

Shehadi submits resignation, hands over TRA helm to Imad Hoballah

BEIRUT: Kamal Shehadi, chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), informed the TRA staff Friday about his decision to resign from his position as chairman and CEO. Shehadi submitted his resignation to the head of Cabinet for personal and professional reasons and is taking an unpaid leave as of May 1, 2010, until such time as his resignation is accepted by Cabinet.

In his address to TRA staff, Shehadi reviewed the TRA's achievements over the last three years and emphasized the importance of establishing a best in-class regulatory framework to enable competition in telecommunications and to encourage private investments.

He also expressed his satisfaction with the success in building an independent regulatory authority, staffed with talented professionals and operating in a transparent and fair manner. These achievements came despite the difficulties and the challenges faced by the TRA since its inception.

Shehadi clarified that, as per the regulations, he has submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Saad Hariri. He also reminded them that the governance and smooth functioning of the TRA was ensured in Telecom Law 431/2002 (a Art 8) which provides that, in the absence of the chairman, the oldest member of the board, in this case Imad Hoballah,

assumes the role of TRA interim chairman until a new chairman is appointed by Cabinet.

Mahassen Ajam, board member and head of the Information and Consumer Affairs Unit, thanked the chairman on behalf of the TRA Board and the staff for his tremendous contributions to the TRA, a contribution which has benefited each and every colleague, and which has allowed the TRA to establish a clear vision and a detailed action plan for developing the telecoms industry and for achieving better services at lower prices for Lebanese citizens in the shortest possible time.

Ajam also praised Shehadi's commitment to devote his knowledge and his regulatory experience and to put them at the disposal of his colleagues. Shehadi inspired his colleagues to live up to the TRA's mission, no matter how difficult the conditions, and to strive to improve the telecoms industry in Lebanon.

Shehadi concluded the meeting by reaffirming his full confidence in the board members' abilities to continue the TRA's work and mission and the staff's commitment to the highest professional standards of fairness, equal treatment, transparency and objectivity. Board members Hoballah and Patrick Eid wished Shehadi the best in his next steps on behalf of their colleagues and of the board. — *The Daily Star*