



Czech Telecommunication Office

May 2022

Telegraphically

On 27 April 2022, CTU held a meeting with the sector to discuss the further provision and routing of the universal service, in particular the partial service of so called special prices, in the context of the ongoing review of this service based on the transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act. Other topics included website blocking in accordance with the relevant European regulation and the RLAN portal.

Workshop on the amendment to the Electronic Communications Act

On 2 June 2022, CTU will hold an online workshop for consumer organizations, which will focus on the transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act and its impact on Czech consumers. We will discuss how service providers have translated the new rules into contract documents and practices, we will also address the issue of unsolicited marketing calls or the [Telecommunication Academy](#) project.

ISSS conference took place

Traditionally, the Czech Telecommunication Office participated with its stand in the [ISSS international conference 2022](#), the 24th edition of which took place on 16-17 May 2022 in Hradec Králové. The [NetTest](#) measuring tool, which was successfully launched last year and is used by the general public to verify the quality of Internet access service, was also presented to the professional public.

10,000 free parcels to UA

Česká pošta has already handled more than 10,000 parcels to Ukraine as part of the no postage charge [campaign](#). The exception was introduced on 1 March and is valid until further notice; the important conditions are the ongoing war and the situation in the country - the Ukrainian post must, of course, accept and deliver packages from the Czech Republic. Standard parcels weighing up to 30 kg sent to a specific address are free of charge. Source: ČTK.

CTU is preparing conditions for the development of commercial digital radio

This year, CTU will prepare the conditions for the tender for the operator of DAB+ networks, i.e. digital radio broadcasting. It opened a discussion on this topic with experts and potential bidders in the tender.

Listening to free radio broadcasts "on aerial" is gradually gaining popularity also on the digital platform DAB, which has been developing significantly in recent years not only abroad but also in the Czech Republic. The popularity of this technology is significantly enhanced by Český rozhlas, whose multiplex

coverage already exceeds 95% of the population. Along with the network of the public operator, the regional and local networks of private broadcasters are also developing successfully; especially in the last year, they have expanded the number of transmitters and thus the quality of coverage, bringing new radio stations to the airwaves. Currently, more than 50 stations are broadcasting in the Czech Republic via digital radio.

The Czech Telecommunication Office intends to use this growth potential to initiate steps towards the granting of block allocations of radio frequencies for the final commercial digital radio DAB networks. By granting long-term authorizations, potential transmitter operators will gain investment certainty for the long-term development and operation of their networks, and listeners will be able to enjoy new genres of popular radio.

Operators and the state held a discussion at the round table

CTU convened a non-public roundtable discussion of experts in April 2022 to start the discussion on the terms of the tender. The invitation was accepted by representatives of existing broadcasters as well as frequency planning experts, analytical companies and representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Culture and the Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting. The discussion was open and provided several clarifications for the upcoming tender for broadcasting network operators, the terms of which should consider the creation of feasible business models. CTU's next steps will include the compilation of suitable frequency sets and the drafting of tender conditions followed by a public consultation.

Checked by CTU in April...

...compliance with the conditions of General Authorization No. [VO-R/12/11.2021-11](#) for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of equipment for broadband data transmission in the bands 2.4 GHz to 71 GHz

Due to the ongoing "Gracious spring" campaign (more information [here](#)), CTU did not carry out inspections of RLAN operators on its own initiative in April, but only inspections resulting from complaints about interference to other radiocommunication services, especially weather radars. A total of 17 inspections were carried out and in 13 cases non-compliance with the conditions of the general authorization (causing harmful interference to stations of radiocommunication services on priority basis) was detected. These cases were dealt with by means of a request to remedy the deficiencies identified and will subsequently be dealt with in administrative proceedings.

...compliance with the conditions of General Authorization No. [VO-R/24/05.2019-4](#) for the operation of equipment of infrastructure for transmitting radio signals inside tunnels, premises of buildings and trains

CTU carried out a total of 4 inspections based on complaints from mobile operators about network interference. In all four cases, CTU found violations of the conditions of the general authorization consisting in the interference with mobile networks and in the operation of GSM repeaters without the consent of the mobile operators. In all cases, a request was issued to remedy the identified deficiencies, which will subsequently be addressed in administrative proceedings. In this context, CTU draws attention to the need to comply with the conditions of the General Authorization VO-R/24/05.2019-4 when operating GSM repeaters, in particular Article 4(3), which makes the operation of GSM repeaters subject to the written consent of mobile operators, and Article 2(4), which requires operators to prevent interference to mobile networks. CTU recommends contacting your service

provider (mobile operator) when dealing with problems with mobile network signal coverage inside buildings and discussing the possible installation of a repeater with them.

... [sources of interference with the operation of electronic communications equipment and networks, the provision of electronic communications services or the operation of radiocommunications services](#)

In April, CTU closed 10 cases of interference with GSM and 5G public mobile communication networks (in 3 cases the source of interference was an active element of TV signal reception), 8 cases of interference with radio and satellite signal reception, 1 case of interference with medical equipment (ultrasonograph), and 7 cases of interference with various devices (amateur service radio station, RR link, PCO receiver, etc.). In cases where the interference was confirmed and the source of the interference was traced, the operators of the interference sources were ordered to eliminate them.

... [the use of radio frequencies without authorization](#)

CTU carried out a total of 18 inspections focused on the use of frequencies without authorization (including frequencies for the use of which an individual licence cannot be issued). 13 inspections revealed use of frequencies without individual licence; the cases were referred for resolution in administrative proceedings.

... [sources of interference with TV signal reception](#)

In April, CTU closed a total of 70 cases of TV signal reception interference. The investigation of complaints about poor TV reception revealed that in 45 cases the defect was in the viewer's equipment (most often a technical fault of the receiving antenna), in 7 cases the interference stopped or occurred sporadically. In two cases, the complainant withdrew the interference complaint during the investigation. In sixteen cases, a source of interference was detected, and in all 16 cases the source of interference was a mobile operator's base station (see below).

... [pilot operation of LTE base stations in the 800 MHz band](#)

As of 30 April 2022, 356 base stations were in pilot operation, and 17,022 stations were in permanent operation. In April, an LTE base station was not identified as a source of TV signal interference in any case.

... [pilot operation of 5G/LTE base stations in the 700 MHz band](#)

As of 30 April 2022, 1251 base stations were in pilot operation, and 481 stations were in permanent operation. The 5G/LTE base station was identified as a source of interference to TV reception in sixteen cases in April, in all of which the mobile operator provided radio screening to TV viewers at its expense. In April, CTU sent a letter via data mailbox to 207 municipalities in whose region the pilot operation of 5G base stations was launched, with [information on how to proceed in case of TV signal reception interference](#) .

2,355 - the number of decisions issued in April on the matter, of which 2 345 decisions concerned a dispute over payment (payment of the price for services).

1,898 – the number of administrative proceedings initiated in April concerning subscriber disputes between the person carrying out the communication activity and the subscriber. These are the disputes over payments and objections to a settlement of claim about the billing of the price or the provided publicly available electronic communications service.

Economic regulation

Market No. 1 - wholesale services with local access provided at a fixed location, and Market No. 3b - wholesale services with central access provided at a fixed location for mass-market products

On 27 April 2022, the CTU Council discussed and approved a notification to the European Commission the draft analyses of relevant markets [No. 1](#) – Wholesale local access provided at a fixed location, and [No. 3b](#) – Wholesale central access provided at a fixed location for mass-market products. CTU subsequently started the actual notification of both analyses to the European Commission on 10 May 2022.

Change in price caps for consumers for calls and SMS to other countries

From 15 May 2022 there was a decrease in the maximum prices of international calls and SMS to the countries of the European Economic Area, which are regulated by the amended [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2120 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#). The decrease in prices reflects the strengthening of the Czech koruna {CZK} against the euro in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period last year by 5.36%. From that date, the operators concerned must not charge a unit price higher than CZK 4.681 excluding VAT (EUR 0.19) per minute for calls from the Czech Republic to the countries of the European Union, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland), i.e. CZK 5.664 including VAT, and a price higher than CZK 1.478 excluding VAT (EUR 0.06), i.e. CZK 1.788 including VAT, for sending one SMS. The maximum prices for calls and SMS sent to those countries are converted each year from the price caps set in euro according to the average of the reference exchange rates published on 15 January, 15 February and 15 March of the relevant year by the European Central Bank in Official Journal of the European Union.

Universal service - intentions not to impose partial services

Based on a review of the availability of selected partial services under universal service, the Czech Telecommunication Office published three intentions not to impose partial services on the discussion site.

On 2 May 2022, the [intention](#) not to impose the obligation to provide the partial service of reasonable access to the Internet at a fixed location and the [intention](#) not to impose the obligation to provide the voice communication service at a fixed location, including the connection necessary for the use of the service for both partial services, were published. According to CTU's conclusions, in both cases the provision of the service in accordance with the universal service requirements is ensured on a commercial basis, with adequate quality and at affordable prices. The service of reasonable access to the Internet at a fixed location is newly a partial service within the universal service under the transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act.

Then, on 5 May 2022, the [intention](#) not to impose a partial service ancillary to the partial services under Section 38(2)(a) and (b) within the universal service was published.

Radio spectrum management

TV DIGITAL BROADCASTING

On 14 April, České Radiokomunikace included the Ukrainian TV station 1+1 in multiplex 23. The broadcast will help Ukrainian citizens in the Czech Republic gain access to information about events in their home country in their native language. 1+1 TV is to be broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

RAIL TRANSPORT COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

From 1 June 2022, a new version of the measure of general nature - part of the radio spectrum utilisation plan [No. PV-P/10/05.2022-4, for the 470-960 MHz band will enter into force](#). The reason for changing this measure is the implementation of [Commission Decision \(EU\) 2021/1730](#) on the harmonized conditions for the availability and efficient utilization of radio spectrum for rail transport communication systems (RMR) in the bands 874.4-880.0 MHz and 919.4-925.0 MHz. The current GSM-R system has been in use on the railways for many years and the gradual or future deployment of a more technologically advanced pan-European solution is expected to enable the development of broadband communications for rail transport purposes.

CONDITIONS FOR HIGH-CAPACITY LINKS

Based on the growing interest in the operation of high-capacity fixed links, CTU proceeded to assess the possibility of introducing fixed links with a radio channel width greater than 100 MHz. For the public consultation, CTU prepared an update of a part of the radio spectrum utilisation plan [No. 13 \(fixed links in the range of 10.7–11.7 GHz\)](#) and [No. 17 \(17.7–19.7 GHz\)](#).

PREPARATION FOR THE WRC AND THE ROLE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The 5th plenary meeting of the CEPT/CPG team to prepare Europe's proposals for WRC-23 was held in Denmark on 25-29 April 2022. Two items coordinated by the Czech Republic were also discussed and adopted: they concern the update of ITU-R recommendations and WRC resolutions in the international Radio Regulations. The CPG/PT-D project team dealing with European proposals for the UHF band met in Dublin on 4-6 May 2022. PT-D's working proposals include both the continuation of existing conditions and the option of a broadly worded possible change in the allocation to radio services, but without reference to IMT or 5G.

Postal services in Ukraine

The security situation in Ukraine also affects the provision of postal services. Česká pošta informs about the limitation of services (not only in Ukraine) on its [website](#). The European Group of Postal Regulators (ERGP) has [called](#) on all postal operators in the Member States to take appropriate measures to facilitate the delivery of necessary humanitarian and medical equipment to Ukraine. [CTU also joined](#) a similar call. Česká pošta, which holds a postal licence, has already announced via its website that it will not charge for the delivery of standard parcels to Ukraine from March. Anyone wishing to send a humanitarian aid parcel to Ukraine can do so until further notice using the Standard Parcel service without postage charges. However, it is necessary to complete a customs declaration for deliveries outside the EU. The Czech Post communicates on an ongoing basis with CTU regarding any restrictions or other obstacles to delivery arising as a result of developments in the current situation on the territory of Ukraine. More information on the possible number of postal items to be sent in this way or the maximum weight of such postal items can also be found directly on the [website of Česká pošta](#).

Telecommunications regulation in the EU

European Commission

On 28 April, the European Union, the United States, and several international partners have proposed a [Declaration for the Future of the Internet](#), setting out the vision and principles of a trusted Internet. Partners support a future for the Internet that is open, free, global, interoperable, reliable and secure and affirm their commitment to protecting and respecting human rights online and across the digital world. So far, 60 partners have endorsed the Declaration, including all EU Member States. The [Declaration for the Future of the Internet](#) is in line with the rights and principles strongly anchored in the EU and builds on the [Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles](#) that the Commission has proposed to co-sign together with the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Workshops on this subject will also take place in the next months.

Official Journal of the EU

On 13 April, [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/612 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) of 6 April 2022 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union, was published. This regulation shall enter into force on 1 July 2022.

However, the obligations of roaming providers to provide information about numbering ranges for value added services and information about alternative means of access to emergency services with regard to the information in the databases referred to in Article 16 shall apply from 1 June 2023. This Regulation shall expire on 30 June 2032.

BEREC

On 4 April, BEREC organised an online Stakeholder Workshop on ICT Sustainability. The aim of the workshop was to feed the public consultation on the BEREC Sustainability Report on reducing the impact of digital sector on the environment, by exchanging views on key environmental challenges raised by the digital sector with expert organizations and stakeholders. You can find the recorded video on [BEREC website](#).

On 8 April, BEREC issued a [statement](#) supporting cooperation between telecommunications operators in the EU and Ukraine to ensure affordable access for Ukrainian refugees. BEREC welcomes this joint initiative and is ready to support also the implementation of the actions as described in the [Joint statement](#) of EU and Ukrainian colleagues, which was also signed on 8 April.

ERGP

On 26 April, The European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) adopted a [position paper on the EC report on the application of the Postal Service Directive \(PSD\)](#) highlighting the importance of adapting the European legislation on postal services. In this respect, the ERGP called on the European Commission to identify the way forward and the next steps regarding the review of the postal regulatory framework.