



PR/35/04

## **EUTELSAT DENOUNCES ANY LINK BETWEEN ITS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AND FRAUDULENT PRACTICES USING THE 00 88 213 DIALLING CODE**

Paris 8 December 2004:

Information has been circulating in the media over the past few days relating to fraudulent practices conducted over the Internet, where people are sent an invoice and encouraged to dial a telephone number that begins with the dialling code 00 88 213. Eutelsat's name has sometimes been associated with this information under the pretext that Eutelsat is distributor of the "emsat" messaging service run by the Italian operator Telespazio and commercialised by Eutelsat for use by professional road-haulage and fishing-fleet customers in Europe.

**Eutelsat wishes to clarify immediately and unequivocally that there is no link whatsoever between its business activities and the fraud being reported in the media.**

**After investigating the matter, Eutelsat wishes to bring the following information to the attention of the press:**

- **00 88 213 dialling-code numbers belong exclusively to the Italian operator Telespazio, which has registered them with the international regulator under the name "EMS".**
- In 1998, The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) assigned the '88213' prefix to Telespazio as a virtual "country code" serving to designate its "EMS regional mobile satellite system network" (see [http://www.itu.int/itudoc/itu-t/ob-lists/icc/e164\\_763.html](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/itu-t/ob-lists/icc/e164_763.html)). In the same way as the dialling codes of "real" countries, e.g. '33' for France or '44' for the United Kingdom, '88213' is the dialling code for a "virtual" country, often called EMSAT, as this service was the first utilisation of the "EMS regional mobile satellite system" given by the Italian operator to the ITU when it applied for approval.

- **For technical operating reasons and for commercial purposes the Italian operator Telespazio separated the 00 88213 dialling code into two groups distinguishable by the numbers appearing after the code itself.**
  
- **One set of numbers is dedicated exclusively to Eutelsat for commercialisation of the emsat satellite mobile service.**
  - After the 00 88213 prefix comes a series of numbers to identify each of our customers' mobile terminals individually. All of the terminal numbers we have been assigned consist of precisely six digits, for example: 0088213 461731 or 0088213 850243.
  
  - Moreover, the numbers assigned to us are not chosen at random by Telespazio but generated according to the following pattern:  
0088213 xx yyy z, where xx is 00, 10, 20, 30, 41, 46, 58, 60, 85 or 86, yyy is a three-digit number 000, 001, 002, 003, ...or 999 and z can only be 1, 2 or 3.  
**None of the numbers identified in the denounced fraud is constructed on the basis of this pattern.**
  
  - The emsat service commercialised by Eutelsat is operated by Telespazio using satellite capacity leased by Telespazio on the Artemis satellite of the European Space Agency in L band. It is commercialised by Eutelsat for its professional road-haulage and fishing-fleet customers to comply with a European Directive that obliges fishing boats of more than 15 metres to report their position, direction and speed on a permanent basis to the monitoring authorities responsible for territorial waters. The emsat telephone calls are used strictly for calls between their bases on land and our customers' fleets and have never been the subject of any complaint or telephone hacking.
  
- **The other set of numbers is entirely the responsibility of Telespazio, which manages operational aspects and commercial utilisation.**
  - Eutelsat wishes to point out that when a telephone operator invoices a subscriber the sum of 4.31 euros for a minute's use of one of the Telespazio set of numbers, Eutelsat does not receive any of the amount billed, even if the name "EMSAT" is shown in the description of the call. This information was given out by us at the beginning of this year and is still on-line on our Web site.

**To conclude, Eutelsat reaffirms that it strongly denounces all fraudulent practices, especially when they are harmful to satellite communication systems. The company, which reserves its rights, wishes to see this strong condemnation and the information given in this press release reflected in the media in order to protect Eutelsat's image.**

## **About Eutelsat**

With capacity commercialised on 24 satellites that provide coverage from North and South America to Far East Asia, Eutelsat is one of the world's three leading satellite operators. Its satellites are used for broadcasting more than 1,500 television and 800 radio stations to 120 million cable and satellite homes, for TV contribution services, corporate network solutions, positioning and communications solutions for mobile users, Internet backbone connections and broadband access for terrestrial, maritime and in-flight applications. Eutelsat has developed a range of turnkey broadband products (D-STAR, D-SAT, OPENSKY, Skyplex Data) for local communities, corporates, SoHos and consumers. Skylogic, its broadband affiliate, markets and operates services through platforms located in France and Italy that serve users in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Revenues for the 2003/2004 financial year were €760 million.

[www.eutelsat.com](http://www.eutelsat.com)

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