

My dear

Sub: **TRAI Recommendations on Licensing Issues Relating to Community Radio Stations**

During the course of the consultation process for formulating recommendations on issues relating to the Second Phase of Private FM Radio Broadcasting, a number of responses were received stressing on the need for expansion of community radio. During the Open House Discussions on the Consultation Paper also a number of stake-holders raised several issues relating to community radio. In response to these requests, it had been indicated during the Open House Discussions that TRAI would bring out a consultation paper on issues relating to community radio.

2. To formulate its recommendations on the issues, TRAI in line with its established practice, has completed a process of public consultations to ensure transparency and due consultation in its decision making process. This process included preparation of a Consultation Paper on the matter and holding Open House Discussions.

3. The consultation paper released on August 25, 2004 made an attempt to analyse the various issues relating to the rationale for community radio, the present framework and progress of the scheme, issues relating to eligibility, issues relating to licensing process, funding of community radio stations and regulation and monitoring of community radio stations.

4. Open House discussions were held on 18th and 20th October in Delhi and Mumbai respectively to obtain views of the general public and other stakeholders. In these Open House Sessions further submissions were also sought from the stakeholders based on the views expressed by different parties during these Sessions. TRAI received very useful inputs from the different stakeholders. All these inputs have been duly considered by TRAI, before finalising its recommendations on the subject.

5 We are forwarding with this letter the recommendations on the subject (**Annexure 'A'**) and Consultation Paper issued by us (**Annexure 'B'**).

6. A Press Note issued in this regard is also enclosed (**Annexure 'C'**).

7. The recommendations along with the text of this letter have been placed today on the TRAI website (www.trai.gov.in) for public information.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Pradip Baijal)

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