



Press release

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK REGULATORS GIVE THEIR FINAL APPROVAL OF THE REVISED CABLE ACCESS TARIFFS

Brussels, 19 February 2016 - The CRC (Conference of Regulators of the electronic communications sector) has endorsed the revised tariffs Brutélé, Nethys (VOO) and Telenet may invoice to operators wishing to provide broadband and television services through cable. The European Commission has formulated a series of comments on the draft tariff decision but did give the go-ahead to the CRC to proceed. The CRC has taken into account the comments and has laid down the final revised tariffs.

In order to boost competition at the level of offers bundling television and broadband Internet through cable and providing consumers with high-level telecom services at attractive rates, the CRC (in which the Vlaamse Regulator voor de Media, the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel, the Medienrat and BIPT have a seat) imposed a series of obligations upon the operators with significant market power in 2011. For instance, the latter have to open up their networks to the alternative operators in order to develop competitive offers.

This framework was further elaborated in the CRC decisions of September and December 2013, which laid down the qualitative and tariff aspects of opening up the cable. Since then Belgium has a fully regulated framework opening up the cable networks to the alternative operators.

A series of developments on the market (e.g. additional services such as Wi-Fi homespots and hotspots, TV on a second screen and premium content) prompted the regulators to revise the tariff conditions for cable access. The CRC decisions reviewing the cable access tariffs continue to implement a retail minus method deducting the value of the above-mentioned additional services from the retail price before applying the minus. The value of the modems and decoders is deducted from this price as well. In addition, the manner in which promotions are taken account of in the calculation of the minus itself has been changed. The revision of the calculation of the access prices thus

decided results in a decrease of the access prices an alternative operator has to pay to a cable operator as compared to the access rates set in 2013.

The draft decision was notified to the European Commission at the beginning of January 2016. On 5 February 2016 the latter formulated a series of comments but did give the CRC the go-ahead for the final adoption of the draft decision provided that its comments were taken into account. The tariff decision, as adapted to the comments of the European Commission, shall come into force on 1 May 2016.

Taking into account the European Commission's opinion, the regulators will now give priority to carrying out a new market analysis as soon as possible.

For more detailed information (press):

BIPT
Dirk Appelmans
02 226 87 67
www.bipt.be
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 35
1030 Brussels
info@bipt.be

Medienrat
Olivier Hermanns
www.medienrat.be
Gospertstraße 1
4700 Eupen
info@medienrat.be

CSA
Bernardo Herman
www.csa.be
Boulevard de l'Impératrice, 13
1000 Brussels

VRM
pers@vrm.vlaanderen.be
<http://www.vlaamseregulatormedia.be>
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 20, in 21
Brussels,
1000 Brussels