

LAU DC 479

30th June 2004

TRA NOTICE ON LOCAL LOOP UNBUNDLING

Pursuant to section 40 of Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law (“the Telecommunications Law”) public telecommunications operators with significant market power, as well as other licensees whose license provides for the obligation, shall provide unbundled local loop services from 1st July 2004.

Whilst the TRA issued a local loop and related facilities and services consultation on 1st June 2004, to which comments have been provided to the TRA the TRA is considering that the issues raised and the possible solutions available will require further consideration so as to ensure that services available meet the needs of new entrants to the market, will provide new services to consumers and that the companies subject to the obligation to provide facilities for unbundling the local loop are not subject to unreasonable obligations.

Thus the TRA will issue a Report on the comments received on the consultation issued on June 1st and continue its dialogue on this important matter with all interested parties.

In the meantime Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) submitted a proposal for services related to unbundling the local loop pursuant to section 40 of the Telecommunications Law by means of bitstream access. This proposal has been approved by the TRA as products which provide unbundled local loop services in compliance with section 40 of the Telecommunications Law. This approval of the services in no way prejudices the on-going consideration by the TRA of the issues raised by the consultation of 1st June 2004 or its outcome. The product referred to above are available from Batelco and anyone interested in obtaining details or to purchase this should contact Batelco directly.

A Andreas Avgousti
General Director