



Commission for
Communications Regulation

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For immediate release

ComReg Media Release

ComReg publishes its Strategy Statement for 2012 to 2014

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its Strategy Statement for the electronic communications sector for the period 2012 to 2014, as required under the 2002 Communications Regulation Act.

ComReg Chairperson, Alex Chisholm, said: “In the current period of dynamic change it is vital that regulation is predictable, consistent and transparent, to promote competition and encourage investment. ComReg seeks to balance the needs of the consumer in the present difficult economic climate, with the long term aim of ensuring that a sustainable industry survives to deliver innovative services, alternative technologies and effective choice to end users. Our Strategy Statement is an essential planning tool that will guide us towards that end over the next two years. We are grateful for the very considered responses received to our consultation on the draft Strategy Statement.”

“This Strategy Statement comes at a time of significant change in the Irish communications market. Despite difficult economic times, 2011 turned out to be a year of progress in the electronic communications sector, with strong competitive forces and consumer emphasis on value putting downward pressure on prices for voice and data services, and particularly for 'bundles' of telephony and broadband services. Furthermore, the growing availability of attractive broadband speeds, with 100 M/Bits available on cable networks in the major urban areas and in excess of 10 M/Bits offered over copper or fibre for fixed residential services, has revolutionised Internet access for very many users.”

“In regulating the market we aim to provide a stable, competitive and proportionate framework within which telecoms businesses can invest and thrive. Achieving the appropriate level of regulation that ensures sustainable competition, provides the best choice and quality for consumers and also drives innovation, will be a challenging task in this current period of national economic stress. I am confident that this Strategy Statement, when taken alongside our annual action plans, will play a key part in that task and it will help our stakeholders to develop their own strategies and action plans with confidence.”

ENDS

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Note for Editors

This Strategy Statement follows a public consultation on the draft Statement published on 27 April 2012 (ComReg document 12/37).