



Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Issues Interconnection Dispute Determination to Batelco & MTC Vodafone Bahrain

Manama 15 February 2005 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) today announced that it had issued a decision to Batelco & MTC Vodafone Bahrain in the form of a determination setting those terms and conditions of interconnection that the parties could not agree upon.

This decision is the result of a request by the two companies as a result of being unable to reach a commercial agreement between them on all the terms and conditions upon which the two networks will interconnect.

Upon receiving the request of the two companies, the TRA and the Parties followed an agreed procedure as part of the TRA's resolution of the dispute, which included substantial submissions from both Parties, a preliminary analysis from the TRA and finally the Determination.

The TRA issued the Interconnection Determination pursuant to the Telecoms Law on 3 Jan 2005, and it came into effect on same day. This determination covers a wide range of interconnection matters such as tariffs for mobile call termination on MTC's network; directory enquiry charging and other issues.

In line with TRA's mandate to carry out its duties and exercise its powers in a transparent manner, the TRA has published the determination on its website. There are however certain details deleted for commercial confidentiality purposes, from the published document.

The General Director of TRA, Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti commented on the announcement saying :” We have been asked to settle some of the terms between Batelco and MTC Vodafone Bahrain where no agreement could be reached, according to our powers specified in the Telecommunications Law. Since the parties informed us of this dispute, we have followed a strict resolution process, and ensured that both parties had the opportunity to make their representations to us. Even though it was a long process, we wanted to ensure that all the facts were presented and taken into consideration before reaching our

final decision. Today we have published our final decision in line with our transparent approach, as we believe that this sort of information is of importance and interest to the industry as a whole in addition to the relevant parties. We hope that this will assist other operators in terms of their negotiations so that commercial agreements are reached and no intervention is required by the TRA. Once again we would like to stress that the preference of the TRA is for negotiated agreements within the parameters of the law without our intervention. However where no such commercial agreement can be reached within a reasonable period, the TRA at the request of any of the parties can settle those terms that have not been agreed. ”

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