

The most important legal act, regulating telecommunications in the Republic of Bulgaria, is the Telecommunications Act (promulgated in St. Gazette No. 93 from 1998, amendment and rider No. 26 from 1999, No. 10 and 64 from 2000). The Council of Ministers approved and passed for endorsement by the National Assembly an Act for Amendment and Rider to the Telecommunications Act. The State Telecommunications Commission (STC) actively participates in the elaboration of this law.

In 2000 the work on the regulatory framework continued, further developed by adoption of a number of secondary legislative acts, prepared by the STC, which govern the application of the Telecommunications Act.

- Ordinance No. 5 from 24 January 2000 for conformity assessment of radio equipment and terminal devices for telecommunications and their connection to public telecommunications networks (St. Gazette, No. 9 from 2000)
- Ordinance No. 6 from 2 June 2000 ã. for the order and manner of issuing individual licences for the construction, maintenance and operation of private mobile radio telephone networks (PMR) under conditions of no tender or auction (St. Gazette No. 49 from 2000)
- Ordinance No. 7 from 18 July 2000 ã. for the order and manner of issuing individual licences for the construction, maintenance and operation of fixed microwave lines networks, under conditions of no tender or auction (St. Gazette No. 61 from 2000)
- Ordinance No.10 from 27 July 2000 ã. for the order and manner of issuing individual licences for the construction, maintenance and operation of VSAT networks with hub station on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, under conditions of no tender or auction (St. Gazette No. 64 from 2000)

The STC adopted the following class licences for application of the Telecommunications Act:

- Class Licence No. 201 for performance of telecommunications activity over mobile satellite terminals (St. Gazette No. 14 from 2001)
- Class Licence No. 202 for performance of telecommunications activity over satellite terminals for satellite news gathering (SNG) (St. Gazette No. 86 from 2000)
- Class Licence No. 203 for performance of telecommunications activity over SNG microwave links (St. Gazette No. 86 from 2000)
- Class Licence No. 206 for the construction, maintenance and operation of networks and terminal devices using ISM frequency ranges (St. Gazette No. 16 from 2000)

- Class Licence No. 210 for installation and operation of public payphones and provision of services using those payphones (St. Gazette No. 66 from 2000)

By decision No. 1321 from 20 December 2000, the State Telecommunications Commission approved a National Numbering Plan (NNP) and Rules for Allocation of NNP and procedures for initial provision, reservation and revocation of numbering capacity. With this act, for the first time in Bulgaria and compliant to the European and worldwide practices, the governance of the numbering plan passed from the incumbent telecommunications operator to the regulatory body in charge of telecommunications.

By decisions of the Council of Ministers No. 551 from 31.07.2000 and No. 743 from 13.11.2000, at two consecutive occasions an upgrading was made to the National Plan for Radio Frequency Spectrum Allocation for civilian needs in radio frequencies and radio frequency bands for the needs of defense and security and for shared use, called further the National Frequency Plan (NFP). The update served to free new radio frequency bands for civilian needs and revealed possibilities for the introduction of new radio communication technologies in Bulgaria. The role played by the STC in this process was significant, because the regulatory body builds relations of close interworking with the telecommunications operators and maintains precise knowledge on the needs for radio frequency spectrum.

Towards the end of 2000 the final version came out and was duly forwarded for review and agreement by the responsible institutions, of a draft for amendment and rider to Ordinance No. 3 from 12.03.1999 for the manner of determining the amount of licence and other fees pursuant to chapter 11, section II from the Telecommunications Act (St. Gazette No. 15 from 2001) and the draft of a Decree by the Council of Ministers for endorsement of a Tariff on Fees, collected by the State Telecommunications Commission pursuant to the Act on State Fees. The changes introduced to the Tariff were called upon to comply with the already upgraded normative framework and the overall development in the sector. Prepared in co-operation with the organizations of the telecommunications operators (ABBRO, AMCO, etc.) and the biggest telecommunications operators (BTC, Mobiltel, RTC), these changes rule out with more fairness and effectiveness the allocation of financial weights among the operators, in compliance with the principles for equality and cost orientation. For the first time, a charge was adopted for provision of numbers from the National Numbering Plan. The Tariff was endorsed by Decree No. 25 by the Council of Ministers from 31.01.2001 (St. Gazette, No. 15 from 2001).

In relation to the Civil Servant Act and the Administration Act, as well as with regard to the secondary legislation for their application, a draft was prepared and forwarded to the Council of Ministers of a Statute of Regulations governing the work of the State Telecommunications Commission and its Administration. The Statute of Regulations of the State Telecommunications Commission was endorsed by Decree No. 18 of the Council of Ministers from 26.01.2001 (St. Gazette, No. 10 from 2001).

