

Audition of Telecom Italia's top management

Today, the Communications Regulatory Authority's offices in Rome hosted the audition of Telecom Italia's top management, led by CEO Franco Bernabè. The CEO first of all emphasized the importance that Telecom gives to a continuous relationship with the Authority in a peaceful and constructive environment and on the basis of a deep and transparent information.

Mr. Bernabè has therefore explained to the Authority's Council the general guidelines of Telecom Italia Group's strategies and objectives for 2008 and for the period 2008-2010, of the plans for quality services improving and for strong innovation of access platforms as well as the process for a reorganization in the management of technological infrastructures. In this context, Telecom Italia emphasized also the importance it gives to the correct relationship with the competitors in the full respect of the rules of competition and regulatory obligations, with the progressive overcoming of disputes currently in act.

President Corrado Calabrò pointed out that the Authority's regulation aims at giving legal certainty to operators and is inspired by the maximum consideration for technological evolution and service quality, having attention to customers protection and competition.

As far as "open access" is concerned - the new structure proposed by Telecom for a more efficient, transparent and non discriminatory management of the access network - the Authority has greeted with interest the response that the new Telecom Italia's management is giving to the need for a more incisive opening path of access infrastructures – several times expressed by AGCOM – to the end of the improvement of services offered.

The Authority emphasized that the *Open Access* project, if adequately developed, can represent the key instrument for the opening of a new fixed network regulatory season, more open to free market initiatives, to investments and innovation of services and offers, and has asked Telecom Italia to complete the definition of then project in order to make an overall evaluation.

Rome, March 27th 2008