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Telecommunication , Number Portability

## **SERVICE WHICH DOES NOT EXIST**

NASK and American Telcordia intend to earn money on number portability. The problem is, that number portability exists in Poland only “in theory”.

Number portability enables subscriber to keep his telephone number while changing operator. In practice it means, that a company transferring its telephone lines, for example from Telekomunikacja Polska to NETIA, will avoid change of telephone numbers.

### **Ready to start**

In May NASK and Telcordia presented, during preliminary meetings for Polish telecommunication operators, systems operating number portability. This business can be a profitable game. For instance, in Sweden telecommunication operators invested in implementation of number portability more than 100 Million EUR.

Andrzej Bartosiewicz representing NASK comments – in case of adoption of solution proposed by NASK, we intend to charge 2 EUR per number portability. Our competitor-Telecordia -charges in Greece 3,5 EUR. We have our own solution and we are home company which makes us competitive on the market. However, time of initiation of our activity in this area does not depend on us.

### **Divergence between law and practice**

Law regulations enable subscriber of fixed telephony to keep his telephone number by the change of operator. But it exists only in theory, because in practice it's impossible to be executed.

Though term “number portability “ exists in telecommunication law, a possibility of its realization in practice seems to be only theoretical.

Till now procedures and mechanisms enabling execution of this operation haven't been achieved.

Who should do this? In principle it remains unknown.

Both Ministry of Infrastructure and Office of Telecommunications and Post Regulations (**URTIP**) are not empowered by the Law to decide about this case. In this situation, the Regulator expects good will of operators.

Spokesman of URTIP Jacek Strzałkowski comments – the president of URTIP is not authorized (according to Polish law) to force own solution on the market. This is the reason why he organized meetings and discussions trying to find a compromise solution.

So far URTIP has organized neutral meeting for representatives of certain telecoms in order to exchange experience and information. The problem is, that the majority of participants are not experienced in this area, so there was no conclusion for the market.

Nowadays, when a project of amendments to telecommunication law stipulates also number portability between operators of mobile nets, more effective exchange of experience should be expected.

- In order to execute this kind of operation, it's necessary to choose one and common technical method for operators . This is beyond powers of one operator and therefore must be coordinated by URTiP – comments Piotr Kostrzewski, head of Press Office TP.