

25/10/2009

**Minister of Communications Moshe Kahalon's comment on the
purchase of Bezeq's shares**

The recent acquisitions in the Israeli telecom market are testimonies of the faith Israeli investors have in this market, as well as of the robustness and strength of this market even in a year of a worldwide economic crisis.

The Ministry of Communications views the Bezeq transaction as one that bears far-reaching implications, and not only for the immediate future; it also have secondary implications that are going to affect all the components of the telecom market.

While the transaction has not yet been brought for our approval, understanding its final layout and the purchaser's plans is of utter importance, and therefore we are already considering these issues and the implications involved.

Once I receive notification about the conclusion of all purchase details, the Ministry will examine the deal from all its perspectives in order to protect the Israeli consumer and all other players in the Israeli market. We shall strongly insist on making sure that the group continues to invest in infrastructure and technology, and of course, that it provides as good a service to its customers as it has done so far.

As a ministry in charge of promoting competition in the sector, we shall closely examine the implications of such transaction for the development of competition and for the growth of the telecom sector.

Dr. Yechiel Shabi
Spokesman
+972-50-6236001
