

WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

S/GBT/W/1/Add.47<sup>1</sup>

25 July 1997

(97-3143)

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**Group on Basic Telecommunications**

Original: English

COMMUNICATION FROM SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Draft Offer on Basic Telecommunications

The following communication is circulated at the request of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to members of the Group on Basic Telecommunications.

It is unfortunate that our required procedures do not allow us to make this offer by the February 15th deadline and we are therefore requesting that an extension be granted to allow us to complete our offer.

It is expected that our offer will be submitted by the end of March. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, trusts that our request for extension can be granted.

For your information the offer that we are making will be made based on the attached document. This however requires confirmation from our Cabinet and you will be informed as soon as the formal approval is obtained.

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<sup>1</sup>This document has been previously circulated in a note dated 14 February 1997.

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES - DRAFT OFFER ON BASIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Modes of supply: 1) Cross-border supply 2) Consumption abroad 3) Commercial presence 4) Presence of natural persons

Sector or Sub-sector	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment	Additional Commitments
<p>2. COMMUNICATION SERVICES</p> <p>C. <u>Telecommunications services</u></p> <p>All sub-sectors</p> <p>(a) Voice telephone services (7521)</p> <p>(b) Packet-switched data transmission services (7523**)</p> <p>(c) Circuit-switched data transmission services (7523**)</p> <p>(d) Telex services (7523**)</p> <p>(e) Telegraph services (7522)</p> <p>(f) Facsimile services (7521**, 7529**)</p>	<p>(1), (3) Subject to availability of frequencies</p> <p>(1) Until 30 April 2004, bypass of exclusive public operator not permitted</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) Reserved to exclusive service supplier until 30 April 2004</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p> <p>(1) None</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) None</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p>	<p>(1) None</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) None</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p> <p>(1) None</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) None</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p>	<p>See attached additional commitments on regulatory disciplines.</p>

Modes of supply: 1) Cross-border supply 2) Consumption abroad 3) Commercial presence 4) Presence of natural persons

Sector or Sub-sector	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment	Additional Commitments
<p><u>Domestic services</u> <u>For public use</u></p> <p>(a) Voice telephone services (7521)</p> <p>(b) Packet-switched data transmission services (7523**)</p> <p>(c) Circuit-switched data transmission services (7523**)</p> <p>(d) Telex services (7523**)</p> <p>(e) Telegraph services (7522)</p> <p>(f) Facsimile services (7521**, 7529**)</p> <p><u>For non-public use</u></p>	<p>(1) Until 30 April 2004 bypass of exclusive public operator not permitted</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) Reserved to exclusive service supplier until 30 April 2004</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p>	<p>(1) None</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) None</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p>	
<p>(a) Voice telephone services (7521)</p> <p>(b) Packet-switched data transmission services (7523**)</p> <p>(c) Circuit-switched data transmission services (7523**)</p> <p>(f) Facsimile services (7521**, 7529**)</p> <p>(h) Electronic mail (7523**)</p> <p>(i) Voice mail (7523**)</p> <p>(j) On-line information and data base retrieval (7523**)</p> <p>(k) Electronic data interchange (7523**)</p>	<p>(1) Until 30 April 2004 only on network facilities supplied by the exclusive public operator and bypass of the exclusive public operator not allowed and resale of excess capacity not allowed</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) Until 30 April 2004 only on network facilities supplied by the exclusive public operator and bypass of the exclusive public operator not allowed and resale of excess capacity not allowed</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p>	<p>(1) None</p> <p>(2) None</p> <p>(3) None</p> <p>(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section</p>	

Modes of supply: 1) Cross-border supply 2) Consumption abroad 3) Commercial presence 4) Presence of natural persons

Sector or Sub-sector	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment	Additional Commitments
(l) Enhanced/value-added facsimile services incl. store and forward, store and retrieve (7523***) (m) Code and protocol conversion (n) On-line information and/or data processing (incl. transaction processing) (843***) (o) Other <u>Internet and internet services (75260)</u>	(1) None (2) None (3) None (4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section  (1) Until 30 April 2004 for domestic services only on network facilities supplied by the exclusive public operator (2) None (3) Until 30 April 2004 for domestic services only on network facilities supplied by the exclusive public operator (4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	(1) None (2) None (3) None (4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section  (1) None (2) None (3) None (4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	

Modes of supply: 1) Cross-border supply 2) Consumption abroad 3) Commercial presence 4) Presence of natural persons

Sector or Sub-sector	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment	Additional Commitments
<u>Mobile services (terrestrial based)</u>	(1) None	(1) None	
Cellular/mobile telephone services	(2) None	(2) None	
Mobile data services	(3) Until (2000) cellular telephone services using AMPS technology reserved for exclusive service provider	(3) None	
Personal communications services	(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	
Paging (75291)			
<u>Mobile services (satellite based)</u>	(1) None	(1) None	
Cellular/mobile telephone services	(2) None	(2) None	
Mobile data services	(3) None	(3) None	
Personal communications services	(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	
Fixed satellite services	(1) None	(1) None	
Trunked radio systems	(2) None	(2) None	
International video-conferencing services (75292)	(3) None	(3) None	
Telecommunications equipment sales, rental, maintenance, connection, repair and consulting services	(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	(4) Unbound except as indicated in horizontal section	

## REFERENCE PAPER

### Scope

The following are definitions and principles on the regulatory framework for the basic telecommunications services.

### Definitions

Users mean service consumers and service suppliers.

Essential facilities mean facilities of a public telecommunications transport network or service that

- (a) are exclusively or predominantly provided by a single or limited number of suppliers; and
- (b) cannot feasibly be economically or technically substituted in order to provide a service.

A major supplier is a supplier which has the ability to materially affect the terms of participation (having regard to price and supply) in the relevant market for basic telecommunications services as a result of:

- (a) control over essential facilities; or
- (b) use of its position in the market.

## 1. Competitive safeguards

### 1.1 Prevention of anti-competitive practices in telecommunications

Appropriate measures shall be maintained for the purpose of preventing suppliers who, alone or together, are a major supplier from engaging in or continuing anti-competitive practices.

### 1.2 Safeguards

The anti-competitive practices referred to above shall include in particular:

- (a) engaging in anti-competitive cross-subsidization;
- (b) using information obtained from competitors with anti-competitive results; and
- (c) not making available to other services suppliers on a timely basis technical information about essential facilities and commercially relevant information which are necessary for them to provide services.

2. Interconnection

2.1 This section applies to linking with suppliers providing public telecommunications transport networks or services in order to allow the users of one supplier to communicate with users of another supplier and to access services provided by another supplier, where specific commitments are undertaken.

2.2 Interconnection to be ensured

Interconnection with a major supplier will be ensured at any technically feasible point in the network. Such interconnection is provided.

- (a) under non-discriminatory terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and rates and of a quality no less favourable than that provided for its own like services or for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers or for its subsidiaries or other affiliates;
- (b) in a timely fashion, on terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and cost-oriented rates that are transparent, reasonable, having regard to economic feasibility, and sufficiently unbundled so that the supplier need not pay for network components or facilities that it does not require for the service to be provided; and
- (c) upon request, at points in addition to the network termination points offered to the majority of users, subject to charges that reflect the cost of construction of necessary additional facilities.

2.3 Public availability of the procedures for interconnection negotiations

The procedures applicable for interconnection to a major supplier will be made publicly available.

2.4 Transparency of interconnection arrangements

It is ensured that a major supplier will make publicly available either its interconnection agreements or a reference interconnection offer.

2.5 Interconnection: dispute settlement

A service supplier requesting interconnection with a major supplier will have recourse, either:

- (a) at any time or
- (b) after a reasonable period of time which has been made publicly known

to an independent domestic body, which may be a regulatory body as referred to in paragraph 5 below, to resolve disputes regarding appropriate terms, conditions and rates for interconnection within a reasonable period of time, to the extent that these have not been established previously.

3. Universal service

Any Member has the right to define the kind of universal service obligation it wishes to maintain. Such obligations will not be regarded as anti-competitive *per se*, provided they are administered in a transparent, non-discriminatory and competitively neutral manner and are not more burdensome than necessary for the kind of universal service defined by the Member.

4. Public availability of licensing criteria

Where a licence is required, the following will be made publicly available:

- (a) all the licensing criteria and the period of time normally required to reach a decision concerning an application for a licence and
- (b) the terms and conditions of individual licences.

The reasons for the denial of a licence will be made known to the applicant upon request.

5. Independent regulators

The regulatory body is separate from, and not accountable to, any supplier of basic telecommunications services. The decisions of and the procedures used by regulators shall be impartial with respect to all market participants.

6. Allocation and use of scarce resources

Any procedures for the allocation and use of scarce resources, including frequencies, numbers and rights of way, will be carried out in an objective, timely, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. The current state of allocated frequency bands will be made publicly available, but detailed identification of frequencies allocated for specific government uses is not required.