



14 December 2005

**Prior notification of a transaction under the
Telecommunications Mergers and Acquisitions Regulation**

TRA Case Reference No. 1 – Batelco/ ANIS

1. On 10 December 2005, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (the “TRA”) received notification of a proposed transaction pursuant to Article 2 of the Telecommunications Mergers and Acquisitions Regulation¹ (the “Regulation”). Under the proposed transaction, Bahrain Telecommunications Company (B.S.C.) (“Batelco”) acquires, within the meaning of Article 1.2(b) of the Regulation, control of ANIS, presently jointly controlled by Batelco (75%) and Al Ayam Establishment (25%), by way of purchase of shares.
2. The parties to the transaction are involved in the following activities:
 - Batelco: *telecommunications*
 - ANIS: *telecommunications and IT activities*
 - Al Ayam: *journalism and publishing*
3. The parties to the transaction hold the following telecommunications licenses:
 - Batelco: *IFL, ISL, ISP, VAS, VSAT, Paging Services License, Public Access Mobile Radio Service License*
 - ANIS: *ISP, VAS*
 - Al Ayam: *None*
4. On preliminary examination, the TRA finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.
5. The TRA invites interested third parties to submit their comments on the proposed transaction to the TRA, along with any supporting evidence.

Comments should reach the TRA no later than 14 calendar days from the date of this announcement. Comments may be sent to the TRA under the reference “Case Reference No. 1 - Batelco/ANIS”, to the following address:

Director of Legal Affairs
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
P.O. Box 10353
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 17 532125
Email: Contact@tra.org.bh

¹ Regulation 3 of 2004, issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority under sections 3(c)(1) and 65 of the Telecommunications Law.