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Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)

PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BILL

CASTRIES, 28th January, 2011 – The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) will host a national consultation to discuss a new draft Bill to regulate the telecommunications and ICT sector in the Commonwealth of Dominica. The consultation will be held at **The Fort Young Hotel on Thursday, 3rd February, 2011 from 9:00 a.m.** The consultation will involve the telecommunications service providers, broadcasters, representatives of private and public sector agencies and companies which are engaged in the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) services.

The main objectives of the consultation are to discuss the provisions of the new draft Bill, to facilitate feed back on the draft and to make recommendations on issues to be addressed in a new Bill. The sessions will be facilitated by the staff of the ECTEL Directorate and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC). The Minister responsible for Telecommunications, Hon Ambrose George is scheduled to deliver an address.

The new bill is designed to ensure that the current regulator ECTEL and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission has oversight of the ICT sector in an open, fair, independent and transparent manner. It is a response to the changes which have occurred in the telecommunications and ICT sector during the first decade of operations of ECTEL and NTRC.

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The discussions in Dominica form part of a series of national consultations and meetings in all the Member States of ECTEL which are designed to facilitate widespread public participation in the formulation of new legal arrangements for the regulation of the telecommunications and ICT sector. National consultations have been held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis. The next consultation will be held in Grenada in mid February, 2011.

The new draft Electronic Communications bill is available at www.ectel.int

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