
ArmenTel CJSC Lost All Kinds Of Monopolies For Telecommunications In Armenia Started October 1 2007

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ArmInfo. According to the decision of RA Public Services Commission, the "ArmenTel" CJSC (subsidiary enterprise of "VypelCom" OJSC) has lost all kinds of monopolies for telecommunication services in Armenia started October 1, the Commission told ArmInfo today.

According to the source data, the Commission's decision on introduction of the relevant changes to the Company's license No 60 was approved on August 24, 2007, and it takes affect from today. It means that the telecommunications market in the republic is completely liberalized from now on. The monopoly was given to the "ArmenTel" at the end, 1997, till 2013. In particular, the "ArmenTel" refuses from monopoly on the main and minor telecommunication and telephone services it possessed, including the local, intercity and international telecommunication and telephone services, services for lease of the telephone lines, the international transit and satellite services, the public mobile communication, the voice data transfer via Internet (IP-telephony), video transmission services (broadband).

Director General of "ArmenTel" CJSC Oleg Blizniuk told journalists earlier that the Company refuses of the monopoly voluntarily and welcomes a healthy competition. However, he added, it is important for the market to become not only free but civilized. He said that a new era starts in Armenia in the area of telecommunications.

Meanwhile, he added, started October 1, the "ArmenTel" becomes an absolutely commercial company, free of many social liabilities. So, any projects related to investments, will be considered from the viewpoint of the capital payoff, first of all.

Meanwhile, the Commission added that according to the agreement between "ArmenTel" CJSC and the Armenian government, a new cell operator may appear in Armenia only beginning from January 1, 2009.

To note, the "ArmenTel" CJSC, the owner of which is "VypelCom" OJSC, and the "VivaCell" Company, 80% of shares of which is outbid by the MTS Russian cell operator, are functioning in the Armenian market of cell communication at present.
