Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING PARTY ON COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURES AND SERVICES POLICY

The Working Party is invited to discuss and agree on its terms of reference. The proposed terms of reference will be forwarded to the ICCP Committee, which meets on 11-12 December, for approval.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The mandates of the ICCP Committee and those of its four working parties (CISP, WPIE, WPISP, WPIIS) expire on 31 December 2008. Prior to proposing to the Council the renewal of the Committee’s mandate, ICCP delegates will be requested to:

   I. Review the terms of reference of the Committee and its Working Parties, and where appropriate, make proposals for amendment following upon the Seoul Ministerial meeting; and

   II. Undertake an evaluation of the continuing relevance of the Committee’s Working Parties.

2. The requirement to undertake such an evaluation and to submit its results to the Council together with the proposed renewal of the Committee’s mandate follows recent amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation\(^1\). The objective is to assess whether the rationale that led to the establishment of sub-groups continues to exist. This evaluation is different from the OECD-wide in-depth evaluation process which is expected to be performed for the ICCP Committee and its working parties in the course of the 2009-2010 biennium.

3. Delegates of the Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policies are invited to discuss and agree on proposals for the Working Party’s terms of reference which will then be submitted to the ICCP Committee for its consideration and approval. The proposed changes in the terms of reference indicated below have been provided in consultation with the Bureau.

4. The ICCP also has to decide on whether it wishes to renew its Working Parties. The text included in the Annex, which has been reviewed by the CISP Bureau, has been provided to the ICCP Committee to help in the evaluation of the CISP. It is provided to delegates for information.

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\(^1\) According to article 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure of the OECD, prior to the renewal of their own mandate, Committees established by the Council shall undertake an evaluation of the continuing relevance of their own sub-structure and submit to the Council its results together with the proposed renewal. See C(2007)14/FINAL made available on OLIS on 1 August 2008.
**CISP Terms of Reference**

Extract from document [DSTI/ICCP/M(2006)1]

**Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy (WPCISP)**

**Terms of Reference**

The revisions below have been proposed by the UK and the USA. Paragraph 5 has been harmonised with the other working parties.

“The terms of reference of the Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy (WPCISP) shall be:

1. To explore the different goals and strategies of Member countries in the area of communication infrastructures and services in order to promote a common understanding of policies and increase international co-operation.

2. To promote exchanges of experience and best practice among member countries and review recent global developments in the field of communication infrastructures and services policy, taking into account the development of the Global Information Society and the emergence of next generation networks strategic objectives of the ICCP Committee.

3. To analyse the economic and social implications for users, businesses and Member countries of changing communication market structures, including the Internet and the convergence between the broadcasting and telecommunication sectors, the development of next generation networks and increased broadband access.

4. To analyse international and trade issues in communications and information services, and promote co-operation in this field.

5. The Working Party will undertake its work in close co-operation with other ICCP Working Parties and relevant bodies within of and outside the OECD Organisation to ensure complementarity of efforts and effective use of resources. In the conduct of its work the Working Party will also, as appropriate, work with and consider the views and expertise of including non-member economies, and other international organisations and non-governmental stakeholders, including business, trade unions, civil society, and, the Internet technical community.

6. The Working Party will undertake work as requested by the ICCP Committee, and submit on a regular basis the results of its work for review by this Committee.

The terms of reference of the Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy shall remain in force until 31 December, 2012, unless the ICCP Committee decides otherwise.
ANNEX

INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO ICCP FOR EVALUATION OF ITS WORKING PARTIES

Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy (WPCISP)

5. The aim of the Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy has been to analyse developments in communications markets and services and their policy implications. In this context the work has focused on a three key themes: i) develop and collect comparable telecommunication performance data and indicators; ii) analyse the impact of new technologies and services and their implications for competition and policy in communication markets; iii) examine issues specific to the development, deployment and efficient functioning of the Internet;

6. In meeting its mandate has undertaken a range of analytical reports, held several Workshops exploring specific issues, improved methodologies for a number of indicators as has begun work on several new indicators. Some of the key items of the Working Party’s output over the last four years include:

   i) Telecommunication performance data and indicators: Communications Outlook: A biennial publication presenting the most recent comparable data on the communication sector performance and provides information on policy frameworks in OECD countries. The publication is linked to the Telecommunication Database which provides time series of telecommunication indicators, such as network dimension, revenues and investment, from 1980 to 2007.

   Broadband Portal: Provides every six months the latest data on broadband subscribers and a number of other broadband indicators.

   ii) Impact of new technologies and their implications: A number of analytical reports were prepared over the last four years which examined new technologies and their policy implications. Among these were reports on Voice-over-IP, WiMax, IPTV Fixed-mobile convergence, Traffic prioritisation, fibre investment and Next Generation Networks. In addition, the Working Party in co-operation with the WPIE prepared a report for the Committee, subsequently submitted to the OECD Council, reviewing the Broadband Recommendation.

   iii) Deployment and functioning of the Internet: The analytical reports in this area covered issues such as Internet traffic exchange, allocation of generic top level domain names, management of ccTLDs and the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. Many of these reports were used as background material in the GAC or ICANN as well as in the context of the WSIS discussions.


8. The Working Party also undertakes Peer Reviews of national communication policies on a request basis. The last Peer Review examined telecommunication policy in Korea.
9. The output of the Working Party has been used widely both within Member countries and among non-Member countries. Data from the telecommunication database (Communications Outlook) are used extensively across the OECD by regulators, government departments, industry and academia. The price methodology comparisons have been used in benchmarking to put pressure on high priced telecommunication operators to reduce prices in both fixed and mobile markets and the benchmarking are used by a number of telecommunication regulators in their annual reports as well as by some telecommunication operators. The methodology has been emulated by several OECD countries that have used it in developing prices comparison methodologies for their own national markets. The six-monthly collection of broadband data is also used extensively and cited widely and has proven to be a useful tool in supporting policy objectives. Policy papers have also been used as background within OECD countries when evaluating their own frameworks or in developing policy in new service or technology areas. Non-member countries have also based their policy considerations on OECD work as have some regional bodies such as APECTEL. Work on the Internet has been widely distributed and cited in the Internet community and has played a useful role in the GAC as well as [Suggested deletion by the United States] considerations by ICANN. The Working Party also initiated the work on spam and the CISP Secretariat provided most of the Secretariat support to the Task Force on Spam. The outcome of the Task force also provided input into work in developing policy responses to spam in Member and non-member countries. The staff months in the Part 1 budget allocated to the working Party’s activities have not changed over the last four years.

10. In meeting the strategic objectives of the ICCP Committee the CISP Working Party will, in its work programme for 2009-10 concentrate in three keys areas: i) Communication markets: Policy and regulation; ii) Network developments in support of innovation and user needs; iii) Performance indicators (including the Communications Outlook). A number of analytical reports have been proposed for these areas including an examination of the development and delivery of broadband services, the geographic development of network competition, and an examination of how competition can promote access and innovation in support of the global Internet economy.

11. In undertaking its work over the next four years the Working Party will also work towards fulfilling the goals set by the Seoul Ministerial on The Future of the Internet Economy. This will include a decision to work toward a Council Recommendation on empowering consumers in communication services, examine policy options to ensure a level playing field for competition, analyse how to stimulate investment and competition in the development of high capacity infrastructures and policies to ensure that broadband networks and services are developed to attain the greatest practical national coverage and use.