

## **Q. 9/1 Impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the regulatory environment of telecommunications**

### **Title of Question or Issue**

Impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies and services on the regulatory environment of telecommunications.

### **1 Statement of Problem or Situation**

New technologies (satellites, optical fibre, intelligent networks, cellular mobile communications, etc.) have brought about a rapid development of new telecommunication products and services to satisfy the increasingly diverse requirements of customers.

In the face of this change, current legislation often does not allow market access to the new suppliers or operators who are better equipped to provide these services than the traditional operators.

The developing countries should in due course have access to information and studies which will enable them to evaluate the regulatory impact of introducing and using new technologies and services in the telecommunication sector.

The first World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-94, Buenos Aires) responded to this problem and adopted Question 3/1 "Impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the commercial and regulatory environment of telecommunications".

This Question was to explore:

*"What effects might the introduction and utilization of new technologies have on the supply and regulation of telecommunication services?"*

*How can a developing country reconcile the utilization of these new technologies in a more competitive commercial environment with the objective of guaranteeing access to basic services at a reasonable cost throughout its territory?"*

with the objective to prepare a report and guidelines by mid-1997.

Taking into consideration the importance of this issue, Study Group 1, convinced of the importance of this Question, decided to propose the following update of Question 3/1 for the next cycle, with more focus on the regulatory aspects.

### **2 Question or Issue Proposed for Study**

Continue to study the effects of introducing and utilizing new technologies on the regulation of telecommunication services.

### **3 Description of the Expected Output**

An updated report by mid-1999 (1/195(Rev.2)) with relevant recommendation(s).

### **4 Required Timing of the Expected Output**

Mid-1999.

### **5 "Proposers/Sponsors" - Those who requested study of the Question or Issue**

Study Group 1 participants.

### **6 Sources of Input Required, in carrying out the Study**

Member States, Sector Members and concerned regional organizations (e.g., relevant papers of the European Commission, etc.).

### **7 Target Audience for the Output**

- a) **Indicate expected types of target audience, by noting all relevant points on the matrix which follows:**

	<b>Developed countries</b>	<b>Developing countries</b>	<b>LDCs</b>
Telecom policy makers	*	*	*
Telecom regulators	*	*	*
Service providers (operators)	*	*	*

- c) **Proposed Methods for the Implementation of the Results:**

Policy makers and Regulators will take that into consideration in adapting and formulating national policies/regulations to foster the introduction of the application of these technologies to the benefit of users.

## **8 Proposed Method of Handling this Question or Issue**

- a) **How? Indicate the suggested handling of the proposed Question or Issue**

1) Within a Study Group

– Question (over a multi-year study period) ÿ X

**Why? Explain why you selected the alternative under a) above**

This is a regulatory Question which requires good understanding among all Regulators and Operators.

## **9 Coordination Requirements of the Study**

- Study Group 1 - Questions 1/1, and 2/1, if continued. Study Group 2 - Question 1 /2, if continued.
- Regional organizations, as appropriate - European Commission, CITEL, CTU, APT, ASEAN, PATU, PTC, etc.
- Relevant work in progress in the other Sectors of the ITU.