





WBA IN ITALY – THE WI-FI AND WIMAX EXPERIENCE	
	
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2003 - THE REGULATION OF WI-FI 1/2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▣ Following the principles stated by the EC Recommendation of March 2003, in May 2003 the Italian Ministry of Communications adopted a new regulatory framework for WI-FI services.▣ The service uses the 2.4 and 5 GHz bands, on a shared basis (no QoS granted).▣ The public service was limited to areas like airports, railway stations, hotels, etc.▣ The service is subject to a simple authorization (no licence and rights of use on frequencies).		
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2003 - THE REGULATION OF WI-FI 2/2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Authorized operators grant that their service does not interfere with other existing services.☐ Network integrity and security and interoperability of services must be insured.☐ Interconnection between Radio LANs is allowed through public telecommunications networks.☐ 5.150-5.350 GHz band is reserved for indoor usage.☐ Power limits: 100 mW for 2.4 GHz and 1 W for 5.4 GHz.		
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2005 – NEW REGULATORY MEASURES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ In October 2005 the Italian Ministry of Communications introduced some amendments to the WI-FI regulation.☐ Limitations to the installation in specific areas were removed.☐ No limitations to interconnection between Radio LANs, but explicit reference to the obligation of granting law enforcement and security.☐ There is a general obligation for the owners of public areas to allow the installation of RLANs without technical or commercial discriminations.		
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WIMAX			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▣ WiMAX = Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access.▣ “Standards based technology enabling the delivery of last mile wireless BB access providing fixed, nomadic, portable and, eventually, mobile wireless BB connectivity ...” (WiMAX Forum).▣ In early 2005 in Italy a public consultation testified a high interest on the possibility of introducing WiMax services.▣ This interest led to the launch of a technical trial, jointly managed by manufacturers and operators, which started in July 2005.			
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WIMAX TRIAL			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▣ Allocation of frequencies is still a problem. The 3.4-3.6 GHz band, used for the trial, is currently assigned to the Ministry of Defence, which only temporarily allowed its use.▣ The trial is being conducted in urban and rural areas to test WiMAX effectiveness in different geographic conditions.▣ For the moment, there is not a big interest for the possible use of the 5.8 GHz band.▣ Mobile Operators are quite “warm” towards WiMAX, because they consider it as a risk for the development of UMTS services.			
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WIMAX TRIAL

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WIMAX REGULATION AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT 1/2

- ▣ The 3.4-3.6 GHz band, when available, will be assigned through a licensing procedure.
- ▣ The cost of the licence will be a decisive factor, but a low price risks to become discriminatory and unfair for the licensed UMTS Operators.
- ▣ The use of the unlicensed 5.8 GHz band is subject to attenuation and losses, with a low QoS.
- ▣ WLL have had a very limited impact on market structure.

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WIMAX REGULATION AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT 2/2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▣ “Time to the market” seems to be a crucial element and the situation is not encouraging.▣ Major competitors to WiMAX solutions are steadily growing: xDSL services and UMTS are very successful and prices and costs are decreasing.▣ The potential of WiMAX can be effectively exploited for reducing the digital divide, in particular in rural low density areas, and as a targeted solution for specific customers.▣ WiMAX should not be considered so much as a tool for increasing competition but as one of the elements contributing to the development of an integrated and converging network.		
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