New scenarios, new rights, new duties, new regulations?

AGCOM
Autorità per le garanzie nelle comunicazioni

Venice

Global Forum

November 5th 2007

New societies/scenarios need:

1. new rules
2. new (or, at least,strenghtened) rights
3. new Governance
4. new Regulators
5. new challenges

Whereas regulations are always more technical (albeit the trend to lighter rules) and social interactions get more complex a collaborative approach is key

COLLABORATIVEKNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

+

COLLABORATIVE REGULATION

The ERG

The European Regulators Group was set up by Commission Decision 2002/627/EC (as amended by 2004/641/EC)

The ERG is composed of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) from 34 European Countries:

- 27 EU Member States;
- 4 EFTA Members (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland), with "observer" status;
- 3 EU Candidate countries (Croatia, FYROM, Turkey) with "observer" status.

The European Commission attends all ERG meetings and can participate in the activities of ERG expert groups.

ERG's objectives, pursuant to Article 3 of the ERG Decision, are:

- to advise and assist the Commission in developing the Internal Market;
- to ensure the consistent application of the European regulatory framework.

- Furthermore, the ERG enables NRAs to share their experiences of implementing the framework and of responding to market and technological developments.

- ERG activities are based on a Work Programme prepared for each calendar year.

- ERG products are delivered in several formats (Common Positions, Opinions, Reports…)

Policy of transparency and engagement

The ERG seeks to ensure maximum transparency and consultation with stakeholders:

- consultations on the proposed Work Programme and on all draft decisions

- public hearings on major topics

- publication of all decisions and outcomes of consultations (subject to confidentiality requests by stakeholders)

- information provided promptly by the Chair to stakeholders about initiatives taken (Plenary debriefing, press releases and periodic meetings with stakeholders)

- participation in all major European and International Conferences

- Annual Report of activities submitted to the European Commission (and

ERG 2007 Work Programme

Focussed on three priority areas, aimed at meeting ERG objectives:

1.<u>Regulation</u>: to be at the forefront of the evolution of the regulatory framework;

2.<u>Harmonisation</u>: to boost regulatory harmonisation among ERG members and effectively contribute to the development of the internal market;

3.<u>Innovation</u>: to respond to and anticipate new issues driven by technological development.

Main challenges for 2007

Regulation	Harmonisation	Innovation
Review of Framework	**Broadband access**	**NGN** (regulatory principles, costs, IC…)
Recommendation on Relevant Markets	**VOIP**	
International Roaming	**Regulatory Accounting systems**	**Convergence** (bundling, access to content, consumer issues…)
Regulation/Implementation	**Mobile terminationFixed termination**	
	Wholesale Leased Lines	

The 'main' challenge for ERG

- Accelerate identification of best regulatory practices

- Intensify efforts to disseminate best practices

- Focus on challenges of today but plan for challenges ahead
  - Next generation networks
  - Convergence

- Engage in debate started by Commission on future institutional framework for regulation

New rights, freedoms and constraints

Technical issues apart, convergence is about USERS.

Today, more than ever, content is not the only king…

USER IS KING

The exercise of individual rights is enhanced by

new techs 2.0like and they bounce (and clash) into each other with higher impact

(temporary) Conclusions

Regulating the new markets and fostering innovation is a multi variable equation.

All variables must be taken into account, bearing always in mind invididual users.

Reaching the balance between technical regulation, innovation, fostering of investement and protection of users is the **REAL** hot challenge of Regulators and all the other stakeholders in the market.

thank You for your patience