



**TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISSUES
DRAFT REGULATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MERGERS &
ACQUISITIONS**

***-- Interested Parties Given Two Weeks to Comment Prior
to Adoption of Final Regulation --***

MANAMA – 28 August 2004 –The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) today announced the publication of its revised draft of the regulation on Telecommunications Mergers and Acquisitions; which reflects the changes made as a result of comments received from interested parties from on the first stage of its public consultation which ended on 18th July.

The aim of the TRA is to adopt a regulation that matches international best practices, yet at the same time takes into account the local conditions. This regulation when adopted will be part of the tools used by the TRA to deal with an important and in many cases critical part of normal commercial activities by operators in expanding their business, developing synergies and gaining in terms of economic efficiencies. The proposed regulation will be the basis upon which the Authority will analyze such transactions so as to be satisfied that they do not have a negative impact on the market.

Commenting on the announcement, General Director of the TRA, Mr. Andreas Avgousti said, "The Authority through its usual public consultation process is seeking views on this draft regulation prior to adopting it so that it can take into account possible concerns that interested parties may have. TRA aims to adopt clear and effective regulations that provide investors, current and potential operators as well as the community as a whole with clear understanding of their

rights and obligations as to allow them to make informed business decisions.”

In line with its efforts to drive participation in the development of the sector, the TRA is taking measures to alert industry participants, government bodies, businesses and consumer organizations of the consultation process on this issue as well as relevant deadlines for putting forth their views.

Interested parties will have 14 days to comment, with the deadline set for 12th September 2004. Full contents of the consultation document can be viewed on the TRA’s website at www.tra.org.bh.

Based on the comments that are received, the TRA expects to issue a final regulation, as well as a report that highlights any changes from the draft regulation..

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. More information regarding the TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

- The TRA will be happy to provide hard copies of the consultation document for those interested parties who do not have access to the Internet. The TRA can be contacted on telephone number 17 540 120.