



News Release

TRA Issues Notices to Batelco and Viva for Implementing Anti-competitive Prices for International Calls which Harm the Interests of Consumer

Seef District, Kingdom of Bahrain - Monday 5 September 2011

With the aim to safeguard consumer's interests and promote fair competition in the telecommunications market, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain has completed investigations into complaints received from a group of licensed operators that Batelco and Viva had launched Anti-competitive prices for mobile originated calls to certain international destinations which has prevented a fair opportunity being provided to all and harmed competition in the telecommunications sector of Bahrain.

TRA has issued separate notices on 23 August 2011 to both operators under the Telecommunications Law of the Kingdom of Bahrain based upon its investigation. The notices allege that the operators' pricing constituted an abuse of dominance in the international mobile telecommunications market, and breached the conditions of competition provided for by the Law.

TRA believes that such pricing destroys the market's forces and hinders competition between operators by reducing the opportunities for fair competition in the market, and harms the interests of consumer in the long run.

TRA's role is to promote and safeguard competition for the benefit of consumer. Where anti-competitive practices are detected TRA steps in, under the Telecommunications Law, to protect the interests of the Consumer and also assists in reinstating a fair and competitive market in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

TRA will subsequently issue its final decision following consideration of Batelco and Viva's responses on the notices.

About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain into the region's most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh