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## **IX. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

CRC participates in the activities of the main international organizations and institutions dealing with issues of the telecommunications and postal sectors (International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU), European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), European Commission), as well as participates in a number of international projects and programmes. The final purpose of the Bulgarian regulatory system is maximum approach to the regulatory systems of the EU countries as part of the process through which the administrative, legal, technical and regulatory procedures in our country are harmonized with the legal framework of the European Union.

### ***1. International cooperation***

In 2005 CRC and representatives of its administration have participated in a number of international forums and workshops, in the first place the meetings of the Independent Regulators Group and the European Regulators Group, as well as in their working groups and the sessions of the Communications Committee of the European Commission.

The Communications Regulation Commission is actively taking part in the CEPT plenaries, the sessions of the CEPT committees (CEPT and ECC), as well as in the CEPT working groups. The ETSI General Assembly (France) have been followed with a great interest.

Through the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) CRC has a workshop for Spectrum monitoring and management (Skopje, Macedonia), as well as a meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, dedicated to Next Generation Networks regulation.

CRC took also part in the NATO meetings in Brussels, Belgium and CEPT/ECC/civil/military in Tallinn, Estonia, the many-sided meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, as well as in some regional events. At invitations on behalf of their side, the regulators of France and Spain were visited.

The Commission attended the 6th annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), held in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, the Third annual meeting of the Francophone Telecommunications Regulation Network (FRATEL ) in Paris, France and a workshop of FRATEL in Nuakshot, Mauritania.

During the year CRC has hosted the following international activities:

- Talks with the Greek regulator on digital television;
- Many-sided meeting of the Balkan regulators dedicated to the digital radio broadcasting planning;
- TAIEX workshop on network interconnection of postal operators.

### ***2. Projects and programmes financed by the pre-accession funds of the European Union***

Through the projects and programmes is provided support to the administration in the field of telecommunications taking into account the European legal and regulatory framework and the convergence of technologies.

- Institutional Partnership Twinning project BG2002/IB/TE01-UE has been accomplished, developed in four main areas: market regulation, legal regulation, radio

frequency spectrum management and monitoring. Institutional partner was the Spanish State Secretariat for Telecommunications and for the Information Society under the Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade in cooperation with the Telecommunications Market Commission of Spain. The contracted period was 12 months, while the PHARE funds amounted to 600 000 Euro and the national co-financing to 40 000 Euro. The implementation of the contract covered four phases by activities, such as legal regulation, market regulation, licensing and frequency planning, frequency spectrum monitoring. The results in general are reports on the study visits held, summaries of the discussions and the observations, supporting additional documents, as well as training materials, suggestions, draft legal documents, strategies, criteria, procedures, algorithms, etc. The proposed methods on implementation of the activities (37 in total) and the resources have contributed seriously for the accomplishment of the goals of the project – increased capacity of CRC in the regulation and control of a liberalized telecommunications market. The contract has come to an end on 15.11.2005 and the final report is approved by the Delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria.

- CRC defended a project fiche according to the package of unallocated funds for 2004. An institutional partner was selected, namely the State Secretariat for Telecommunications and for the Information Society under the Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade of Spain. The BG2004/IB/TE/01/UE/TL project “Regulatory implications of the introduction of New Generation Networks and System Security issues of Electronic Signature” has a contracted period of 8 months, having PHARE funds amounting to 105 000 Euro and national co-financing of 9 000 Euro. The project is aiming at elaboration of effective regulatory mechanisms with regard to the networks based on new technologies (NGN, VoIP), in accordance with the *acquis*, improvement of the control and regulatory functions of the CRC with regard to electronic document, electronic signature and system security. The project starts in 2006.

- In connection with the implementation of the PHARE programme projects, regular six-month reports were elaborated and presented, regarding the participation of the Commission in the activities of the joint sub-committee for monitoring of the Energy and telecommunications sector, as well as information for the monthly held monitoring on the progress of the projects.

### **3. International coordination**

The international coordination is implemented on the basis of the Radio Regulations of ITU and the European agreements for the different radio services. In this respect the experts of CRC has contributed to a number of international coordinations and has maintained the necessary regular correspondence.