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NOTE	
from :	The Portuguese delegation
to :	COUNCIL
Subject :	Fourth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-09)
	- Information from the Portuguese delegation

FOURTH WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY FORUM (WTPF-09)

22 to 24 April 2009, Lisbon Congress Centre (Portugal)

By invitation of the Portuguese Government, the fourth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-09)of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – the United Nations agency for telecommunications - will be held from 22 to 24 April 2009 in Lisbon.

The Forum, which was established in 1994 and has previously taken place in 1996, 1998 and 2001. It is conveyed on an *ad hoc* basis thus allowing a rapid response to emerging policy issues resulting from changes in the telecommunications sector. Participation in the Forum is open to all ITU's Member States and Sector Members, organizations admitted as observers to ITU conferences and meetings, as well as the general public.

The Forum does not produce prescriptive outcomes with binding force but it strives to foster productive high level debate and build multi-stakeholder consensus on constructive ways forward concerning key regulatory and policy issues. The latest Plenipotentiary Conference[1] of ITU (Antalya, 2006) decided to hold the fourth WTPF in 2009 in order to discuss four broad topic areas:

    i)   Convergence and Internet-related public policy matters;

    ii)   Next Generation Networks;

    iii) Emerging telecommunications policy and regulatory issues;

    iv) The International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs).

In order to prepare the Secretary-General's Report (the framework document for debate at the Forum) and the draft opinions (expected to be the main outcome of the event and are attached to the mentioned Report), an Informal Expert Group was convened, chaired by Portugal. This Group prepared the following draft opinions:

Opinion 1 - Internet-related public policy matters;

Opinion 2 - The implications of the advent of NGNs and advanced broadband access;

Opinion 3 - ICT and the environment;

Opinion 4 - Collaborative strategies for creating confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

Opinion 5 - Capacity building in support of the adoption of IPV6;

Opinion 6 - International Telecommunication regulations (ITRs).

In the wake of the unprecedented economic crisis affecting all industry sectors, the WTPF-09 will incorporate a special Strategic Dialogue on ICTs, to be held on 21 April, just prior to the opening of the Forum. With the theme "Confronting the Crisis", this High-Level Strategic Dialogue seeks to formulate proactive strategies to help the ICT sector.

Portugal, as the host country of the Forum, would be very pleased to count on a high level participation of the European Union's partners in this relevant event for the telecommunications sector.

Additional information in:
http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/wtpf/wtpf2009/
http://wtpf2009.org

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[1] Top policy making body of ITU