

### **III. MANAGEMENT OF SCARCE RESOURCES**

#### **1. Frequency spectrum**

Frequency spectrum is a unique, scarce natural resource, and its optimal management may bring social and economic benefits for the society as a whole. To this end, CRC strives to ensure conditions for development of a competitive communications sector, to promote the introduction of new technology and contemporary electronic communication services.

Frequency spectrum management is an activity aimed at a harmonized, efficient and interference-free use of the frequency resource.

CRC manages the frequency spectrum for civil needs in compliance with LEC and the relevant secondary legislation regulations which determine the frequency bands and the conditions for their use by different radio services and/or applications.

CRC determines the technical and legal regulatory framework in managing the frequency spectrum in compliance with the Radio Regulation of the International Telecommunications Union, decisions and recommendations of the European Commission and the Electronic Communications Committee to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration. The Commission took part in the activity of international organizations and organizations of the European Union, performs coordination of the frequency spectrum at both national and international levels, issues authorizations for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum, and maintains registers related to the use of frequency spectrum.

In 2011, CRC amended and supplemented the following secondary legislative regulations related to the management of the frequency resource:

- Technical requirements for the operation of land mobile networks and related equipment;
- General requirements for provision of public electronic communications;
- Rules for carrying out electronic communications for private needs via radio equipment using frequency spectrum which does not need to be individually assigned;
- Technical requirements for carrying out electronic communications via radio equipment from the amateur radio service.

#### ***1.1. Allocation, planning, assignment and efficient use of the frequency spectrum***

In relation to transposing the provisions of Decision 2011/251/EU of 18 April 2011 amending Decision 2009/766/EC on the harmonization of the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz frequency bands for terrestrial systems capable of providing pan-European electronic communication services in the Community, CRC amended and supplemented the Technical requirements for the operation of land mobile networks and the related equipment. The amendment and supplement added the conditions for the operation of land mobile networks – LTE and WiMAX in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz frequency bands. Amended were also the authorizations for the use of individually assigned scarce resource - frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via land mobile network - GSM network and/or UMTS. All three mobile undertakings have the right to use the spectrum assigned to them in bands 900 MHz and 1800 MHz for GSM, UMTS, LTE and WiMAX terrestrial systems.

In 2011, CRC organized public consultations on the prospects for development of LTE

(Long Term Evolution) in our country. The aim of these consultations was to study the interest of the business in developing the LTE technology in frequency bands 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2 GHz and frequency bands 2500-2690 MHz and 3400-3800 MHz. Based on the incoming statements, it could be summarized that the main interest of the undertakings in developing LTE in Bulgaria is focused in range 800 MHz and frequency band 2500-2690 MHz, which are not completely available for civil needs.

With the publishing of the General requirements for the provision of public electronic communications, the provisions of Decision 2010/166/EU of the European Commission on harmonized conditions of use of radio spectrum for mobile communication services on board vessels (MCV services) in the European Union, and Recommendation of the European Commission 2010/167/EU on the authorization of systems for mobile communication services on board vessels (MCV services) were transposed in the Bulgarian legislation. In this way, harmonization was carried out of the technical conditions of accessibility and efficient use of bands 900 MHz and 1800 MHz by systems providing MCV services in the European Union's territorial seas.

Decision 2005/928/EC of the European Commission on the harmonization of the 169.4-169.8125 MHz frequency band in the Community, amended with Decision 2008/673/EC, Decision 2008/477/EC of the European Commission on the harmonization of 2500-2690 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems, capable of providing electronic communication services in the Community, and Decision of the European Commission 2010/267/EU on the harmonized technical conditions use in the 790-862 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems, capable of providing electronic communication services in the European Union, are still not transposed in the Bulgarian legislation. The reason for this is that frequency bands 169.4-169.8125 MHz, 2500-2690 MHz, 766-814 MHz and 822-862 MHz have not yet been released for civil needs due to the lack of funds specially appropriated for modernization of the existing communication systems used for the needs of the national security and defence.

With the amendment to the Technical requirements for carrying out electronic communications via radio equipment from the amateur radio service, the texts pertaining to the order for determining and release of identification signs, the requirements for candidates to sit for an exam for radio amateur capacity, and the contents of the Public Registry of Radio Amateurs, were made more precise.

### *Mobile radio service*

Following the submission of applications by 4G COM EAD, CRC declared its intention to issue an authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via land mobile network – UMTS. Five applications were filed within the deadline determined by CRC. In this respect, sealed bid tender was called for issuance of authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource - frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via land mobile network – UMTS, with national coverage, with the use of individually assigned scarce resource from the frequency spectrum - 2x15 MHz (FDD) in band 2 GHz, for a period of 15 (fifteen) years. None of the six undertakings who had purchased the tender documentation filed an application to participate in the tender, as a result of which it was cancelled.

Following the submission of applications by BULSATCOMAD and MAX TELECOM OOD for the assignment of available frequency spectrum, CRC declared its intention to issue authorization for the use of frequency spectrum in band 1800 MHz for the provision of public electronic communications via land mobile network, with national coverage. Based on the applications filed, and the requests confirmed, CRC found that the

announced available scarce resource is sufficient to be used by all entities that had filed applications within the specified term, and decided to issue 3 authorizations for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum in this band for the provision of public electronic communications via land mobile network, with national coverage, for a period of 10 years as follows:

- 1 authorization for the use of 2x5 MHz to BULSATCOM AD;
- 2 authorization for the use of 2x8 MHz to MAX TELECOM EOOD and 4G COM EAD.

The undertakings have the right to use the frequency spectrum assigned to them for GSM, UMTS, LTE and WiMAX systems

Two temporary authorizations were issued for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum in frequency bands 2500-2570MHz/2620-2690 MHz (with assigned 2x20 MHz), respectively to:

- MOBILTEL EAD to test new technical methods and/or technology for the provision of electronic communications via land mobile network – LTE, on the territory of the city of Sofia;
- NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS EOOD – for demonstration of LTE equipment on the territory of the city of Sofia.

Temporary authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum (2x20 MHz in frequency band 1800 MHz) in order to test new technical methods and/or technology for the provision of electronic communications via land mobile network – LTE, on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, was issued to BULGARIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY AD.

CRC issued two temporary permits for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum in frequency bands 876-880/921-925 MHz for the provision of electronic communications via land mobile network GSM-R, to the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications. The temporary permits were issued with the purpose to test new technical equipment for construction of GSM-R network and new technical methods and/or technology for the provision of electronic communications via land mobile network GSM-R.

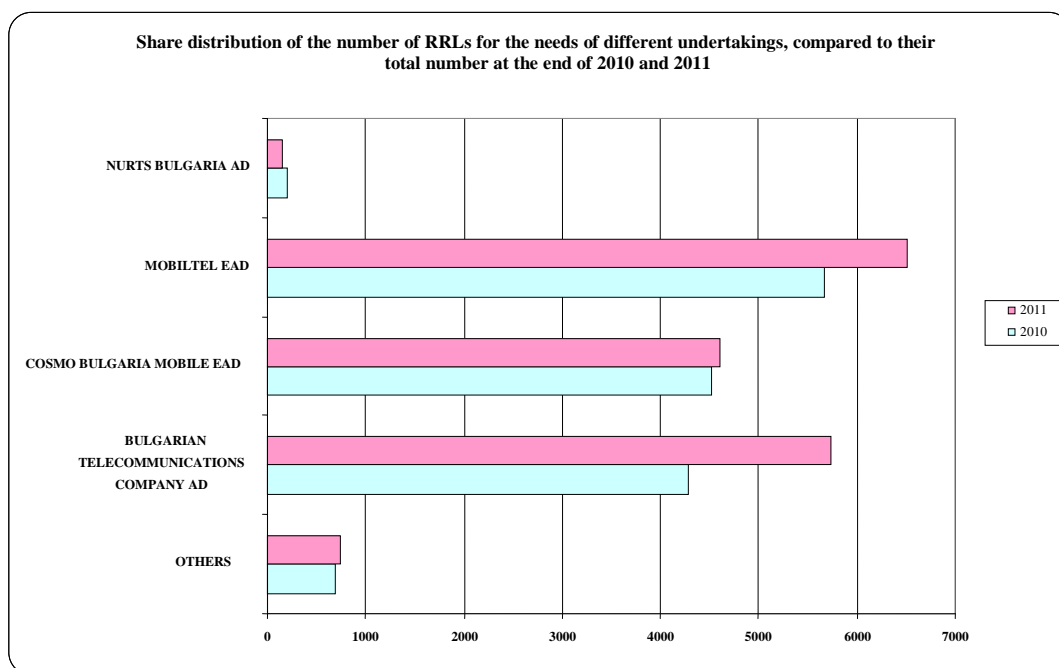
In 2011, MOBILTEL EAD was issued authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of electronic communications via land mobile network – PAMR. The goal of the undertaking is to provide services related to measurement and management of the consumption of utility services.

Following an analysis of the radio frequency spectrum provided for use and a national coordination and agreement on of radio frequencies and frequency bands with all state authorities, departments and agencies concerned, 196 radio frequency channels (125 simplex and 71 duplex) were provided to undertakings for construction of 236 new radio networks for the provision of electronic communications for private needs through an electronic communications network from the land mobile radio service – PMR (Private Mobile Radio), and thus, the total number of deployed networks reached 1,883.

#### *Fixed radio service*

In 2011, the technical data of a total of 5,184 radio relay links (RRLs) were amended and supplemented, including the provision of radio frequency spectrum to new 3,186 links, thus, their total number exceeded 17,720. At the end of 2011, the number of operating RRLs grew by 16%, as compared to the end of 2010. The increased number of radio relay links deepened the acute spectrum shortage for the fixed radio service. The trend for deployment of networks with a total digital capacity of over 900 Mbit/s in one destination, continued.

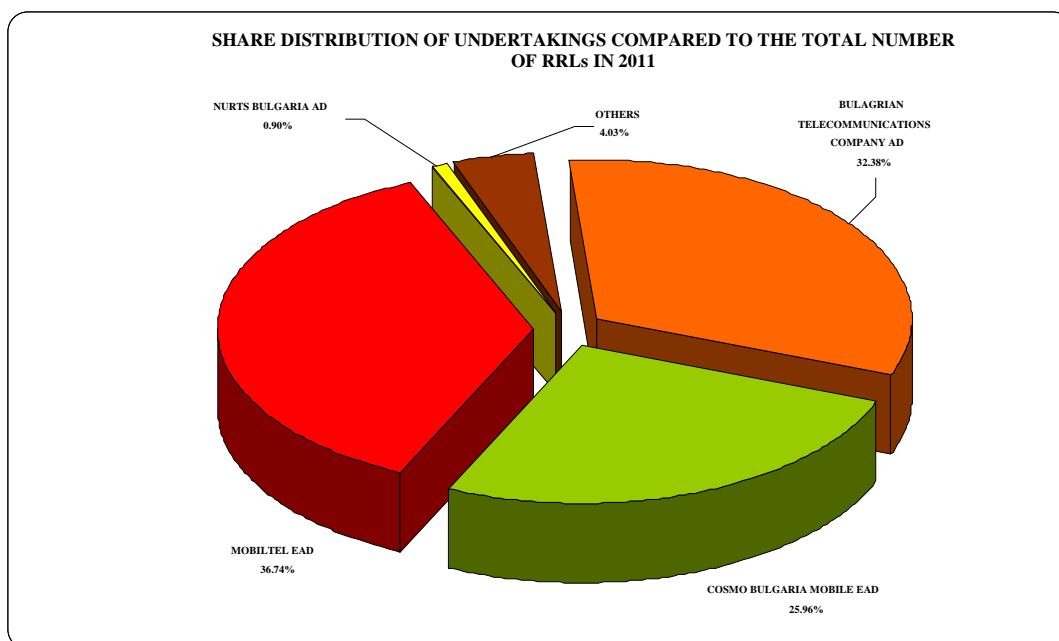
The share distribution of the number of RRLs for the needs of different undertakings, compared to their total number at the end of the year, is displayed on Figure 52. The values at the end of 2010 are also given for comparison purposes. It is clear that the biggest increase of RRLs was registered with the BULGARIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY AD.



Source: CRC

Figure 52

Figure 53 presents information on the share distribution of these undertakings compared to the total number of RRLs in 2011.

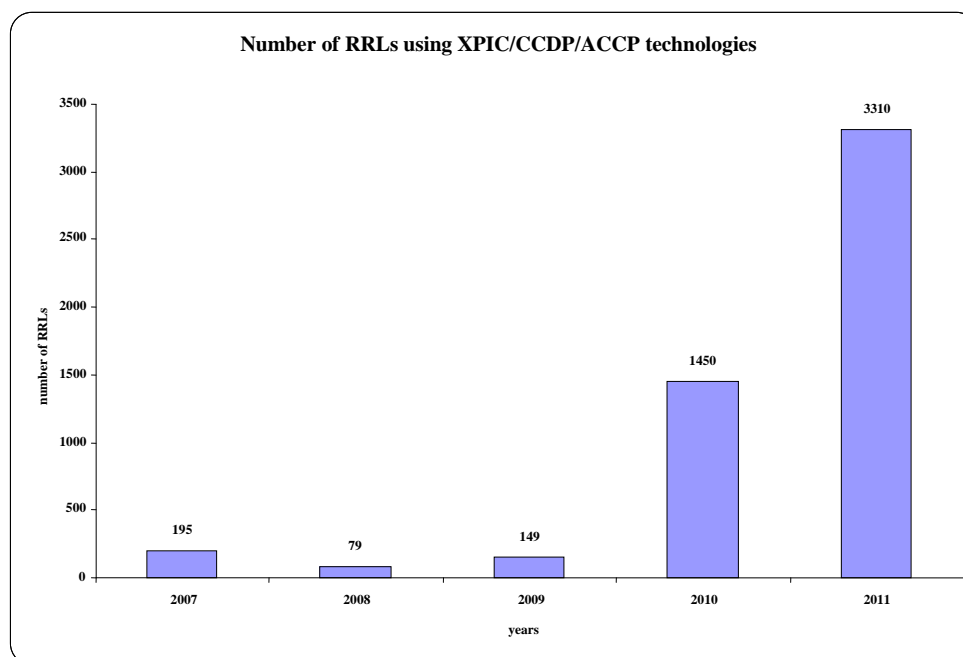


Source: CRC

Figure 53

The trend for deployment of high-tech digital systems using XPIC/CCDP/ACCP

technologies continued, as the number of RRLs using these systems reached 3,310 at the end of 2011 (an increase of over 100% compared to 2010 – 1,450 items). Figure 54 displays the growth of these RRLs by years.



*Source: CRC*

**Figure 54**

The relative growth in the use of high-frequency bands, compared to the total number of RRLs, continued. In band 18 GHz, where the increase is most significant, their number reached 4,970, thus preserving the share of 28%. The development of high-density communication networks using the high-frequency bands continued. At the end of the year, RRLs in bands 26 GHz, 28 GHz and 38 GHz, for which there are permits issued for the use of the frequency spectrum, totaled 5,632, as they also preserve the percentage ratio of 31.8% of the total number of RRLs at the end of 2010.

The trend for development of the service provision through networks for broadband wireless access (Broadband Wireless Access - BWA) continued in frequency band 3.4-3.6 GHz. The technologies organized as a duplex connection of the TDD type with a transmission band of 10 MHz in one direction were finally established. The total number of the WiMAX technology transceivers increased by nearly 40%, which allowed a considerable improvement in the offering of broadband service for fixed, nomadic and mobile connectivity.

In the past year, CRC once again allowed the transfer of the authorization granting the right to use 2x10.5 MHz in band 3.4-3.6 GHz, from MOBILTEL EAD to MAX TELECOM OOD, for a period of 1 more year (until 8 July 2012). After the authorization of TRANS TELECOM AD was terminated, the number of undertakings authorised to use individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for provision of electronic communications via electronic communication network for broadband wireless access (BWA) reached three.

During the year, CRC declared its intention to issue an authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via electronic communications network for broadband wireless access (BWA), for 42 MHz frequency block of in band 3.4 – 3.6 GHz released by TRANS TELECOM AD. The intention was declared in connection with a request submitted for assignment of a frequency block in this band by BULGARIA CONNECT EAD. Three

undertakings filed applications for granting of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum, within the specified term. In this respect, CRC decided to prepare and conduct a tender for the issuance of an authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via electronic communications network for broadband wireless access (BWA). The tender was scheduled for 07.02.2012.

In order to study the interest of the business in the use of the 2500-2690 MHz frequency band in compliance with Decision 2008/477/EC on the harmonization of the 2500-2690 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communication services in the Community, during the year, CRC organized public consultations on the prospect for its use. A key moment in the “Statement regarding public consultations on the prospects for use of the frequency band 2500–2690 MHz” adopted by CRC, was the assignment of the spectrum under condition, i.e. the right to use it, as well as the obligations arising from using it, must enter into effect after it is released for civil needs.

### *Satellite radio services*

In 2011, the main activity related to regulation of satellite radio services was focused on the coordination of positions on geostationary orbit from fixed – satellite (FSS) and broadcasting – satellite (BSS) radio service. The goal of the process on coordination is to avoid potential interferences to the Bulgarian planned systems on position 1.2° W (BSS) and 56.02° E (FSS), as well as of the additional modification made to the planned position for BSS at 1.9° E. To this end, analysis was performed of the biweekly circulars (BR IFIC) issued by the Radiocommunication Bureau to the International Telecommunications Union, using specialized program products provided to the administrations. After the analysis of all biweekly circulars for 2011, the relevant objections were sent in view of the performance of the regulatory functions of CRC in terms of the efficient use and efficient management of the scarce resource – frequency spectrum.

In the past year, in the Bulgarian legislation were transposed the provisions of Decision No. 626/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the selection and authorizations of the systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS) and Decision 2009/449/EC of the European Commission on the selection of operators of pan-European systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS), which established the regulatory conditions for issuance of authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via integrated mobile satellite system. The Tariff of Fees collectable by CRC for 2011 under LEC determined the relevant fees for the provision of electronic communications via integrated mobile satellite system – the one-off administrative fee and the fee for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum. In addition, CRC prepared and adopted a reference authorization with the purpose to include the conditions for the provision of MSS on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. Inmarsat Ventures Limited and Solaris Mobile Limited, named with Decision 2009/449/EC for mobile satellite systems operators entitled to provide MSS on the territory of the Community, were notified of the determined regulatory conditions for issuance of authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of electronic communications via integrated mobile satellite system.

### *Broadcasting*

### *Analogue broadcasting*

In 2011, CRC provided 6 frequency channels for the extension and improvement of the network's coverage to an undertaking offering electronic communications through network for terrestrial analogue broadcasting of television signals with national coverage, as well as 19 frequency assignments to an undertaking providing electronic communications through networks for terrestrial analogue broadcasting of radio signals with national coverage. In relation to the request of the Council for Electronic Media, an investigation was carried out and information was provided for the availability of 4 frequency assignments, including technical parameters, admissible powers, points of broadcasting, as well as other technical information for the cities of Pazardzhik, Momchilgrad and Burgas. A total of 85 technical characteristics of electronic communication networks for terrestrial analogue broadcasting of radio signals were examined and analysed, of which 50 were of undertakings authorized to use individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for the provision of electronic communications through electronic communication network for terrestrial analogue broadcasting with national coverage, and 35 – of undertakings authorized to use individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for the provision of electronic communications through electronic communication network for terrestrial analogue broadcasting with local coverage. Examined were also 23 technical characteristics of undertakings authorized to use individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for the provision of electronic communications through electronic communication network for terrestrial analogue broadcasting of television signals, where 17 of them were of undertakings providing electronic communications with national coverage, and 6 - of undertakings providing electronic communications with local coverage.

In relation to the procedure launched by CRC for unification of the form of identification codes (RDS – Radio Data System) used by undertakings authorized to provide analogue broadcasting of radio signals, 294 amendments to authorizations were made.

### *Digital broadcasting*

With regard to the already issued authorizations for terrestrial digital broadcasting to NURTS DIGITAL EAD (TOWERCOM BULGARIA EAD) and HANNU PRO BULGARIA EAD, 40 technical characteristics were examined and analysed. In connection with the deployment of two networks for terrestrial digital broadcasting intended for programs of commercial operators, 17 technical characteristics of broadcasting stations in a total of 8 service zones were reviewed: Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Kardzhali, Plovdiv, Ruse, Smolyan, Sofia and Stara Zagora. In connection with the deployment of a network for terrestrial digital broadcasting intended for programs of public operators, 23 technical characteristics of broadcasting stations in a total of 9 service zones were reviewed: Blagoevgrad, Varna, Kardzhali, Pleven, Plovdiv, Ruse, Smolyan, Sofia and Stara Zagora.

CRC changed the authorization for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – frequency spectrum for the provision of public electronic communications via electronic communications network for terrestrial digital broadcasting on the territory of the city of Sofia, owned by NURTS BULGARIA AD. The type of coding of the broadcasted signal was changed from MPEG 2 to MPEG 4. Thus, the standard for digital television signal coding (compression) which is used in the terrestrial digital television broadcasting networks remained only MPEG 4.

#### *1.2. National and international coordination*

National coordination and agreement with all state authorities, departments and agencies concerned is carried out with the goal to ensure the aeronautical and maritime safety, the protection of national security, and the efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum. In

2011, in the Advisory Council for national coordination and agreement to CRC, 5769 radio frequencies and frequency bands were coordinated and agreed.

Upon requests received from foreign administrations, international coordination of radio frequency assignments of 25 foreign FM radio stations with the appropriate technical parameters was carried out, in accordance with the Regional Agreement concerning the use of frequency band 87.5-108 MHz for VHF-FM sound broadcasting, Geneva, 1984 (Geneva - 1984).

All biweekly circulars for 2011 of the Radiocommunication Bureau to the Radiocommunication Sector of the International Telecommunications Union related to the international information on frequencies BR IFIC (BR International Frequency Information Circular) for terrestrial radio services were processed and analysed. In this respect, the following radio frequency assignments to foreign administrations were coordinated:

- 211 radio frequency assignments and the relevant technical parameters, in accordance with the Regional Agreement, Geneva - 1984;
- 14 radio frequency assignments and the relevant technical parameters of DVB-T transmitters, in accordance with the Regional Agreement for planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz, Geneva, 2006 (Geneva - 2006).

The Radiocommunication Bureau was sent a request to add 48 radio frequency assignments to Bulgarian VHF-FM radio stations in Plan Geneva - 1984, and a request to enter the radio frequencies of 59 radio frequency assignments from a fixed radio service in the Master International Frequency Register.

Radio frequency assignments for satellite networks from the biweekly circulars BR IFIC for fixed-satellite and broadcasting-satellite radio services were processed and analysed. As a result of the performed examinations and calculations of the technical parameters, correspondence was exchanged with the International Telecommunications Union and the relevant foreign administrations which had filed their requests with the biweekly circulars. In order to protect the Bulgarian positions on geostationary orbit and the assignments for mobile-satellite and fixed radio service from interferences, CRC sent objections, in accordance with the procedural rules of the Radio Regulation, to the International Telecommunications Union and to the administrations whose satellites might potentially affect us, as follows:

***Written objections:***

- upon coordination of non-planned satellite systems and existing Bulgarian terrestrial networks, pursuant to Art. 21 of the Radio Regulation – 15 objections for 41 satellite systems;
- upon coordination of satellites from the fixed-satellite radio service emitting in space to Earth direction and a possible interference to the feeder link of a satellite from the broadcasting-satellite radio service, pursuant to Art. 7 of Appendix 30A to the Radio Regulation – 2 objections for 2 satellite systems;
- coordination at close distance on the geostationary arc of a satellite on planned position from the broadcasting-satellite radio service and non-planned satellite, pursuant to Art. 7 of Appendix 30 to the Radio Regulation – 8 objections for 15 satellite systems;
- coordination for exceeding the carrier-to-noise (C/N) ratio for satellite systems from the fixed-satellite radio service in frequency bands 4500-4 800 MHz, 6725-7025 MHz, 10.70-10.95 GHz, 11.20-11.45 GHz and 12.75-13.25 GHz, pursuant to Appendix 30C to the Radio Regulation – 9 objections for 9 satellite systems.

***Objections submitted via specialized program products of the International Telecommunications Union:***

- coordination of non-planned modification of satellites from fixed-satellite radio



services emitting in space to Earth direction and a possible interference to the feeder link of a satellite from the broadcasting-satellite radio service, pursuant to Art. 4 of Appendix 30A to the Radio Regulation – 1 objection for 1 satellite system;

- coordination at close distance on the geostationary arc of a satellite on non-planned position from the broadcasting-satellite radio service and non-planned satellite, pursuant to Art. 4 of Appendix 30 to the Radio Regulation – 2 objections for 2 satellite systems;
- coordination of satellite station from broadcasting-satellite radio service and fixed radio service when both are on primary basis, pursuant to Art. 9.11 to the Radio Regulation – 3 objections for 3 satellites;
- coordination of emitting satellite station and receiving station from fixed radio service included in the table of frequency assignments, pursuant to Art. 9.14 to the Radio Regulation – 17 objections for 69 satellites;
- coordination of satellite station potentially affecting a radio service included in the table of frequency assignments, pursuant to Art. 9.21 to the Radio Regulation – 14 objections for 30 satellites.

The protection of the orbital resources of the Republic of Bulgaria for fixed-satellite and broadcasting-satellite radio services from other satellite systems is an important factor for the smooth implementation and operation of the national systems and the modification made from broadcasting-satellite radio service. Moreover, coordination allows the smooth operation of radio services in bands on co-primary basis.

### ***1.3. Electromagnetic compatibility***

During the year, electromagnetic compatibility analyses of 149 Bulgarian and 236 foreign FM radio broadcasting stations with the aeronautical systems ILS, VOR and COM were carried out.

In connection with securing of on-site electromagnetic compatibility and electromagnetic compatibility between the services, 139 assignments, including technical parameters, of radio transmission stations and 117 assignments, including technical parameters, of television transmission stations were examined and analysed.

Due to the identified possible interference while carrying out analysis for electromagnetic compatibility with aeronautical radio services, 11 measurements were performed under the Methodology for measuring A1 type intermodulation products generated by the operation of closely situated FM radio transmission stations.

## **2. Numbering**

Among the main duties and powers of CRC is the management and control of the efficient use of the scarce resource - numbers. A main goal is to ensure the necessary resource both in terms of existing and new networks and services. In this respect, in 2011, the Commission adopted amendments to Ordinance No. 1 of 2010 concerning the rules for distribution and the procedures for primary and secondary assignment for use, reservation and withdrawal of numbers, addresses and names. With these changes, closed dialling was introduced in the Republic of Bulgaria. This ensures a more efficient use of the scarce resource - numbers by enabling the use of subscriber numbers starting with "0" and "1" after geographic destination code, thus achieving an increase in the resource of geographic numbers in all regions of the country. The presence of sufficient resource of numbers allows undertakings providing fixed telephony services to develop their networks and to offer services in more areas.

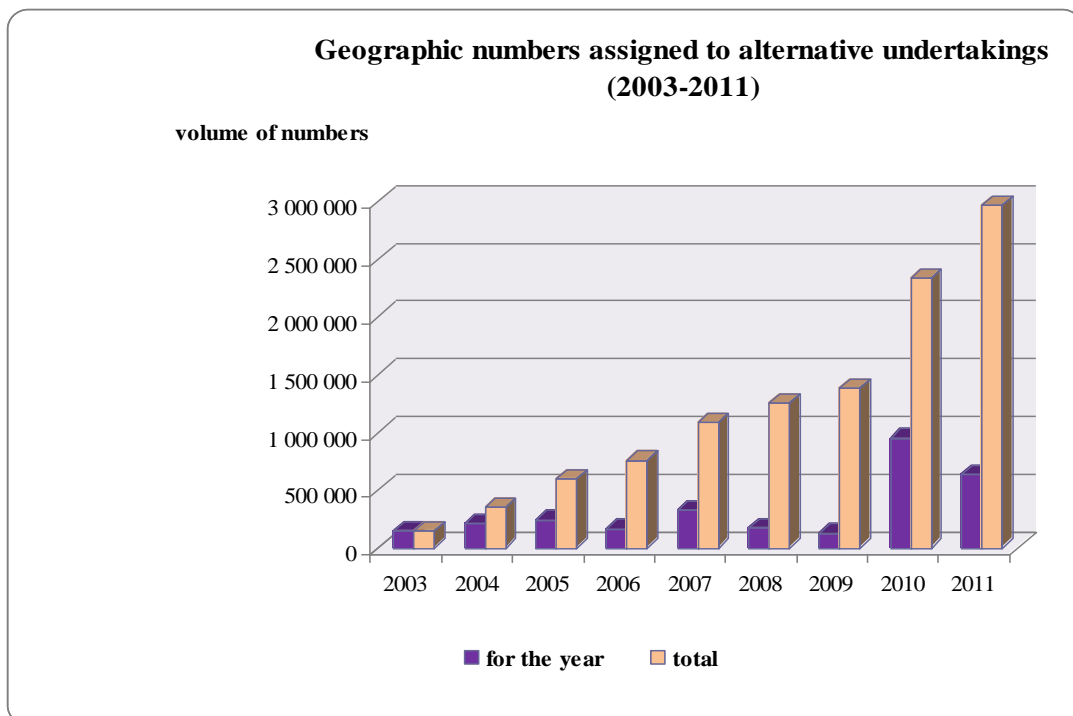
In the past year, 9 (nine) new undertakings were issued authorizations for the use of individually assigned scarce resource - numbers and the provision of fixed telephony services. Six authorizations were withdrawn. Two undertakings suspended their activity.

The total number of alternative undertakings authorized to use numbering resources for providing fixed telephony services was thirty four at the end of 2011.

During the year, the alternative undertakings providing fixed telephony service were assigned:

- 640,600 geographic numbers, in more than 260 regions;
- 600 numbers for the “Personal number” service (700);
- 2,500 numbers fro freephone services (800);
- 700 numbers for value-added services (90);
- 1 number for access to information services – 118XY;
- 43 addresses (33 national and 10 international signaling point codes).

The course of the number assignment process is displayed on Figure55



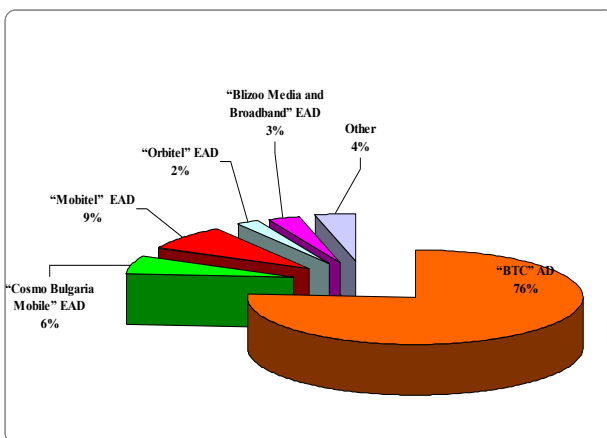
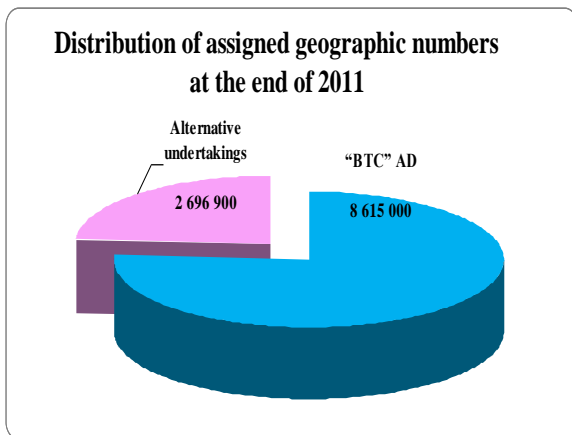
**Figure 55**

Alternative undertakings returned 33,000 geographic numbers and 1 international signalling point code due to optimized networks and services. Nevertheless, alternative undertakings provide and offer services in a growing number of settlements in our country.

As a result of the improved efficiency of utilization of scarce resource – numbers and the digitization process of the fixed network of BTC AD, in 2011:

- a resource of a total of 594,200 numbers in different geographic regions in the country was released;
- a total of 150,000 numbers changed from incomplete to full length of the national significant number, and there are no more numbers of incomplete length;
- the network digitization reached 100%.

The actual distribution of assigned geographic numbers by undertakings at the end of 2011 is displayed on the figures below.



**Figure 56**

**Figure 57**

During the year, changes were introduced to the List of geographic codes in the Republic of Bulgaria, by changing some area codes.

### 3. Number portability

During the year, CRC continued to monitor the processes related to number portability and the effect of the changes introduced in 2010 to the administrative procedure and the transition to one-stop-shop service, as well as shortening the porting time. As the figures below clearly show, there is a considerable growth in the number of ported numbers which was facilitated by the improved portability conditions.

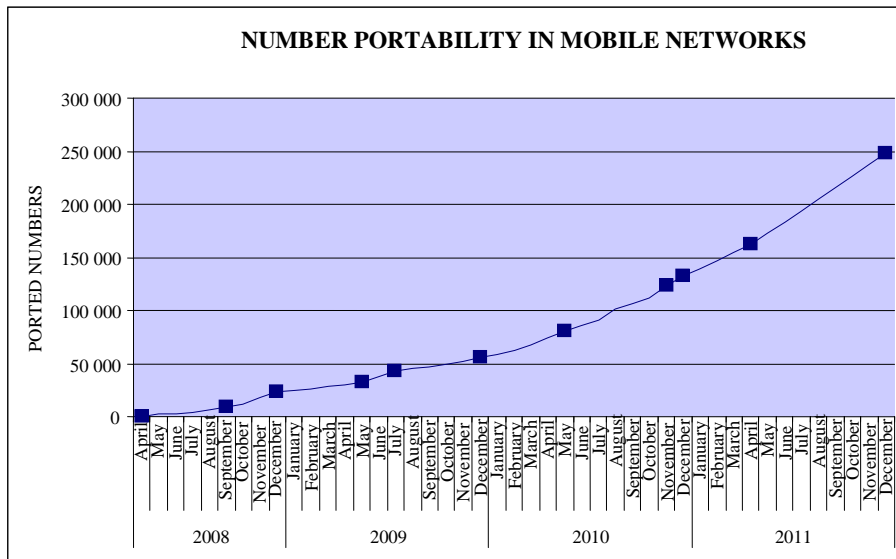


Figure 58

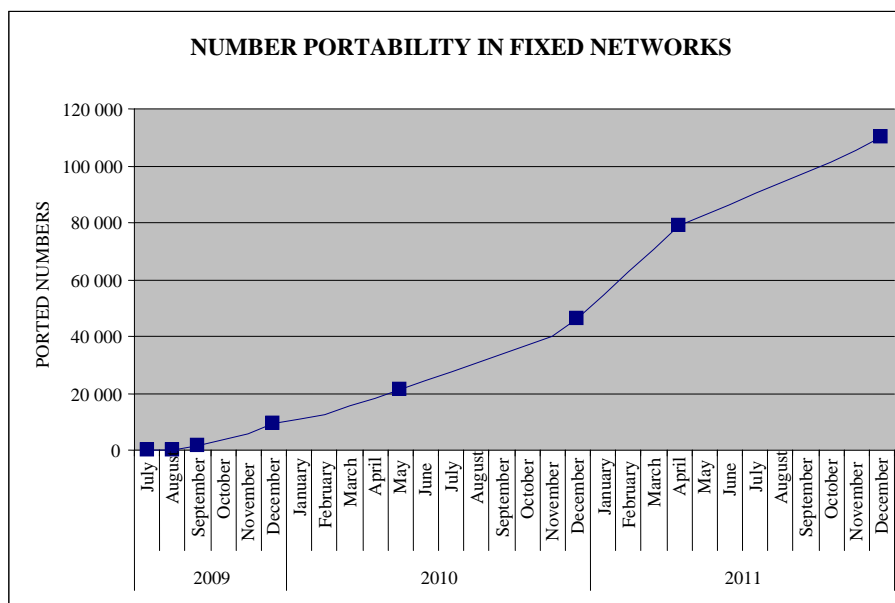


Figure 59

In 2011, the geographic numbers portability domain and the portability implementation procedure were joined by another three undertakings – ESCOM OOD, VOXBONE SA and VMOBILE AD to which CRC issued authorizations for the use of individually assigned scarce resource – numbers. In addition, with the termination of its activity, TRANS TELECOM AD was removed from the portability domain, and so the number of participants in geographic numbers portability reached 21 undertakings at the end of the year.

12 undertakings participate in the non-geographic numbers portability domain of bands 700, 800 and 90, and at the end of 2011, 17 (seventeen) non-geographic numbers were ported.

With the changes introduced in 2010 to the Functional specifications for portability of geographic, non-geographic and mobile numbers, a deadline was stipulated up to 06.02.2011 for the implementation by undertakings of a common information database for ported numbers (CIDB), which would at least serve the centralized exchange of information between the networks.

The statements provided by undertakings on their readiness to organize and implement a CIBD for ported numbers read that the exchange of information on numbers ported between undertakings is technically ensured and there are no problems in serving incoming calls. The statements also made it clear that undertakings differ in their views on financing and constructing a CIBD, and these would be hard to overcome.

The lack of consensus between the undertakings on the principles for cost allocation for the development of CIBD, as well as on its administration, was of significant importance for CRC in taking steps to repeal the provisions of the Functional specifications pertaining to the development and maintenance of CIBD. The repeal of these provisions with Decisions No. 290, 291 and 292 of 21.03.2011 of the Commission did not affect the portability process or the interests of the undertakings and the end users. CRC found that in spite of the advantages of CIBD proven by the practice, its absence will not hamper the information exchange between undertakings since there are no problems with routing of calls to ported numbers.