

**English Translation of letter
Original in Arabic**

June 22, 2006
Ref : GDO/CCA/0606/855

Dr. Essam Abdulla Fakhro
Chairman
Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
P.O. Box 248
Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear Dr. Fakhro,

Re: Meeting regarding Internet Services

Thank you for your letter to our Chairman H.E. Dr Mohammed JK Alghatam and to my self inviting the TRA to participate in the meeting to be held by the Chamber of Commerce & Industry regarding internet services scheduled for 28 June 2006.

The TRA would like to take this opportunity to thank BCCI for its efforts to provide feedback to the TRA on telecoms issues since the establishment and the start of the public consultation process of the TRA. As a matter of fact, we note that the BCCI was one of the first organizations to respond to the public consultations of the TRA which reflects your keenness in playing an active role in voicing out the business sector views with respect to telecoms. We also note the active participation of the BCCI in the first consumer advisory group established by the TRA for Carrier Pre-Selection service. The TRA is grateful for such involvement from the BCCI as it is a vital method of obtaining feedback of the business customers in Bahrain and we hope that it continues to develop even further to the benefit of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As you have experienced during the BCCI interaction as mentioned above, the TRA has always welcomed any channel of communicating directly with the public. We certainly think that your idea for the proposed meeting is a beneficial one that would help in making the public aware of all the point of views on this matter. We strongly believe that informed views can only be made if the full set of information is available and this meeting would have been a step in that direction.

Regretfully the TRA will not be able to take part in your meeting, the reason for this being the fact that Batelco has started legal proceedings against the TRA on the matter of the emergency order issued by the TRA on 14 June 2006.

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As we are sure you are aware, now that the matter has been diverted to the courts we have to ensure that public statements and participation in public forums by the TRA are not used to affect our case. To this end and to protect our legal interests the TRA has decided to refrain from such events until the case comes to an end.

Finally, we would like to stress that as the telecoms regulator in the Kingdom of Bahrain we take our responsibilities to uphold the Law very seriously. The TRA issued this emergency order after careful consideration of all the relevant aspects, and we are prepared to argue our case in the courts or such other appropriate legal forums and defend our position. Furthermore, TRA has and will continue to provide the public with the information in a transparent manner. This recent emergency order is no exception, as we have provided the full text of the non confidential version on our website which contains our reasons for issuing this order. We hope that for the time being the public will find the information contained in the emergency order published on our website to be informative, and we will let the legal action take its course.

I hope that you can understand our position at this stage. Needless to say once all legal proceedings relating to this issue are finished the TRA would be happy to attend any public meeting to explain its decision and answer any questions that may be raised by your members or the public. We would also like to state that we will leave it up to you to decide if you wish to show our reply to your respected members, in turn and in the interest of informing the public of the reasons that prevented us from attending this meeting we will be publishing this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

A. Andreas Avgousti
General Director

Cc : Chief Executive – Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry