

# REGULATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION IN THE ERA OF CONVERGENCE

*New challenges for regulators*

**M Ahmed khaouja**

*Director of competition and follow up of  
operators/ ANRT*

[khaouja@anrt.ma](mailto:khaouja@anrt.ma)

[www.anrt.ma](http://www.anrt.ma)

## THE NEW CONFIGURATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Convergence of voice, data and multimedia
- Diversification of the services and the broadband application
- Absence of barriers between the copper network and the others and between the fixed services and mobile services
- impossibility of dissociating telecommunications of communication and information technologies

Convergence results in the appearance of multiservices networks and intelligent terminals whereas before the network was equivalent to the supply of only one service and the intelligence was located in the switches.

## MOROCCAN CASE 1/4

Given the fact of the new configuration of telecommunications, Morocco launch up in 2004 a review of the legal framework in order to hold technological evolutions in particular convergence :

Widening of the notion of the universal service to cover beside the services of basic telecommunications, service Internet: the goal is the generalization of the TIC in Morocco.

- For year 2005 and 2006 Universal Service's projects were adopted in order to cover 1 226 localities in telecommunications networks including 431 localities in internet ( 35%) ;
- Works in progress for the launching of call to tender for the choice of new operators of universal service by the means of the mechanisms of market. The objective of this call to tender is to prepare a program interesting all the existing operators in the numerical installation of the territory aiming at a cover quasi generalized over a period of five years; knowing that the number of localities considered as white zones is roughly 9000, that is to say 20% for a population representing 6 to 7% of the total population .

## MOROCCAN CASE 2/4

-In relation with universal service in morocco, the government has adopted since September 15, 2005 a programme called “GENIE”.

- this programme aims at the equipment at horizon 2008 of all the establishments school (primary and secondary ones ) in rooms multi-media connected to Internet, the training of the teachers as regards initiation to the TIC and the development of numerical teaching contents adapted to the school systems.

- 9000 establishments are concerned and will be equipped with 100 000 computers. The budget rises with one 100 million euros fed mainly by the funds of special assignment of the universal service.

## MOROCCAN CASE 3/4

-Also, within the framework of this new law and in relation to the note of general orientation of the government:

-the ANRT granted in 2005 two licences known as of new generation with a major innovation: technological neutrality which means that each operator can deploy technologies that he wishes to establish, subject to the availability of the frequencies. One of these two licences was authorized to offer restricted mobility.

-In July 2006, the ANRT granted three licences of 3rd generation using technology IMT-2000.

## MOROCCAN CASE 4/4

-Other preconditions were set up to conclude the process of regulation within the framework of convergence:

- review of the regulation levels :
- adoption of a decision on the number portability which will be effective in january 2007 for mobile and in march 2007 for fixed networks.
- A calendar is also fixed for the partial unbundling of the local loop in January 2007 and for the total unbundling in July 2008;
- Definition of the relevant markets and identification of the SMP: policy of competition ex ante. The ANRT was seen granting new power for the safeguard of the competition and the interests of the consumer .

## CHALLENGES FOR REGULATORS

- The regulator should not slow down the evolution of technology: flexibility of the process of regulation.
- the regulator should not be a barrier for the technological and commercial innovation
- the regulator has to adopt:
  - an ex ante policy in order to prepare the field and to support competition and
  - an ex post policy to guarantee the honesty of the market rules and to protect the consumer
- the regulator should think about tools in order to ensure the security of connexions and the interoperability of services ( portability between innovating services and traditional ones)

**Thank You For Attention**

**For more information visit the ANRT  
web site  
[www.anrt.ma](http://www.anrt.ma)**