



COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK 2001
Telecommunications Section

Country: The Netherlands

Date completed: 08.09.2000

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Market Structure and Regulatory Status (Questions 1 -10)

- 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, certain number, fully open to any applicant)	Number of licensed operators (2000)
Fixed PSTN (Local, National and International)	Fully open	No license required
Network infrastructure capacity (Includes only companies not licensed to provide voice services)	Fully open	Only registration mandatory
Analogue Cellular Mobile (e.g. NMT etc.)	Fully open	1
Digital Cellular Mobile (e.g. GSM, PCS etc.)	Fully open	5
Wireless local loop (fixed wireless)	Fully open	No license issued yet
IMT-2000 Operators (i.e. UMTS and 3 rd Generation)	Fully open	No license issued yet, 5 licences issued

- 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 (2000) (e.g. state owned/privately owned) If a balance of ownership exists please indicate the share (%) held by the government
KPN Telecom B.V.	43.25% held by the government

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

	The largest PTO's share	
	End 1998	End 1999
Local Access: % of access lines	99%	99%
Local Access: % of local calls	95-99%	90-99%
National Long Distance (% of total minutes) ¹	89%	84%
International (% of total outgoing MiTT)	90%	85%
Internet Subscribers ²	Approx 2 000 000	Approx 3 000 000

1. If % of minutes is not available, please indicate the % of revenue

2. If share of subscribers is not available, please indicate number of Internet subscribers for the PTO.

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

Name of Operator	Number of Subscribers (End 1999)
1. KPN	3 500 000
2. Libertel	2 180 000
3. Telfort	450 000
4. Dutchtone	360 000
5. Ben	300 000

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 2000 to 2001.

Please provide details:

Recent policy 'changes' concerned a stricter approach towards the implementation of carrier pre-selection and number portability. For CPS there was a decision that the incumbent (KPM) needed to comply with an obligation for an appropriate system for CPS. This procedure is not yet completed.

No major changes were made in laws or regulatory proposals in the Netherlands for 2000 or 2001.

6. Please provide a brief description of the responsibilities of the national regulatory authorities for public telecommunication services. Please highlight any changes over the last 12 months.

Please provide details:

- interconnection: access and set interconnection tariffs, issuing of guidelines such as application of ULL (unbundling of local loop)
- regulation : separation of retail tariffs (set price caps), leased lines implementation of carrier pre-selection, etc.

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/ No

No, but the government still holds a 'golden share', giving it the right to veto decisions....that could endanger the provision of public telecommunications services (the government is very reserved in using this right, it keeps a distance to the incumbent as much as possible).

8. Are there any communication infrastructures or services (e.g. mobile, cable television, terrestrial broadcasting, satellite broadcasting) that PTOs in your country are not permitted to provide directly? In addition, please specify any restrictions on PTOs investing in companies that provide such infrastructure or services. Please include information on requirements by the incumbent PTO to divest cable networks.

Please provide details:

There are no restrictions

9. What selection procedures are used to grant licences for new Wireless Local Loop (WLL) and IMT-2000 services? (e.g. spectrum auctions, calls for tenders, government appointments, licence on request)?

Please provide details:
Spectrum auctions

10. 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.

Please provide details:
There are no restrictions for the provision of telecommunication services over the internet. It is, however, mandatory for the company involved, to register with OPTA.

Pricing (Questions 11 -12)

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

Please provide details:
- End-user price/tariffs are regulated by means of a price cap (voice)
- Interconnection tariffs of the SMP must be transparent, non-discriminatory and cost-oriented, based on the EDC (embedded direct costs) cost accounting method.
- Leased lines: cost orientation (historical costs fully allocated)

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

Low User scheme:

'Budget' scheme: low monthly subscription fee, high per minute tariffs. This scheme is intended for customers that just want to have the possibility for others to call them. The monthly fee is NLG 19.95 (July2000), national calls are three times the normal tariffs and international calls are five times the same tariff.

Internet Access Discount Scheme:

Not yet available. Probably later this year.

(Additional pamphlets from the PTO in English or French, or with the main points translated into one of these languages, would be most appreciated. Please provide data in local currency).

Note: Low user schemes is a term sometimes applied by PTOs to schemes designed for segments of the community that are financially disadvantaged. 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.

Numbering/Domain Names (Questions 13 - 14)

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

Please provide details:

Numbers are issued by OPTA, according to the numbering plan which is issued by the Ministry of transportation, Public Works and Water management. Opta is responsible for regulating the use of numbers (assignment, administration and supervision)

14. Which organisation is responsible for the administration of your Internet country code top level domain names. (An example of a country code top level domain name is .be for Belgium). Please provide any details of any recent policy initiatives relating to country code domains.

Please provide details:

This organisation is SIDM (Internet Domain name registration – Foundation for Internet domain name registration). No major policy initiatives, ICANN policies initiated are closely watched.

Interconnection (Questions 15)

15. Interconnection between fixed networks.

	Yes /No	Details
Are PSTN interconnect or access charges a matter for commercial agreement between operators? And if so, is there provision for arbitration and by whom?	Yes	Arbitration by OPTA
Is there a requirement on the incumbent to publish the rate for PSTN interconnect or access charges?	Yes	The incumbent is required to publish its interconnection prices in its Reference Interconnect Offer (RIO).
For the purpose of establishing interconnect or access charges is accounting separation used?	Yes	Yes
Once the interconnection or access charge of the incumbent has been established, is it available as a standard rate for other service providers (including other PTOs and resellers)?	Yes	
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 collocate equipment under the same terms and conditions as PTOs without being designated as a PTO?)	No	No, but as a general rule interconnection could in certain cases include the obligation for collocation. This applies in any case for PTOs.
What kind of interconnection accounting methodology (e.g. LRIC, FDC, etc.) is used for calculating the incumbent's interconnection charges?		At the moment EDC is used, But negotiations are taking place to introduce LRIC in 2001.
Is carrier pre-selection implemented? If so, please describe the coverage of carrier pre-selection (e.g. local, long-distance and international).	Yes	Carrier pre-selection in NL covers all calls, i.e. local, long-distance and international.

16. Fixed to Mobile Network Interconnection

	Details
Are termination rates to mobile networks published?	No, these are not published, but as OPTA recently decided that differentiation should be made possible, these termination rate have become more transparent.
How are the termination rates for fixed-to-mobile calls determined in your country (e.g. commercial negotiated between operators, determined by mobile operator or other)?	These rates are commercially negotiated.
Are these rates subject to any regulation (e.g. must they be cost orientated if operators have significant market power)?	For SMP. These rates should be cost-oriented.

Unbundling (Questions 17 -18)

17. Please describe initiatives for local loop unbundling and indicate when unbundling policies were put in place or the expected date of implementation.

<p>Please provide details: Unbundled access to the local loop is now required in the Netherlands.</p>

18. Please provide the prices for access to unbundled local loops and specify the service on offer (e.g. raw copper, DSL subscriber line).

<p>Please provide details: Not yet publicly available (Still under negotiation / regulatory assessment by NRA)</p>
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Consumer Issues (Questions 19 -20)

19.

	Details
In the context of universal service policies, which elements of telecommunication service are considered as part of universal service in your country?	4 elements: 1- connection to fixed telephone - PSTN (upon request). 2- payphone. 3 - provision of directories. 4- provision of enquiry services.
Please provide details of any explicit funding mechanism for addressing universal service and its coverage (this can include initiatives related to infrastructure in respect to addressing digital divide issues).	Net costs can be requested by the government. This would only apply if there were a need for a designated service to be provided under a USO. So far, this situation has not occurred in the Netherlands.
Is the cost of providing universal service calculated? If so please provide the latest annual costing.	No
What percentage of telephone subscribers do not have access to an Internet service provider's point of presence with a local call?	None
What is the average monthly online time for a subscriber to the largest PTO's Internet access service (e.g. number of hours).	
What is the average household consumption expenditure of telecommunication services in your country? Please provide the data in local currency and specify the year of the survey. Please indicate which of the following telecommunications services are included or excluded -- fixed PSTN services, cellular mobile services and Internet access -- or provide a definition of the indicator used in your country.	Please see attachment 'Facts on consumer market'

20.

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Please report any estimates of the potential coverage of access lines with DSL by the end of the following years (as a % of total subscriber lines) by the incumbent(s):	Na (not available)	na	na	na