



## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISSUES INTERIM NTERCONNECTION ORDER**

MANAMA – 16 December, 2003 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) announced that on the evening of 15 December, at the request of Batelco and MTC Vodafone Bahrain, it has issued the two parties with an interim interconnection order. This order sets out the terms of the agreement under which the networks of the two operators will connect so that consumers from one network can contact consumers connected to the other network.

The terms and conditions of the interim interconnection order will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Authority, at which time all pertinent information received from the operators will be taken into account.

According to A. Andreas Avgousti, General Director of the TRA:

“At the request of Batelco and MTC Vodafone Bahrain, the TRA has acted swiftly to assist the operators in proceeding with interconnection. While this order stands, it in no way prohibits Batelco and MTC Vodafone Bahrain from continuing negotiations to reach an interim interconnection agreement that is agreeable to both parties, if they so wish.

It is situations such as these that reinforce the role of the TRA as an independent and impartial arbiter acting in the overall interests of the Kingdom of Bahrain, whilst also ensuring that consumers benefit from the arrival of competition in the market.”

### **About the TRA**

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The 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.