



LAW GOVERNING VAT ON SMS DONATIONS REPRESENTS PARTIAL SOLUTION FOR MOBILE OPERATORS

Rome, February 23, 2005 – Mobile operators TIM, Vodafone, Wind and 3 see the new law on VAT exemption for charity donations sent by text message, passed by parliament today, as merely a first step towards resolving the issue.

The decision to limit VAT exemption to “donations for the victims of natural disasters” fails to fully take account of the origin and growing importance of text messages as an increasingly widespread form of fundraising.

The mobile operators note that over the last three years this form of fundraising has not only been used to raise money in response to natural disasters, but also to finance health, social and important research projects (e.g. research into genetic diseases financed by Telethon).

The legislation approved today “discriminates” against such initiatives.

The resulting situation does not respond to public opinion, which is in favour of a uniform tax treatment of donations.