the Turkish regulator was updated, as well as that of the post and telecommunications working group within the Bulgarian-Turkish Transport Commission.

Bilateral cooperation agreements were initiated together with Italy (AGCOM) and France (ART).

### **3. International coordination and notification**

The international coordination was implemented on the basis of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union and the European agreement on various radio services. After the end of the international coordination, the coordinated stations are registered in the Master International Frequency Register kept by the International Telecommunication Union.

With this respect CRC fulfilled the following:

- 1381 Bulgarian stations – 1377 TV broadcasting stations and 4 radio broadcasting stations entered the Master International Frequency Register;
- Requests for international coordination of 4 Bulgarian VHF FM radio stations and 27 Bulgarian TV stations were filed;
- Requests from foreign administrations demanding coordination of 45 VHF FM radio stations, 481 TV stations and 4 Earth stations were received;
- The two-week circular letters for the terrestrial and space services of the Radio Communication Bureau at the International Telecommunication Union were processed on a regular basis;
- The application for non-planned satellite system BULSAT-BSS was further processed;
- Correspondence with EUTELSAT IGO was maintained;

CRC maintains and updates its database with documents received from international organizations, business trip reports and e-library, which gives the possibility for providing information and access to the data available.