

Mandate of the OFCOM-Industry VoIP Working Group :

"Technical, administrative and legal aspects concerning quality criteria, rights and obligations, and interconnection of IP infrastructures to other infrastructures in connection with Public Telephone Service"

1 Introduction

According to Art. 62 of the Telecommunications Law (LTC) and Art. 81 para. 1 of the Decree concerning Telecommunication Services (OST), OFCOM is competent to edit technical and administrative regulations for enforcing the telecommunications legislation.

It is time now to edit such regulations in connection with the provision of Public Telephone Service by means of IP technologies, since OFCOM is regularly inquired by telecom service providers for related subjects.

The VoIP actors in Switzerland have the opportunity to participate in the elaboration of such technical and administrative regulations.

The participation in the Working Group will be voluntary. The Working Group will mainly focus on technical, administrative and legal aspects/discussions.

2 Aims of the Working Group

The leading aims of the VoIP Working Group are:

- to define quality criteria for real time as prerequisite for the provision of Public Telephone Service;
- to clarify the legal rights and obligations arising from the provision of Public Telephone Service;
- to provide OFCOM with inputs for the elaboration of technical and administrative specifications for interconnection of IP infrastructures to other infrastructures (public telephone networks, other IP networks) in order to offer Public Telephone Service;

3 Role of the authorities

The participants will discuss the definition of quality criteria related to the provision of Public Telephone Service and elaborate solutions for interconnection of IP infrastructures to other infrastructures in line with the legal obligations.

OFCOM shall ensure that VoIP service providers comply with the legal obligations arising from the provision of public telephone service and shall fulfil the necessary supervisory tasks.

4 Sources, participants

Documents published by standardisation organisations (ITU, ETSI, ECC, ECTRA, etc.) can help the Working Group for the discussion and elaboration of the final report.

The Working Group is open to all actors concerned by the VoIP technology. This includes PSTN providers, Internet service providers, equipment manufacturers, user interests organisations, etc. OFCOM will also be represented.

5 Identified main subjects to be part of the discussions

The Working Group will focus the discussion on the following three main issues identified as "Main Questions" during the initial meeting:

Question 1: **"Quality criteria for the provision of Public Telephone Service"**

Question 2: **"Compliance with legal obligations arising from the provision of public telephone service"**

Question 3: **"IP Interconnection Interface"**

The Working Group will be divided in two subgroups. First subgroup to discuss Question 1 and 2 together, second subgroup to discuss Questions 3.

Steering committee of both subgroups will be the plenary meetings.

6 Working structure

Name of the Working Group:	OFCOM-Industry VoIP Working Group, or VoIP WG
Rapporteur:	OFCOM, D. Voisard
Chairmanship:	Question 1 & 2 – OFCOM Question 3 – OFCOM in a first phase/step, then transferred to the industry
Steering committee:	Q.1, Q.2 and Q.3 through members participating to the plenary meetings
Participants:	open to all actors concerned by the VoIP technology in Switzerland
Decision taking:	by consensus or OFCOM decision in case of divergence on issues with regulatory connotations
Publication of the results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working Document on VoIPfinal report from the WG to be used by OFCOM as input for the elaboration of technical and administrative specifications
Information to the members:	plenary meetings
Frequency of meetings:	every month
Location of meetings:	OFCOM Biel/Bienne
Communication:	by e-mail (or phone conference, Internet chat)
Language:	English
End of the project:	end of December 2003

7 Documents to be produced

The output of the Working Group shall be a final report to be published by OFCOM (paper form and web site) and used as basis for the elaboration of technical and administrative specifications for interconnection of IP infrastructure to other infrastructures.

The Working Group may also decide to develop reports/implementers guide to help operators to introduce VoIP in order to fulfil legal requirements as mentioned above.

8 Deadline for final report / Tech. and Adm. Specs

The final report shall be produced by the end of september 2003 and published by OFCOM.

Technical and administrative specifications published by OFCOM for the end of 2003.