

## **The ART Adapts its Organization to the New Regulatory Framework for Electronic Communications in Europe**

The French Regulator -Autorité de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ART)- has recently undertaken a modification to its organization to bring it in line with the new regulatory framework for electronic communications in Europe. The EU directives on electronic communications, which entered into force in July 2003, are currently at the stage of transposition into French law. The transposition bill was approved by the National Assembly on February 12, 2004 and will be submitted to the French Senate in April this year.

The principal evolution of the new organization of the ART consists of:

1. The creation of two vertical Departments - the Department of "*local governments and regulation of the broadband markets*" and the Department of "*regulation of fixed and mobile markets*" in charge of applying the new framework in terms of defining "relevant" markets, designating powerful operators, and mandating "remedies" to overcome the obstacles to the exercise of effective competition.
2. The creation of the Department of "*Economy and Forecast*" - in charge of the definition of economic models as well as economic and technical forecast.

According to the ART, this reorganization will allow a better knowledge of the markets and their dynamics, and will assure a better follow up on the operational process of regulation.

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