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## IX. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

The Communications Regulation Commission is an active participant in the activity of the main international organizations and institutions in the field of telecommunications and posts: the European Regulators Group (ERG), the Independent Regulators Group (IRG), the European Commission, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). CRC participates also in international projects and programs. The aim of this activity is the building of the necessary administrative capacity of the regulator and preparation for the implementation of the regulatory framework 2002 of the European Union after the adoption of the new Electronic Communications Act.

### *1. International cooperation*

In 2006 the members of the Commission and experts from the administration have participated in a number of international meetings and seminars, on the first place in the meetings of the European Regulators Group and the Independent Regulators Group and in their working structures as well as in the meetings of the Communications Committee and the Radio Spectrum Committee at the European Commission.

Extremely active during 2006 was the participation of CRC in the initiatives and events, organized by the European Commission in view of the approaching full membership of the country in the European Union. CRC contributed energetically to the expert meeting held with DG „Information society and media” of the European Commission to discuss the draft of the Electronic Communications Act (ECA). Again in connection with the work on the draft ECA the Commission has used also the services of an adviser from the European Commission – Mr. Heinrich Otruba.

The Communications Regulation Commission has submitted throughout the year information for the regular monitoring reports of the European Commission for the progress in the process of preparation for accession as well as for the meeting of Subcommittee 5 „Innovation”. Furthermore representative of the administration participated in the second forum of „Monitoring of the sector of electronic communications in South-East Europe” – an initiative of the European Commission implemented by the Cullen International consulting company.

In execution of the functions and powers of CRC as a competent body for the implementation of the European Convention on Trans-border Television, representatives of the Commission were engaged also in 2006 in the activity of the Permanent Committee on Trans-border Television during the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> regular meetings, which were held in Strasbourg, France.

The participation in some specialized seminars can be added to the above events, organized again as an initiative of the European Union, such as for the digital television (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and for the mobile television (Brussels, Belgium).

The year was full of quite significant events in the framework of International Telecommunications Union’s (ITU) activity. The fourth World Telecommunications Development Conference in Doha, Qatar and the second session of the Regional Radio Conference (RRC-06) for planning of terrestrial digital broadcasting in Geneva, Switzerland were held during the first half of 2006. CRC hosted an expert meeting of the East-Balkan working group chaired by Bulgaria for planning of digital broadcasting in preparation for the Swiss forum.

During the second half of the year were held (with our participation) the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Antalya, Turkey and the world telecommunications exhibition ITU Telecom World in Hong Kong, China.

Within the framework of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) CRC was engaged in the second international high level conference „Organizing the postal markets of today and tomorrow” at the UPU headquarters in Bern, Switzerland.

CRC had active presence also in the work of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) both at the high level (CEPT assembly), meetings of the two committees for electronic communications (ECC) and postal regulation (CERP) and in the expert working groups and project teams performing the actual technical work.

In its capacity of national standardization body at the European Telecommunications Standardization Institute (ETSI) the Commission took part in the work of the general assembly of the institute and the adoption of the respective decisions.

In June the Communications Regulation Commission hosted the third seminar of the Network of regulators from francophone countries FRATEL on the subject of „Interconnection of networks and interaction of services”.

A cooperation agreement between CRC and the telecommunications regulator of Moldova (ANRTI) as well as with the national regulatory authority for communications of Hungary (NCAH) was concluded during the year.

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

It should be noted that the projects/programs provide support to the administration in the field of communications taking into account the European legal and regulatory norms as well as the convergence of technologies.

In 2006 the contract BG2004/IB/TE/01/UE/TL "Regulatory aspects of the implementation of the new generation networks and system security topics related to the electronic signature" was implemented jointly with the State secretariat on telecommunications and information society at the Ministry of industry, tourism and trade of Spain as an institutional partner and PHARE budget of 105 000 EUR.

Successfully achieved were the ambitious goals of the project: development of effective regulatory mechanisms related to the networks based on new technologies (NGN, VoIP) in accordance with the acquis as well as improving the control and regulatory functions of CRC regarding the electronic document, electronic signature and system security.

Covering key technical challenges the contract contributed to a maximum extent for the exchange of best practices concerning the technical aspects of the electronic communications networks, system security and certification services.

In connection with the execution of the project were prepared and submitted regularly 6-months reports on the participation of the Commission in the work of the joint subcommittee for monitoring of the sector “Energy and telecommunications” as well as information related to the conducted monthly progress monitoring of the projects.

Furthermore applications/documentation was developed and successfully supported also for new projects, whose implementation is expected during 2007.