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Part

## 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 2008, it had 191 member states, 580 sector members (operators and manufacturers) and some 160 associate organisations (small businesses, research bodies, and consultancies). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of State for Industry represent France in the ITU's decision-making bodies (Plenipotentiary Conferences and the Council).

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

ARCEP helps 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 Secretary of State responsible for industry. French public authorities participate alongside representatives from the private sector in ITU efforts to coordinate telecommunications networks and services worldwide. ARCEP also takes part in the annual Global Symposium for Regulators and in the ITU Forum (ITU Telecom).

At the request of the Minister responsible for telecommunications, ARCEP was part of the French delegation to the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in 2008.

In 2008, ARCEP also chaired the editorial committee in charge of standardising the vocabulary employed in the six official languages in the resolutions to emerge from ITU conferences.

ARCEP participates 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;
- ◆ 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, 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 2008, 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 and WTSA meetings in 2008, 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 one 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. The next one is scheduled for 2011.

## 3. ITU-D

ARCEP contributed to the work performed by the ITU-D (ITU-Development Sector) Study Group 1 which is devoted to "Telecommunication development strategies and policies". ARCEP made two contributions in 2008, which it presented at the annual meeting of the study committee that took place from 8 to 12 September in Geneva. These contributions concerned the following issues: "Regulatory impact of next generation networks on interconnection" and "Access to telecommunication services for people with disabilities".

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, which met in Geneva from 6 to 8 February 2008.

From 11 to 13 March 2008, ARCEP took part in the 8th Global Symposium for Regulators which was organised in Pattaya, Thailand, by the BDT and had as its theme: "Six Degrees of Sharing: Innovative Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access Strategies to Promote Affordable Access for All". ARCEP Board Member, Joëlle Toledano, spoke at the symposium on infrastructure sharing and the future of an openly competitive fibre mass market.

## 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 the ministry and the SGAE, is particularly involved in the work of the OECD Committee on Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP), and the Working Party on Communications and Infrastructure and Service Policies (WP CISP), which examine the economic and social challenges posed by the globalisation of ICT to help better understand the current changes at work in the ICT sector and the concerns that they raise.

In 2008, ARCEP took part in the African Economic Outlook meeting of experts that the OECD organises each year – bringing together representatives of the African Development Bank, the OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The 2008 edition was devoted to innovation in information and communication technologies.

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.

The network's 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 Tunis

The 6th annual meeting of the Fratel network took place in Tunis from 15 to 17 October 2008. It was attended by over 100 participants that included 27 regulators, along with representatives of international institutions (World Bank, International Telecommunication Union) and individuals from the private sector (consulting firms, operators), who came to discuss how regulation affects the development of competition. At the request of Fratel network members, the first ever workshop on postal regulation was held parallel to the main meetings on 15 October. It was attended by Fratel members affected by this activity, and the sector's institutional and industry representatives.

An executive summary of the debates is currently being prepared by the Tunisian regulator, *Instance nationale des télécommunications de Tunisie*.

2. Information and experience exchange seminar in Libreville

The technical seminar, which was held on 22 and 23 May in Libreville, Gabon, was attended by 80 participants (members of Fratel and telecommunications sector players) who shared their experience with tariff regulation and cost accounting methods.

The Fratel network distributed a document on tariff regulation and cost accounting methods at the seminar.

An executive summary of the seminar was produced thanks to contributions from several participants in the different round tables. It was distributed at the annual Fratel meeting in Tunisia.



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### 3. BADGE training

In 2008, 26 participants from 13 French-speaking African nations (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, 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.

A new agreement between Télécom ParisTech (formerly ENST Paris), the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency of Cameroon, ART (*Agence de régulation des télécommunications du Cameroun*), the French national frequency regulator, ANFR (*Agence nationale des fréquences de France*) and ARCEP was signed in late 2008. Training for the class of 2009 will be from January to December in Buea, Cameroon.

### D. Study missions

To track the process of markets opening up to competition, ARCEP monitors other national markets.

The Authority is involved in regular exchanges of viewpoints and study missions devoted to telecommunications market regulatory issues, expanding its knowledge through the experiences of the most advanced markets and emerging countries. Its goals in this area are to:

- ◆ strengthen ties and deepen interaction with the different official institutions abroad which are in charge of governing and regulating the information and communication technologies sector;
- ◆ examine the way that electronic communication services regulation and consumption habits are evolving: emergence of new infrastructures (optical fibre, broadband wireless), issues surrounding new forms of convergence, regulatory challenges (spectrum management, public investment and incentive policies, the digital dividend, development of ultra high-speed access, market analyses and obligations imposed on operators);
- ◆ organise working meetings with the directors of the main enterprises and research bodies, focused on changes in models of economic competition in the area of information technology, particularly as they pertain to financing issues and models for the development of telecommunications infrastructure and services.

Several members of the ARCEP Board travelled abroad on study missions in 2008:

- ◆ on 26 September, former ARCEP Chairman, Paul Champsaur, met with his Indian counterpart from the TRAI during a study mission to New Delhi;
- ◆ on 9 October, ARCEP Board members, Joëlle Toledano and Nicolas Curien, travelled to the United States to study the characteristics and trends of the US

fixed, telephony and broadband markets (2G, 3G, 4G, mobile TV, WiMAX, spectrum policy, unbundling of the TV offer, net neutrality) and to meet with players from the sector;

- ◆ in November, Patrick Raude travelled to South Korea to take part in the Broadcasting & Telecommunications Conference organised by the Korea Information Society Development Institute (Kisdi) on the topic of, “Meet the Convergence”. This trip provided an opportunity to meet with members of the Korea Communications Commission (KCC) and several political institutions, as well as private sector representatives, for an exchange of views on telecommunications market regulation and on the challenges involved in the convergence of telecommunications and audiovisual media, drawing on South Korea’s experience with new networks and services.

11 - Available on [www.arcep.fr](http://www.arcep.fr). These trips to India, the United States and South Korea were each the subject of a report published on the ARCEP website<sup>11</sup>.

