



Press Release

TRA Announces the Next Steps for Finalising the Strategic and Retail Market Review of the Telecommunications Sector

13 November 2007

On 27th August 2007, TRA released for public consultation a Strategic and Retail Market Review. This comprehensive consultation document sought comments on an assessment of competition present in defined telecommunications markets, and appropriate remedies to enhance competition where needed while removing unnecessary regulation.

Five submissions from the industry along with input from consumers were received by TRA, which are now being reviewed and their comments considered. In the interest of transparency, the non-confidential versions of the submissions received are available on TRA's website.

TRA will release in February 2008 a revised document addressing the comments submitted, which will refine proposed changes to retail regulation and market entry conditions. TRA intends to release a final statement in March 2008.

Commenting on the Review; Alan Horne, the General Director of TRA stated: "We are pleased to receive those responses. The Review took account of the survey of more than 1200 consumers and businesses in addition to in depth analysis of information received from telecommunications providers. It demonstrated that despite significant strides having been made to increase the choice that consumers have in telecommunications services and service providers, there are still some barriers, which are preventing the full availability of alternative services. We wish to address these barriers through regulatory actions. TRA has to however carefully balance many issues when intervening and therefore is giving due regard to the comments received in the recent public consultation before coming to our final decision".

The Review seeks to adjust regulation and entry conditions to the telecommunications markets in order to further the interests of consumers. As the outcomes of the Review will set the regulatory agenda for retail markets for the next couple of years; TRA has decided to conduct a further round of public

consultation prior to reaching a final position on the conclusions and recommendations.

Useful links on the Review include:

- Consumer survey: <http://www.tra.org.bh/en/marketSurveys.asp>
- Consultation document: <http://www.tra.org.bh/en/consultations.asp>
- Industry Responses available at <http://www.tra.org.bh/en/consultations.asp#Strategic>

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