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## COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK 1999

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Regulatory Issues

**Country:** Norway

**Date completed:** 4 June 1998

The attached questionnaire was undertaken in preparation for the biennial OECD *Communications Outlook*. The responses provided by countries on telecommunication regulation were used to provide information supporting the analytical sections published in association with data. A similar questionnaire with responses on broadcasting regulation is also available. In some cases, data for individual firms, used to compile OECD totals, have not been published at the request of the respondent. For further information, including data, see **OECD Communications Outlook 1999** and <http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/it/index.htm>

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### Market Structure and Regulatory Status (Questions 1 -13)

**1. Please provide details of the regulation of communication infrastructure, including the public switched telecommunication network (PSTN), provision in your country.**

Infrastructure provision for following service	Regulatory Status (e.g. monopoly, duopoly, limited number, fully open to any applicant)	Number of licensed operators (1998)
Local PSTN	Fully open to any applicant	
National PSTN	Fully open to any applicant	
International PSTN	Fully open to any applicant	
Analogue Cellular Mobile (e.g. NMT etc.)	Monopoly	1
Digital Cellular Mobile (e.g. GSM etc.)	GSM: Duopoly. DCS 1800: Licence given to 3 operators	2 3
Other Mobile Communication (e.g. PCS, PCN, CT-2 etc.)		
Payphones	Fully open	

**2. Please provide details for the major public telecommunication operator (PTO) of public switched telecommunication services in your country. (PTOs are state and privately owned entities providing public switched telecommunication services over their own infrastructure)**

Name of PTO	PTO Ownership Status (1998) (e.g. state owned/private owned) If a balance of ownership exists please indicate the share (%) held by the government
Telenor AS	State owned

**3. Please provide details of market share for the largest PTO in the following categories.**

	The largest PTO's share (End 1997)
Local Access (% of access lines)	100 %
National Long Distance (% of total minutes)	100%
International (% of total outgoing MiTT)	95 % (estimated)

**4. Please provide details of the number of subscribers by cellular and PCN mobile communication operators.**

Name of Operator	Number of Subscribers (End 1997)
1. Telenor Mobil	1.259.286
2. NetCom GSM	417.477

**5. Please provide a description of the most significant recent policy changes affecting the provision of telecommunications services, as well as any draft laws, or regulatory proposals to be implemented in 1998.**

Amendments of the act No. 39, of 23 June 1995, on Telecommunications are aimed to enter into force on 1 July 1998.

Secondary legislation: "Regulations on public telecommunications networks and public telecommunications services" of December 5, 1997 (came into force on 1 January 1998).

In general, Norway is in line with EU Regulation in the telecommunication sector according to the EEA-agreement. Norway also intends to meet the EU timetable in this area.

**6. Please provide a brief description of the responsibilities of the national regulatory authorities for public telecommunication services.**

The responsibilities of the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority:

- Management of the frequency spectrum,
- Type approval and supervision of networks, systems and equipment,
- Regulation of public telecommunications networks and services (i.e. registration of suppliers, numbering administration, evaluation of significant marketpower, supervision of Telenor's product accounts, and to act as mediator in interconnection negotiations when necessary)

**7. Are there any foreign ownership, size of shareholding or other ownership restrictions on individuals and corporations investing in the incumbent PTO(s) in your country?**

Yes, the incumbent PTO is a limited company wholly owned by the state. A change in ownership requires approval by the Parliament.

**8. Are there any communication infrastructures or services (e.g. cable television, terrestrial broadcasting, satellite broadcasting) PTOs in your country are not permitted to directly provide? In addition, please specify any restrictions on PTOs investing in companies that such infrastructure or services.**

No. However, the incumbent PTO is not allowed to have strategic ownership positions in program-making in the broadcasting sector.

**9. Is the incumbent PTO(s) in your country allowed to provide mobile communication services?**

**If 'yes', is there a requirement for accounting separation between the PTO's mobile and fixed operations?**

Yes. Accounting separation is required.

**10. What selection procedures are used to determine licenses for new PTOs (e.g. calls for tenders, government appointments, license on request)?**

The regulation in Norway is in line with EU Directives. The operators having significant market power need an individual licence from the Ministry. All other operators need to be registered by the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority.

Use of frequencies requires an individual licence.

**11. Please specify any restrictions or obligations imposed on new competitive network suppliers?**

A funding mechanism for universal service will be evaluated. No decision has been taken yet.

The three operators which are granted licence for DCS 1800 do have a coverage obligations.

**12. Are there any restrictions on the use of leased lines nationally or internationally (including resale)?**

No.

**13. Under the communication regulation existing in your country how would national and international voice telephony services provided over the Internet, by entities other than a PTO, be defined and treated? Please mention any restrictions or obligations that may apply.**

National and international voice telephony services provided over the Internet will be defined and treated as a public telephony service as long as it is comparable to PSTN in quality.

**Pricing (Questions 14 -15)**

**14. What, if any, conditions are applied to the tariffs set by PTOs?** (Please include any price control information such as price caps and specify for which service they apply).

Operators having “significant market power” must provide cost-oriented tariffs. In addition, the incumbent PTO is regulated by a price cap model.

**15. If communication discount schemes are available in your country please provide information on one or more popular schemes applicable to residential users, dial-up Internet access users and a low user scheme from the incumbent PTO.** In the space below please indicate the main features:

Residential User Discount Scheme: “Familie & Venner” (“Family & Friends”).

This scheme gives the user discount on respectively local calls (20%), national calls (20%) and international calls (15%). The extra monthly charge is 10 NOK per type of calls (local, national or international).

Internet Access Discount Scheme: “Familie & Venner” (“Family & Friends”) – local calls.

Low User Scheme: In March 1998 Telenor launched a low user scheme designed for the low user segment (will be beneficial for about 200 000 subscribers in Norway).

Note: Residential user refers to an average consumer’s home telephone service. A dial-up Internet user refers to a consumer accessing the Internet via a PC with a modem over the local public switched telecommunication network. Low user schemes is a term sometimes applied by PTOs to schemes designed for segments of the community that are financially disadvantaged.

**Numbering/Domain Names (Questions 16 - 17)**

**16. Please describe the numbering policy in your country. Please mention the responsible authority and whether portability has been introduced and for which services (e.g. 800 numbers, cellular numbers, local PSTN numbers).**

Responsible authority: Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority.

Number portability has not been introduced.

**17. Have there been any recent government policy initiatives in your country in respect to the administration of Internet top level domain names. (An example of a top level domain name is .be for Belgium).**

The administration of Internet top level domain names in Norway is done by UNINETT in consultation with the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority. An evaluation will be undertaken to see whether further action is needed.

**Interconnection (Questions 18 - 21)**

**18. Are PSTN interconnect or access charges a matter for commercial agreement between operators and if so is there provision for arbitration and by whom? Is there a requirement to publish the rate for PSTN interconnect or access charges?**

**If 'yes' please provide a schedule of interconnection charges for the PSTN.**

Interconnection charges are a matter for commercial agreement, and there is a provision for arbitration by the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority.

Yes, there is a requirement to publish a Standard Interconnection Reference Offer.

Interconnection charges:

Set-up charge:	0.13	0.13	
Termination:	(peak)	(off peak)	
Local:	0.11	0.06	
Inside regional zone:	0.15	0.10	
Outside regional zone:	0.21	0.16	Same prices for origination

**19. For the purpose of establishing interconnect or access charges is accounting separation used?**

Yes.

**20. Once the interconnection or access charge has been established is it available as a standard rate for other service providers (including other PTOs and resellers)?**

Yes.

**21. Does regulation specify that competitive service providers can collocate facilities on the same site as incumbent PTOs? Please indicate whether resellers and Internet Service Providers can co-locate equipment under the same terms and conditions as PTOs without being designated as a PTO?**

Yes.

**Information for Updating OECD Tariff Comparison Baskets (Question 22)**

**22. Please provide the following information for your largest PTO.**

What is the average duration of a local call (i.e. average time of a call in the lowest tariff band for PSTN)?	Not Available.	
What is the proportion of calls that fall within your lowest tariff band (i.e. local calls) as a percentage of total national calls?	Business: (%) Not Available.	Residential (%) Not Available.
What percentage of calls from the fixed network (PSTN) terminate in mobile networks (e.g. analogue and digital cellular networks)?	Business (%) Not Available.	Residential (%) Not Available.
What percentage of total leased lines (i.e. leased circuits) are local (i.e. 2 km or less)?	Not Available.	

**Universal Service/Consumer Issues (Questions 23 -25)**

**23. In the context of universal service policies which elements of telecommunication service are considered as part of universal service in your country?**

Universal service in Norway includes public voice telephony, operator assistance, emergency and directory enquiry services and that public payphones are widely available.

**24. Please provide details of any explicit funding mechanism for universal service and its coverage.**

Not decided yet. (Refer: Point 11).

**25. With what institutions other than telecommunication service providers can customers lodge complaints regarding these operators? (e.g. regulators, ombudsman, Ministry, etc.) Is there a requirement for annual reporting of the number of consumer complaints? If so how are complaints measured and reported.**

Consumer Protection Authority. No reporting requirements.
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