



## Press release

### THE REGULATORS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS APPROVE REVISED TARIFFS FOR CABLE ACCESS

**Brussels, 9 December 2015** The CRC (Conference of Regulators of the electronic communications sector) has reviewed the tariffs Brutélé, Nethys (VOO) and Telenet are allowed to charge operators wishing to provide television and broadband services through cable. The CRC decisions will be notified to the European Commission, which has one month to verify whether the decisions are in conformity with the European legislation. After this consultation the CRC will definitely set the reviewed tariffs.

In order to stimulate competition among TV and broadband internet bundles via cable and to enable consumers to enjoy qualitative telecom services at attractive rates, the CRC (which assembles the Vlaamse Regulator voor de Media, the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel, the Medienrat and BIPT) imposed a number of obligations upon the operators with significant market power in 2011. The latter have to open up their networks to the alternative operators in order to develop competing offers.

This framework was further elaborated in the CRC decisions of September and December 2013, which laid down the qualitative and tariff aspects of opening up the cable. Since then Belgium has a fully regulated framework opening up the cable networks to alternative operators.

A series of new developments on the market (e.g. Wi-Fi homespots and hotspots, TV on a second screen and *premium content*) prompted the regulators to review the tariff conditions for cable access. To this effect, a public consultation was launched in June 2015. The CRC decisions reviewing the cable access tariffs include the implementation of a retail minus method deducting the value of the above-mentioned additional services from the retail price before applying the minus. The value of the modems and decoders is deducted from this price as well. In addition, the manner in which promotions are taken account of in the calculation of the minus itself has been changed.

The revision of the calculation of the access prices thus decided results in a decrease of the access prices an alternative operator has to pay to a cable operator.

Besides, the CRC has decided to introduce a two-year transitional phase during which an alternative operator qualified as a newcomer on the market will benefit from a more favourable tariff.

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For more detailed information (press):

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