

## CHAPTER 8

# ARCEP's international responsibilities

ARCEP contributes to the telecommunications sector's development – and, since 2005, to the postal sector's as well – beyond the national and EU levels. It is represented at the principal international institutions involved in its areas of responsibility, and takes an active part in a great many discussions on technical, legal and economic matters.

Through its Board Members and experts, ARCEP also takes part in international conferences.

Furthermore, the Authority conducts a range of cooperation missions – associating itself with exchange and training initiatives, particularly those concerned with regulatory issues.

## A. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is an international organisation within the United Nations system. As of the end of 2007, it had 191 member states, 600 sector members (operators and manufacturers) and some 140 associate organisations (small businesses, research bodies, and consultancies). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Employment<sup>1</sup> represent France in the ITU's decision-making bodies (Plenipotentiary Conferences and the Council).

Web site: [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)

*1 - Through the State  
Secretary responsible for  
business and foreign trade*

In 2007, ARCEP helped prepare the French government's position on telecommunications in the decision bodies of the ITU under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Of particular note was its participation at the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), which took place in Geneva from 22 October to 16 November 2007<sup>2</sup>.

*2 - Cf. also Part 4,  
Chapter 4, Para. 1.*

ARCEP participated in its areas of responsibility in three sectors of ITU activity:

- ◆ ITU-T (Telecommunications Standardization) which develops international technical and operating standards that, although implemented voluntarily, are recognised internationally;
- ◆ ITU-R (Radiocommunication) whose task is to determine the technical characteristics and methods of operating wireless services. The main event in 2007 was the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC);
- ◆ ITU-D (Development), which implements programmes aimed at facilitating telecommunications access, the development of networks and regulatory policies, training personnel from developing countries, formulating funding strategies and helping businesses incorporate e-commerce into their operations.

## 1. ITU-T

At the national level, ARCEP heads the structure for coordinating the work of ITU-T among the various French players involved (the Ministry of Economy & Finance, operators and manufacturers). This structure allows the work of the 13 ITU-T Study Groups to be monitored and the French positions for TSAG (Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group) meetings to be developed.

Within ITU-T, ARCEP chairs Study Group 2, which handles certain aspects of networks and services, particularly numbering, naming and addressing. In 2007, this Study Group continued its work on the abuse of international numbering resources and discussed the attribution of numbering resources for particular services: child helpline, emergency services (112). It also took part in discussions concerning Internet resource management.

Through one of its experts, ARCEP is also involved in Study Group 3, which is dedicated to international tariff and accounting principles and issues. ARCEP acts as the rapporteur for the group responsible for definition and translation issues.

ARCEP has been an active participant in the work performed by the Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), the body responsible for making operational decisions regarding ITU-T activity occurring between meetings of the WTSA (World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly). At the TSAG meeting in 2007, ARCEP served as coordinator for the CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations) and as deputy head of the French delegation.

The Authority also attended the meetings of several expert groups, including the group devoted to international telecommunications regulation.

## 2. ITU-R

The Radiocommunication Sector of the ITU plays a vital role in managing the radio frequency spectrum, a limited natural resource for which there is growing demand due to the rapid development of new radiocommunication services and mobile technologies.

ARCEP participates in ITU-R conferences in the same way that it follows the work of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and ITU-R Study Groups, in collaboration with the national frequency regulator ANFr (Agence Nationale des Fréquences).

World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) are held once every three to four years. Moreover, an ITU Region or group of countries may organise a Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC).

The latest WRC took place in Geneva, from 22 October to 16 November 2007. Through its Director General, François Rancy, the national frequency regulator ANFr (Agence Nationale des Fréquences) defended the French position, pursuant to a government mandate. ARCEP experts took part in the four weeks of French delegation negotiations.

One of the goals of the WRC-07 was to identify additional spectrum for the future development of 3G ("IMT-2000") and 4G (IMT-advanced) mobile systems<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> - Cf. Part 4,  
Chapter 4, Para. 1.

The identification and harmonisation of new frequency bands at the global level is key to satisfying increasing coverage demands and the needs of IMT-advanced functionalities that will make it possible to deliver bitrates of around 100 Mbps in a situation of high mobility. This harmonisation should also enable economies of scale and global and regional roaming for mobile handsets.

For the entire Europe/Africa region, the WRC also identified and assigned the 790-862 MHz band to mobile services. These frequencies correspond to a portion of the digital dividend, which covers the 470-862 MHz band. This assignment will take effect in November 2015 but the provisions adopted by the conference allow several countries in the region, including France and most of its neighbours, to allocate this spectrum to mobile applications immediately, notably for the deployment of IMT systems.

To compare: the Americas zone and several Asian countries (including China, Japan, South Korea and India) have already assigned a much wider band to mobile services: 698-806 MHz (or 108 MHz), completing the extension of the 806-862 MHz band already attributed to IMT.

The WRC also identified the upper 3400-3600 MHz frequency band for satisfying the capacity requirements of future evolved-IMT systems.

Furthermore, and also as part of ITU-R, in October 2007 ARCEP took part in the review of the Radiocommunication Assembly which defines the radiocommunication sector's working methods and structure.

### 3. ITU-D

ARCEP contributed to the work performed by the ITU-D (ITU-Development Sector) Study Group 1, notably by responding to the different questionnaires issued by the rapporteurs on the various issues being examined in 2007.

The Authority is also a member of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), whose role is to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on setting priorities, formulating strategies and preparing and implementing the budget and operational plan of the ITU Development Sector.

In 2007, ARCEP took part in the 7th Global Symposium for Regulators, from 5 to 7 February, which was organised in Dubai by the BDT and devoted to the theme: "The Road to Next Generation Networks (NGN): The role of regulators in promoting investment and achieving open access". ARCEP Board Member, Nicolas Curien, spoke at the symposium on the impact of NGN architecture on telecommunications market competition and regulation.

## **B. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

With headquarters in Paris, the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) has 30 member countries, including France, which work to identify the economic, social and governance challenges associated with globalisation, as well as ways to leverage its potential. The Organisation is well known for its publications and statistics. Its work covers all economic and social disciplines, from macroeconomics to trade and includes education, development and postal and electronic communications.

Web Site : [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

ARCEP, in collaboration with other French governmental bodies, is particularly involved in the work of the OECD Committee on Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP), which examines issues associated with the digital economy, the global information infrastructure, and the evolution towards a global information society.

The unifying theme of its work is the global Internet economy, seeking to establish best practices for implementing public policies and regulation in the electronic communications sector.

In 2007, ARCEP assisted in preparing a draft Council recommendation on convergence and next generation networks from the ICCP Working Party on Telecommunication and Information Services Policies (WPTISP). It also contributed to drafting working papers on topics that pertained directly to broadband access.

Finally, ARCEP monitored the work of other ICCP working parties from time to time, particularly the Working Party on the Information Economy (WPIE) and the Working Party for Indicators on the Information Society (WPIIS).

## C. Cooperation with Francophone countries: Fratel

Established during a symposium of regulators from French-speaking countries in Paris in June 2002, Fratel is the telecommunications regulation network of French-speaking countries. Its primary aim is to promote collaboration and exchanges between its members: its first meeting was held in Bamako in 2003.

### 1. Fratel network annual meeting in Dakar

Fratel network members held their fifth annual meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, from 7 to 9 November 2007, after having met in Dakar (Senegal) in 2006, in Paris (France) in 2005, in Fez (Morocco) in 2004 and in Bamako (Mali) in 2003.

More than 100 participants representing regulators from 24 countries, international institutions (notably ITU) and telecom sector enterprises (including Alcatel, Alvarion, ASCOM, Swisscom and France Telecom) debated the regulators' role in the areas of quality of service and consumer protection.

This annual meeting was preceded by a conference on the wireless local loop and new wireless access technologies, which provided an opportunity for French and Swiss regulators to present their spectrum allocation procedures for wireless networks, and for manufacturers (Alvarion and Alcatel-Lucent) to announce the technical applications of new wireless access technologies such as WiMAX. At the end of the meeting, Daniel G. Goumalo Seck (Senegal) was elected Chairman of Fratel, and Jean-Louis Beh Mengue (Cameroon) and Marc Furrer (Switzerland) were elected Vice-chairmen.

This 5th annual meeting also provided an opportunity for the working group on the future of Fratel, chaired by Modibo Camara, former Chairman of Fratel (2003-2004), to formulate its proposals for the coming year.

It thus put forth several lines of action for 2008:

- ◆ organisation of a day of discussion devoted to postal regulation (on the occasion of the annual meeting);
- ◆ putting a list of focal points on the Fratel website;
- ◆ production and publication of documents related to the topics addressed at network meetings and seminars, both preparatory (before) and analytical (after).

### 2. Information and experience exchange seminar in Yaoundé

ARCEP took part in the seminar dedicated to exchanging information and experience that was held on 12 and 13 April 2007, on the invitation of the telecommunications regulatory agency of Cameroon, ARTC (Agence de régulation des télécommunications du Cameroun), and focused on the issue of regulating new generation networks (NGN).

Some one hundred participants attended the event, including NRA heads and experts from 10 countries, along with industry representatives (Alcatel-Lucent, Orange, MTN, Ericsson...), representatives of the Polytechnic School of Cameroon (*l'Ecole polytechnique du Cameroun*), the Multinational Telecommunications University of Senegal, ESMT (*l'Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications du Sénégal*), and market consultants.

3. Badge training

From September 2007 to June 2008, 34 participants from 12 French-speaking African nations (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Republic of Djibouti, Rwanda, Chad and Togo) attended a series of training sessions in telecommunications that was developed at the initiative of ENST Paris, the Burkina Faso telecoms regulator (ARTEL), the University of Ouagadougou, the World Bank, the ESMT of Dakar and ARCEP. Those who complete the training were awarded a diploma (“badge”) from the *Conférence des Grandes Écoles Françaises*.

In April 2008, ARCEP experts moderated a session devoted to the legal aspects of regulation.

D. Study missions and meetings

Several members of the ARCEP Board travelled abroad on study missions in 2007.

Authority Board member, Gabrielle Gauthey, attended the Seoul Digital Forum which took place from 28 May to 1 June in South Korea. She gave a talk on the issues surrounding telecommunications regulation in France (ultra-fast broadband, spectrum, review of the European regulatory framework).

From 7 to 14 December 2007, Authority Board member, Patrick Raude, travelled to Brazil to take part in a conference on electronic communications market convergence and regulation. He also met with the Brazilian Minister responsible for telecommunications, along with representatives of Brazil's regulatory authority (ANATEL) and of telecom sector companies. Their discussions focused on the challenges created by information society technologies and their usage, and particularly on broadband, the Internet, fixed and mobile television and video on-demand (VoD).

4 - Available on [www.arcep.fr](http://www.arcep.fr).

These trips to South Korea and Brazil were each the subject of a report published on the ARCEP website<sup>4</sup>.

