



News Release

TRA Businesses Users Advisory Group prepares for establishment of association to activate consumers' role

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – Sunday 5 October 2008

TRA Businesses Users Advisory Group has continued to hold its regular meetings, as it has recently held its 7th meeting this year headed by Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Bin Hindi – Chairperson of the Group, in which it discussed a number of important issues including the need for holding a preparatory conference in October to lay down the foundations for the establishment of an association to activate the role of business users of telecommunications services in expressing their views and requirements in the telecommunications sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain, similar to the work conducted by the UK Communications Management Association (CMA) which plays an effective role in the ICT sector in the United Kingdom. The Group invited, during the meeting, Mr. David Harrington to be an advisor to the foundation of the association in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Group also discussed, during the meeting, TRA's approval of Batelco's DQ tariff with TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne and Director of Market and Competition Mr. Robert Middlehurst. In addition, the Group requested TRA to emphasize on all the telecommunications service providers to notify consumers of any change to the service tariff in advance and in a reasonable period of time and monitor this.

The Group has postponed the discussion of the integrated plan to increase public awareness of the work of the Group and the objectives it works on implementing them, to the next meeting of the Group so that the Group's members have more time to develop full perceptions of this plan.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ahmed Bin Hindi and the members of the Advisory Group thanked TRA for its interest in consumer affairs and working to find the best ways to provide the best services to them.

It is worth noting that the Business Users Advisory Group is one of two advisory groups that are tasked to voice the views of residential and business users of telecommunications services. The advisory group is independent from TRA, and it

works to provide recommendations and feedback to help TRA achieve its goals in protecting the interests of consumers of telecommunications services, and develop the Kingdom's economy, in accordance with the government policy for the telecommunications sector in Bahrain.

About TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include, among other things, protecting the interests of subscribers and users and promoting effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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