

IX. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In 2004 CRC participated in the work of the main international organizations and institutions (the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the European Commission), studying the problems of the telecommunication and post sectors, as well as in a number of international projects and programs. The final purpose is the Bulgarian regulator system to approach the EU countries to the maximum extent as part of the process of harmonization of the administrative, legal, technical and regulatory procedures, applied in Bulgaria, with these of the EU.

CRC and representatives of its administration took part in a number of international meetings and workshops as follows:

In the meetings of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG) and the European Regulators Group (ERG), of the Communications Committee (COCOM) of the European Commission;

In the plenary sessions of the CEPT committees, and in their working groups;

In the XXIII-rd congress of the Universal Postal Union in Bucharest, Romania.

Through the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), representatives of CRC took part in the workshop of the Center of Excellence (CoE) of ITU-D and INA "Monitoring of the spectrum – measurement and techniques" (Skopje, Macedonia); the workshop of the Center of Excellence (CoE) of ITU-D "Monitoring of the RFS" (Kiev, the Ukraine); the workshop on "Applying the spectrum management – engineering of the spectrum and automated management of the spectrum", organized by CoE of ITU-D with the assistance of the New Bulgarian University (Sofia); the regional workshop of ITU-D, dedicated to the preparation of the Regional Radio Conference of ITU on the planning of the digital TV in 2006 (Moscow, Russia).

Representatives of the Commission attended the 5th annual Global Symposium of Regulators (GSR) in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as the 2nd annual meeting of the Francophone network on the regulation of the telecommunications (FRATEL), Fess, Morocco.

This year CRC was the host of the following activities with international participation:

- Workshop "Price Modeling for CRC and the Bulgarian Operators", with the participation of representatives of BTC PLC, MOBILTEL AD and COSMO BULGARIA MOBILE EAD, organized by the Belgian consulting company "Bureau Van Dijk" in Sofia;
- Meeting of the Project Team 2 "Technical Regulation and Interconnection Standards" (PT 2 TRIS) of the European Communications Committee (ECC) to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT);
- Visit of a delegation of the Italian regulatory body in Bulgaria and signing a Common declaration for the bilateral collaboration between AGCOM and CRC on a two days workshop;
- Meeting of the working group to the Stability Pact. The initiative eSEE of the Stability Pact is concerned with the problems of the setting up of the information society by using the potential of the information and communication technologies;
- Workshop on electronic security of the Development Bureau of the International Telecommunications Union and INA;
- Visit of a delegation of the National Agency for Regulation of the Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Morocco. The possibilities for establishing bilateral collaboration between the regulators on the basis of a future agreement were discussed at the meeting.

At the invitation of the Greek Southeastern Europe Telecommunications & Informatics Research Institute (INA), CRC joined in as one of the partners in the project "South Eastern European Information Telecommunication Cohesion Initiative" (SEITCO) of the program INTRREG IIIB CADSES of the EU. Information will be presented at workshops, round tables, conferences and the solving of current problems facing the regulators will be assisted:

problems of the interconnection, the policy of competition in the EU, knowledge management in the field of telecommunications, etc.

An agreement was signed between the CRC and the Belgian consulting company Cullen International SA, for regulatory information services, to be used by CRC in 2005.

Projects and programs financed by the pre-accession funds of the EU.

By the projects/programs support for the administration is provided in the development of the secondary legislation in the field of the telecommunications and postal regulations in the context of the completely liberalized and liberalizing market, taking into account the European legislative and regulatory norms, for the improvement of the level of the technical equipment in the management and the monitoring of the RFS as well as for the preparation of the "Next generation policy and regulation", taking into account the convergence among the technologies.

Implemented activities:

- A short-term contract - Twinning Light BG2001/IB/TE01-TLF – Strengthening the CRC capacity in postal regulation was executed; the partner in the contract was the "General Secretariat for postal services regulation" of the Ministry of the development of Spain. The purposes of the project were achieved, the legal and economic aspects in the regulation of the postal services were covered from the standpoint of the efficient application of the achievements of the European legislation in this field.
- The implementation of a Twinning project BG2002/IB/TE01-UE – Institutional Building at the CRC, developed in 4 main directions: market regulation, legal regulation, management and monitoring of the RFS, started.
The partner of CRC is the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce (after the changes in Spain) – State Secretariat on the telecommunications and the information society, in collaboration with the Commission for the Telecommunications Market of Spain. The contract started with a preliminary phase, followed by the real implementation of the activities in the contract, and the final stage foresees an assessment of the achievements/analysis of the results. The contracted period for the implementation is 12 months, and the funds from the PHARE Program amount to 600 000 Euro.
- CRC applied with a Project Fiche for the package/envelope of unallocated funds 2003/2004 "Technical aspects of the telecommunications regulation", and the result / the contract is expected in 2005.
- In connection with the PHARE projects, regular 6-month reports were elaborated and presented before the joint sub-committee for the sector "Energy and Telecommunications", as well as information, connected with the monthly monitoring on the progress of the projects.

The international coordination is performed on the basis of the Radio-Regulations of the ITU and the European Agreements for the different radio services.

In this respect the experts of CRC are working on a number of international coordination documents and maintain the necessary regular correspondence.