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PRESS RELEASE

## Consultation on new wholesale tariffs for access to the cable operators' networks

**Brussels, 5 July 2019 - BIPT and the media regulators have published draft decisions proposing new monthly wholesale tariffs for access to the cable operators' networks. These draft decisions aim at promoting competition by ensuring that alternative operators pay a fair tariff to use these networks. Stakeholders can send their comments regarding these draft decisions until 6 September 2019.**

In order to enhance competition in the broadband Internet and broadcasting markets, a series of obligations were imposed upon cable operators Telenet, Brutélé and Nethys by decisions of 29 June 2018 of the Conference of regulators in the electronic communications sector (CRC). Among other things, these operators must open their networks to competitors and apply fair tariffs<sup>1</sup> for the services they sell to these competitors. Fair wholesale tariffs enable alternative operators to compete to the benefit of end-users. To calculate these fair tariffs, a cost model has been developed by the regulators with the help of a specialist consultant.

The model determines the costs of an efficient operator while taking account of the characteristics of each operator, such as its economies of scale, its investment history (as these investments are already partly depreciated), or the characteristics of its coverage area (number of buildings, households...). The costs were translated in a detailed tariff structure (access line, Internet service, television). In order to safeguard investment incentives, a reasonable margin (5 to 10%) is included in the tariffs for Internet speeds above 200 Mbps.

Given their respective competencies, the draft decisions versions differ depending on the regulator. The draft decision of BIPT proposes tariffs for Internet access only (or broadband only), access to television and a combination of both services. The draft decisions of the CSA, Medienrat and VRM contain only proposals regarding access to television. The tariffs were calculated on a year-by-year basis, for the period 2019-2023.

The price actually paid depends on the number of clients of the alternative operator, the profile of these clients (the speed of their Internet connection), the total bandwidth used during the peak hour and the number of TV channels.

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<sup>1</sup>By "fair", the CRC means a tariff which may exceed the costs while being in connection with the latter. In other words, there can be a reasonable margin between the cost of the product and the wholesale tariffs.

Two hypothetical examples:

- an alternative operator with 50,000 clients per coverage area, who would broadcast 50 digital channels (half of which in high definition) and whose clients would consume 1 Mbps on average during the peak hour would pay the following tariffs for the year 2019:

	Current tariffs	Examples of new tariffs		
	Telenet, Brutélé and Nethys	Telenet	Brutélé	Nethys
Internet only 100 Mbps	€ 20.29	€ 12.61	€ 14.41	€ 15.94
TV only	€ 8.92	€ 11.67	€ 10.67	€ 14.65
Internet 100 Mbps + TV	€ 20.29	€ 14.75	€ 15.73	€ 18.04

- an alternative operator with 80,000 clients per coverage area, who would broadcast 120 digital channels (one third of which in high definition) and whose clients would consume 1.2 Mbps on average during the peak hour would pay the following tariffs for the year 2019:

	Current tariffs	Examples of new tariffs		
	Telenet, Brutélé and Nethys	Telenet	Brutélé	Nethys
Internet only 100 Mbps	€ 20.29	€ 13.12	€ 15.33	€ 16.55
TV only	€ 8.92	€ 12.04	€ 10.79	€ 15.04
Internet 100 Mbps + TV	€ 20.29	€ 15.63	€ 16.78	€ 19.04

Stakeholders can send their comments regarding these draft decisions until 6 September 2019. The tariffs proposed in these draft decisions are subject to changes following the stakeholders' comments. The final decisions should be adopted by the end of 2019, after the usual decision-making process.

For more information, you can contact:

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