



INTUG This Week 16 October 2009

Chairman's Update

I am preparing for the upcoming ICANN meeting in Seoul from 24-30 October. I will be part of the Generic Names Support Organisation Council (GNSO). Here is the October ICANN Policy Update. - <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/policy/update-oct09-en.htm>

The INTUG December meeting preparation is progressing very well as you will read below.

Nominations for Board positions - Nomination forms have to arrive in proper form with INTUG secretary ***before* the 26th of October, 2009, 00.00 GMT.**□

AFUTT - France

December INTUG Open Meeting

- arrangements by AFUTT and CRESTEL and supported by CIGREF and Issy Media
- to be held at Issy-les Moulineaux, Paris on Wednesday 9 December 2009

Effective networking of ICT resources via global networks to flexible sources in clouds offers enterprises the opportunity for total expense management and greater co-ordination of innovative new techniques. INTUG (the International Telecommunications User Group) and CRESTEL (the French Enterprise User Group) have arranged an international meeting to enable a broad discussion on Unified Communications and Collaboration and Cloud Computing

TUGI - India

India is adding 12 million plus new mobile connections every month. India will join by March 2010 a 500 Million Club. One way there is stiff competition to survive - it looks that existing 2G players are pocketing good margin as a profit, more than 85% mobile users are pre-paid customers. Some operators, Reliance and TATA-DOCOMO, have launched per second pulse rate rather than a 1 minute pulse. Still the tariff is not balanced as 80% is charged as a long distance carriage fee whereas 20% share by Origination and Termination charges. The Tariff needs to be rebalanced. With continued efforts by the TUGI, the Regulator is coming out with a consultation process for a new tariff order.

NTK Sweden

There is much more detail from NTK for anyone interested in these important issues – just let me know if you would like the full email from Rune Nilsson

Our two top priorities for the moment are:

1. All fixed access networks should be open networks

2. The price differences between national and international mobile prices are too high to support development.

1. The future problem is investments in fixed networks based on fiber.

The Telecom Act is the primary a tool to create service competition based on access obligations to DSL. Sweden has today a good competition in service level. The end customer prices are among the lowest in the world.

In Sweden, with low population density, most of the companies and households only have one fixed line (normally the copper line from the monopoly times, DSL). It is not realistic to believe that this copper line will be the competitive future solution. In most of the urban areas, where the population density is higher, there are three different fixed access possibilities – DSL, cable and fiber. About 1-2 million inhabitants (of totally 9½) have these opportunities. It is access obligation is only on the DSL line.

We believe that it is necessary to change the Telecom Act.

1. All fixed access networks should be open networks

2. It is acceptable, when all networks are open networks, that fixed access networks are owned by the operators in a new company (e.g. Joint Venture) focused in fiber infrastructure businesses. Competition from mobile networks should mean that price regulation could be returned or minimized.

Mobile Pricing

2. There are problems with mobile services when crossing an EU member state boarder. Low national price levels (e.g. Sweden, Denmark, and Finland) change to extremely high prices when using a national mobile subscription outside the home country.

The price differences between national and international prices are too high to support development of the EU internal market. It is important with better harmonization and lower prices to support competitiveness (both national and EU level).

INTUG Executive Vice President - Nick White

INTUG associations in Europe are participating in a study by the European Regulators Group (ERG) aimed at identifying the specific needs of the business market. This study follows pressure from INTUG and EVUA on behalf of user associations and corporates who have been concerned that EU market analysis to date has focused purely on the mass consumer market in fixed and mobile communications, thus overlooking the multi-site, resilient, symmetric bandwidth and international needs of business users.

Following confirmation of European Commission President Barroso for a further term, the key meetings are now taking place to appoint the new Commissioners. INTUG has written to President Barroso urging a further term for Information Society Commissioner Viviane Reding, possibly with an expanded brief covering the Digital Europe agenda.

INTUG submitted a response to the Commission consultation questionnaire on the post i2010 digital agenda last week. One of the priority aims of the next 5 years' strategy will

be interoperability at each layer of services to enable continued competition and choice for customers. A vital element of this strategy will be to ensure that the final text of the NGA Recommendation maintains equal access to wholesale products and services. The last draft was strongly condemned by almost all stakeholders (except the part government controlled incumbents in a few protectionist Member States).

TUANZ - New Zealand

TUANZ is heavily focused on the cost of calls from mobile phones to 0800 freephone (receiving party pays) numbers. These charges are extremely high due to excessive mobile origination charges, and have failed to reduce over the years with increased volumes. The result is that many businesses including several of New Zealand's banks have recently stopped accepting calls from mobiles to their automated contact centres, depriving many customers of a convenient service that had been taken for granted.

TUANZ is interested to know whether that is an issue in other countries, and what action other associations may have taken to deal with it.

BELTUG – Belgium

On Tuesday September 29, Minister Van Quickenborne presented his "Digital Plan for Belgium". Danielle Jacobs signed the Plan, to show the support of BELTUG, together with the CEO's from Microsoft, Colt, Google, IBM, Telenet, BASE, Agoria and Cisco and the CIO's from KBC and Tessenderlo Chemie.

The Plan includes 30 action items. You can read it [in Dutch](#) or [French](#). BELTUG was involved in the preparation of the Plan, and is pleased that several of our lobbying points were incorporated into it by Minister Van Quickenborne.

We agree on the importance of ICT for the Belgian economy and the problem of too little competition; and the need for action on the following points:

- the importance of more transparent tariffs
- smooth cooperation between federal state and communities
- enforcement of BIPT decisions
- an ambitious plan to bring fibre to the home
- stimulating the growth of mobile Internet
- the management of the spectrum to stimulate mobile communications.

EVUA

Jon Neville attended the OECD meeting on Cloud Computing on behalf of INTUG. The presentation will be available from the INTUG website. The session was attended by about 80 delegates from around the world. Each panelist had to present for 8 minutes. INTUG's was the only "end user" focused presentation and was referred to by presenters in following sessions, so at least they were listening.

The outcome for the day was developed in session between the panel leaders and the chairman.