

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

**Reference Interconnection Offer
8 November 2006**

Notice on Approved Charges

Non - Confidential Version

07 February 2007



هيئة
تنظيم
الاتصالات
Telecommunications
Regulatory
Authority

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

Assessment of those Charges with Documentation Supplied

In the majority, the supporting documentation for the termination charges in the Reference Interconnection Offer allows these services to be reconciled with the 2005 Accounts. This is discussed in detail below.

From this assessment, it appears to the Authority that for those charges that have changed between the approved Reference Offer (RO) of 6th of August and the Proposed Reference Offer of 8th November the following charges apply:

Schedule	Service	Approved Charges – August 2006	Batelco Proposed Charges – Nov 2006	Authority Proposed Charges – Feb 2006
1-1.5	2 Mbit/s Switch Port (Unilateral)	BD 162	BD 174	BD 174
1-1.6	2 Mbit/s Switch Port (Bilateral)	BD 81	BD 87	BD 87
1-1.7	Adjusted Port Rental	BD81	BD 87	BD 87
1-1.12	Signal Link Rental	BD 151	BD 168	BD 168
1-2.2	CSI Link Interconnection (2 Mbit/s)	BD 179	BD 199	BD 199
1-2.11	Signaling Link Rental	BD 151	BD 168	BD 168
1-3.1	GMSC PSTN Terminating Access	3.95 Fils	3.22 Fils	3.22 Fils
1-3.2	PSTN Terminating Access	3.01 Fils	2.49 Fils	2.49 Fils
1-4.1	Mobile Terminating Access	8.64 Fils	8.56 Fils	8.56 Fils
1-5.1	Paging Call Terminating Access	2.00 Fils	346.06 Fils	346.06 Fils
1-6.1	SMS Terminating Access	2.84 Fils	4.52 Fils	4.52 Fils
1-7.1	PSTN Emergency Call	3.66 Fils	2.93 Fils	2.86 Fils ^a

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

Schedule	Service	Approved Charges – August 2006	Batelco Proposed Charges – Nov 2006	Authority Proposed Charges – Feb 2006
1-8.1	Freephone from a Mobile Phone	8.64 Fils	8.56 Fils	8.56 Fils ^b
1-8.2	Freephone from a PSTN Phone	3.66 Fils	2.93 Fils	2.86 Fils ^a
1-11.1	MMS Termination	153.09 Fils	138.77 Fils	138.77 Fils
2-7.1	Int'l PSTN Call Termination	2.91 Fils	5.38 Fils	5.38 Fils
2-8.1	Int'l Mobile Call Termination	8.33 Fils	12.85 Fils	12.85 Fils

Notes:

- a) Average of the 1-3.1 and 1-3.2 PSTN terminating charges
- b) Equals Mobile terminating charge

Each of the charges are explained in more detail below:

In-span and CSI signaling and rental charges

Based on the spread sheet *20061123 Final BTC RIO CSI ISI* of 23 November 2006 the TRA is minded to accept the following charges without modification.

- 2 Mbit/s Switch Port (Unilateral);
- 2 Mbit/s Switch Port (Bilateral);
- Adjusted Port Rental;
- Signal Link Rental;
- CSI Link Interconnection (2 Mbit/s); and
- Signaling Link Rental.

However, in accepting these charges the TRA notes that they are based on an FAC costing methodology and not a LRAIC methodology. In the Order of 6th August 2006 the TRA stated with respect to these charges:

“Having these charges on an FAC basis contradicts Batelco’s Accounting Procedures Manual, which states that charges to other operators for the use of Batelco’s core network are based on LRAIC for interconnect elements and FAC for non-interconnect elements. Therefore, the Authority is satisfied that as the three following services are interconnection services they should be based on LRAIC:

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

- Service Description 1.1 ISI Links;
- Service Description 1.2 CSI Links;

The Authority expects these services to have a **LRAIC basis to the charge in all subsequent reference interconnection offers** (emphasis added) published pursuant to section 57(b) of the Telecommunications Law” (Page 41).

The Authority notes that this alone is grounds for rejecting these charges as they are FAC and not LRAIC based as confirmed in Batelco’s letter of 23 November 2006 entitled *RIO November 2008 Summary of Price Calculations* where Batelco state “ISI and CSI – use of summary cost sheet – FAC information”. However, in this letter Batelco go further to state that “LRIC expected to be available in March 2007”.

Given that these charges will be on a LRAIC basis from March 2007 onwards and also given the fact that ISI and CSI link and rental charges have not changed since 2004, during which time the Authority has calculated that Batelco’s labour charges per hours have increased by [*] per cent, the Authority is minded to accept Batelco’s charges as they appear in their proposed Reference offer of 8 November 2006.

PSTN Terminating Access Charges

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of these charges with Batelco’s 2005 Accounts. The tables below show the network charges that appear to the Authority to be fair and reasonable:

Single Tandem PSTN Terminating Access charge of 1.48 Fils/minute, calculated as set out in the table below - LRAIC based:

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
RLU	[*] Fils	1.00
LX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX	[*] Fils	1.00
RLU-LX	[*] Fils	1.00
LX-TX	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	1.48 Fils	N/A

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

Double Tandem PSTN Terminating Access of 2.09 Fils/min, calculated as shown in the table below - LRAIC based:

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
RLU	[*] Fils	1.00
LX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX	[*] Fils	2.00
RLU-LX	[*] Fils	1.00
LX-TX	[*] Fils	2.00
TX-TX	[*] Fils	0.00
Total Network Charge	2.09 Fils	N/A

In an email to the authority from Batelco dated 1 February 2007 Batelco state “In respect of the weighting between Single and Double Tandem for PSTN Termination Service, Batelco's best estimate is that [*] percent of the traffic utilises both Transit Switches (Double Tandem) and [*] percent uses a Single Tandem Switch”. In light of this the Authority had decided to include only a PSTN Access terminating charge which is a calculated weighted average of single tandem and double tandem:

PSTN Terminating Access: $(1.48 \times [*]) + (2.09 \times [*]) = 1.49$ Fils per minute

The Authority has maintained the inclusion of a GSM PSTN terminating access charge. This is explained in detail below:

GMSC PSTN Terminating Access of 2.22 Fils/minute, calculated as shown in the table below – LRAIC based:

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
RLU	[*] Fils	1.00
LX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
RLU-LX	[*] Fils	1.00
LX-TX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	2.22 Fils	N/A

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

It appears to the Authority that to these network charges no more than 1 Fil/min should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

Mobile Terminating Access Charge

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of this charge with Batelco's 2005 Accounts. The tables below show the network charges that appear to the Authority to be fair and reasonable:

Mobile Terminating Access (prepaid) - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
TX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
HLR/VLR	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS-BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC-MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC-HLR	[*] Fils	2.00
Prepaid Platform	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	7.73 Fils	N/A

Mobile Terminating Access (postpaid) - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
TX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

HLR/VLR	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS-BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC-MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC-HLR	[*] Fils	2.00
Prepaid Platform	[*] Fils	0.00
Total Network Charge	6.83 Fils	N/A

Batelco Weights:

- Mobile Terminating Access (prepaid) = [*] percent
- Mobile Terminating Access (postpaid) = [*] percent

Weight average final network charge - $(7.73 \times [*]) + (6.83 \times [*]) = 7.56$ fils minute.

It appears to the Authority that to this network charge no more than 1 Fil/min should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

Paging Terminating Access Charge

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of this charge with Batelco's 2005 Accounts. The table below shows the network charge that appear to the Authority to be fair and reasonable:

Paging Terminating Access - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
GMSC	[*] Fils	0.33
TX	[*] Fils	0.33
MSC	[*] Fils	0.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	0.33
Paging Platform	[*] Fils	1.00
TX-Paging Platform	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	345.73 Fils	N/A

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

It appears to the Authority that to this network charge no more than 0.33 Fils/message (1 Fil/min x 0.33 route factor = 0.33 Fils/message) should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

SMS Terminating Access Charge

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of this charge with Batelco's 2005 Accounts. It appears to the Authority that the correct route factor for the SMS Terminating Access Charge is 0.00076 (1/1320) corresponding to 1320 SMS messages per minute, as it appears to the Authority that the cost of an SMS message is 1/1320th of a mobile minute. The Authority has commissioned an independent engineering consultant to undertake a study of SMS messaging on Batelco network in order to establish if the Authority's estimation of 1320 SMS messages a minute is accurate. The results of this study will be used in establishing the SMS terminating access charge in the May 2007 RIO. The table below shows the network charge that appears to the Authority to be fair and reasonable.

SMS Terminating Access - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
BTS	[*] Fils	0.00076
BSC	[*] Fils	0.00076
MSC	[*] Fils	0.00076
GMSC	[*] Fils	0.00076
HLR/VLR	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS-BSC	[*] Fils	0.00076
BSC-MSC	[*] Fils	0.00076
MSC-GMSC	[*] Fils	0.00076
GMSC-SMS	[*] Fils	2.00
SMS Platform	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC-HLR	[*] Fils	2.00
Total Network Charge	4.19 Fils	NA

Until the independent study mentioned above is complete the Authority has decided to use the average of Batelco's proposed network charge of 4.76 Fils per message for 10 SMS messages per minute (route factor of 0.1) and the Authority's network charge of 4.19 Fils per message for 1320 SMS messages per minute (route factor

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

of 0.00076). This equates to an average network charge of 4.47 Fils per message

A similar approach has been taken for the calculation of the ISC of 0.051 Fils/message which is an average of Batelco's and the Authority's route factors:

$$((1 \text{ Fil} \times 0.1) + (1 \text{ Fil} \times 0.001))/2 = 0.051 \text{ Fils per message}$$

Therefore the Authority considers that no more than 0.051 Fils per message, as calculated above, should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

MMS Terminating Access Charge

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of this charge with Batelco's 2005 Accounts. It appears to the Authority that the correct route factor for an MMS is 0.04 (1/25) corresponding to 25 MMS messages per minute, as it appears to the Authority that the cost of an MMS message is 1/25th of a mobile minute. The Authority has commissioned an independent engineering consultant to undertake a study of MMS messaging on Batelco network in order to establish if the Authority's estimation of 25 MMS messages a minute is accurate. The results of this study will be used in establishing the MMS terminating access charge in the May 2007 RIO. The table below shows the network charge that appears to the Authority to be fair and reasonable.

MMS Terminating Access - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
BTS	[*] Fils	0.04
BSC	[*] Fils	0.04
MSC	[*] Fils	0.04
GMSC	[*] Fils	0.040
BTS-BSC	[*] Fils	0.04
BSC-MSC	[*] Fils	0.04
MSC-GMSC	[*] Fils	0.04
GMSC-SMS	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC-GPRS	[*] Fils	1.00
SMS Platform	[*] Fils	1.00
MMS Platform	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	138.34 Fils	N/A

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

Until the independent study mentioned above is complete the Authority has decided to use the average of Batelco's proposed network charge of 139.06 Fils per message for 10 MMS messages per minute (route factor of 0.1) and the Authority's network charge of 138.34 Fils per message for 25 MMS messages per minute (route factor of 0.04). This equates to an average network charge of 138.70 Fils per message

A similar approach has been taken for the calculation of the ISC of 0.070 Fils/message which is an average of Batelco's and the Authority's route factors:

$$((1 \text{ Fil} \times 0.1) + (1 \text{ Fil} \times 0.04))/2 = 0.070 \text{ Fils per message}$$

Therefore the Authority considers that no more than 0.070 Fils per message, as calculated above, should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

International Inbound Call charges – Fixed

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of this charge with Batelco's 2005 Accounts. The tables below show the network charges that appear to the Authority to be fair and reasonable:

International Inbound Call charge – Fixed - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
RLU	[*] Fils	1.00
LX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX	[*] Fils	1.00
RLU-LX	[*] Fils	1.00
LX-TX	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	0.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	0.00
Total Network Charge	1.48 Fils	NA

International Inbound Call charge – Fixed (from MTC)- LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
RLU	[*] Fils	1.00
LX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX	[*] Fils	1.00

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
RLU-LX	[*] Fils	1.00
LX-TX	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	2.22 Fils	NA

The final network charge is the average of the International Inbound Call charge – Fixed of 1.48 Fils per minute and the International Inbound Call charge – Fixed (to MTC) of 2.22 Fils per minute:

$$(1.48 \text{ Fils per minute} + 2.22 \text{ Fils per minute})/2 = 1.85 \text{ Fils per minute}$$

It appears to the Authority that to this network charge no more than 1 Fil/min should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

To this charge Batelco has added a wholesale ‘buffer’ element of 2.53 Fils per minute. Batelco has included this buffer element to cost stacks for these products in previous RIO submissions to the Authority and which the Authority has rejected. In this RIO submission Batelco provided the Authority with some additional explanation and justification for the existence of the buffer element, and its eventual phased withdrawal, which the Authority took into consideration.

Batelco submitted that this buffer element reflects the fact that Batelco's fixed international inbound termination charge has historically (including pre- Telecommunications Law) included such an uplift element. Batelco, however, also proposes that the buffer element of this charge be reduced by 30 percent compound annually (16.33 percent each 6-monthly RIO cycle) through the use of a downward glide path approach, until the wholesale buffer is eliminated by 1st July 2010.

In its submissions Batelco has stated that the Authority should take into account the following points when considering Batelco’s justification for the buffer element and its proposal of a glide path:

- o The policy advantages of the glide path proposal put forward by Batelco, which fairly balances a number of different policy interests, including the recognition that the end state in relation to international inbound termination payments on fixed and mobile will, by the time of approval of the RIO of May 2010, be one where no wholesale buffer is applicable;

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

- The consideration that the wholesale buffer, through maintaining a higher in-payment rate for Batelco, and directly (in the case of MTC-VB's mobile network) and indirectly (in the case of other network providers e.g. those who will offer Wimax, Wifi and other alternative network operators) supporting a higher inbound/in-payment rate for other operators, may contribute an investment support to all network operators, with expected consumer benefits;
- The consideration that the maintenance of higher international inbound and in-payment rates by Batelco may allow it to use the additional funds to support loss making activities across its networks, with expected consumer benefits;
- The consideration that the maintenance of higher international inbound and in-payment rates by Batelco may generally provide compensation for asymmetric risks and asymmetric costs to which Batelco is subject;
- The fact that there are current and historic international precedents for allowing surcharges on, or differential prices for, inbound traffic, such as Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Malaysia;
- That Batelco considers that the benefits set out above are achieved largely on the basis of contributions by operators or consumers in third countries, where the traffic originates;
- That a glide path should allow or contribute to a gradual rebalancing over a longer period and will allow continued market entry by OLOs delivering international traffic to Bahrain and further encourage the establishment of fair and effective competition;
- The wholesale buffer glide path takes into account the fact a materially higher rate was applied in the market until 6 August 2006 and also that the glide path takes as its starting point in the RIO which will be approved in the first quarter of 2007 a significantly reduced buffer rate from that historic rate; and

In consideration of the inclusion, or not, of a wholesale buffer, and the consequential maintenance of a higher in-payment rate for Batelco the Authority noted that a materially higher rate on this charge had been applied in the market until 6 August 2006. The Authority also considered that in a number of international jurisdictions the regulator has allowed surcharges on international terminating charges that resulted in these charges being higher than the equivalent domestic termination service. The Authority acknowledges that the instantaneous removal of the fixed buffer element could reduce the annual revenue Batelco receive for this service by up to BD 500,000 per year which may represent a level of burden on Batelco's operations.

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

This was also considered against submissions made by Batelco during Batelco's interim application to the RIO Arbitration Panel to stay the 6 August 2006 RIO Order prices for International Inbound Termination Rates for its Mobile and Fixed networks to the effect that an immediate reduction of the wholesale buffer could lead to arbitrage opportunities by other operators. Though there was no immediate evidence that such arbitrage was occurring the Authority has taken into account the possibility that this may occur and considered it against the Authority's duty to promote effective and fair competition among new and existing Licensed Operators as per section 3(b)(2) of the Telecommunications Law. The Authority is also concerned that competition in the relevant sector be sustained and sustainable, which will, over a longer term period, provide a benefit of sustained competition to Bahrain's consumers, rather than allowing immediate opportunities of damaging arbitrage.

Though not critical to the Authority's decision making process for this RIO, the RIO Arbitration Panel's decision of 13 December 2006 (which will be published in due course by the Authority in accordance with section 70 of the Telecommunications Law) on Batelco's application for a stay on the Authority's order of 6 August 2006 on Batelco's charges for International Inbound Termination Rates for its Mobile and Fixed networks has been of some guidance to the Authority on what the Panel (consisting of three international regulatory experts) considered reasonable in these circumstances. In that decision the RIO Arbitration Panel did not grant the stay as requested by Batelco, however at paragraph 5.35 of that decision the RIO Arbitration Panel stated:

"On a preliminary view, and without in any way pre-judging our final decision (*in the RIO Arbitration*), the prospect does not currently appear to be particularly good of our finding that the Authority erred, in its weighing of these various policy factors, in such a way or to such an extent as to render its decision liable to be wholly overturned as respects the termination rates for incoming international calls which are the subject of this stay application. However, we cannot at present exclude the possibility that there may in due course be firm evidence supporting the view that such an error was in fact made. For example the prospect of success might be affected if Batelco were able to show that the in-payment surplus is of significant real benefit to Bahraini subscribers and users (and not just to Batelco), whereas the benefits of competition flowing from the Order will be minimal. Or perhaps if Batelco were able to show that a "glide path", which gradually introduced reduced termination rates, best accommodates the competing factors to which the Authority is required to have regard. Batelco would also need to deal with the apparent tension between this head of challenge and the section 57(b) argument that a cost based

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

price is mandatory in the absence of benchmarking. However we have not yet heard such arguments put in any detail to us.”

Therefore after consideration of:

1. Batelco’s submission, where the Authority took into account additional arguments proposed by Batelco to justify the buffer element;
2. Batelco’s proposal of a glide path that will reduce the buffer to nil by at least 1st July 2010;
3. the Authority’s duties with respect to promotion of effective and fair competition among new and existing licensed operators and the stimulation of sustained and sustainable competition in the sector that uses these products, to the long term benefit of consumers in Bahrain; and
4. the RIO Arbitration Panel’s comments in its decision of 13 December 2006,

the Authority has determined to accept Batelco’s proposal to include a buffer charge on international inbound call charges - fixed, of 2.53 Fils per minute which reduces by 30 percent annually until it is eliminated by 1st July 2010.

The inclusion of a buffer charge of 2.53 Fils per minute will result in a total international inbound call charge – fixed of 5.38 (2.53 + 1.85 + 1) Fils per minute.

International Inbound Call charges – Mobile

The Authority has been able to reconcile the network components of this charge with Batelco’s 2005 Accounts. The tables below show the network charge that appear to the Authority to be fair and reasonable:

International Inbound Call charges – Mobile - LRAIC Based

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

International Inbound Call charges – Mobile from MTC - LRAIC Based

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
BTS	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
HLR/VLR	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS-BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC-MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC-HLR	[*] Fils	2.00
TX	[*] Fils	0.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	0.00

Network Component	Component Charge	Route Factor
BTS	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
HLR/VLR	[*] Fils	1.00
BTS-BSC	[*] Fils	1.00
BSC-MSC	[*] Fils	1.00
MSC-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
GMSC-HLR	[*] Fils	2.00
TX	[*] Fils	1.00
TX-GMSC	[*] Fils	1.00
Total Network Charge	6.83 Fils	NA
Total Network Charge	6.24 Fils	NA

**Notice - Reference Interconnection Offer November 2006
(Non-Confidential)**

The final network charge is the average of the International Inbound Call charge – Mobile of 6.83 Fils per minute and the International Inbound Call charge – Mobile (to MTC) of 6.24 Fils per minute:

$(6.83 \text{ Fils per minute} + 6.24 \text{ Fils per minute})/2 = 6.54 \text{ Fils per minute}$

It appears to the Authority that to this network charge no more than 1 Fil/min should be added to represent the cost of Interconnection-specific services.

To this charge Batelco has added a wholesale ‘buffer’ element of 5.31 Fils per minute. Batelco state that this buffer element reflects the fact that Batelco's mobile international inbound termination charge has historically included such an uplift element. Batelco, however, propose that the buffer element of this charge be reduced by 30 percent compound annually (16.33 percent each 6-monthly RIO cycle) through the use of a downward glide path approach, until the wholesale buffer is eliminated by 1st July 2010.

The Authority considers that those reasons outlined above in relation to the Authority’s decision to accept a wholesale buffer on the international inbound call charge – fixed also apply to the international inbound call charge – mobile. Therefore, the Authority has determined to accept Batelco’s proposal to include a buffer charge on international inbound call charges - mobile, of 5.31 Fils per minute which reduces by 30 percent annually until it is eliminated by 1st July 2010.

The inclusion of a mobile buffer charge of 5.31 Fils per minute will result in a total international inbound call charge – mobile of 12.85 $(5.31 + 6.54 + 1)$ Fils per minute.

The Authority is also considering Batelco’s proposal that the international inbound terminating charge for mobile should include the network element “prepaid platform” in the network charge. The Authority expects to make its decision on the inclusion or not of this network element in the RIO of May 2007.