

1. Consultation No.10
(Consultation received on December 8, 2016)
(Report submitted on January 27, 2017)

1) Progress

September 29, 2016	Japan Communications Inc. (JCI) petitioned the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to order a restart of negotiations, naming SoftBank Corporation (SoftBank) as the other party.
November 30, 2016	The Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications held a hearing with SoftBank.
December 8, 2016	The Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications submitted a letter of consultation to the Commission
January 27, 2017	The Commission submitted a report to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications.
January 31, 2017	JCI withdrew its petition to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to order a restart of negotiations, because a consensus was reached on an interconnection agreement with SoftBank.
February 1, 2017	The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' Telecommunications Bureau issued an announcement that it accepted the withdrawal of the petition by JCI and that it would not issue an order to restart negotiations.

2) Background

JCI applied to SoftBank to conclude an agreement on the interconnection to SoftBank's telecommunications line facilities, which would enable transmission switching between JCI-installed telecommunications facilities and specified mobile terminal facilities (including both SIM-locked terminals and SIM-unlocked terminals sold by SoftBank), and held negotiations with SoftBank on several occasions. The negotiations, however, were unsuccessful, since SoftBank refused JCI's application because it could not support interconnections that enable transmission switching with SIM-locked terminals. Therefore, JCI filed a petition with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to order a restart of negotiations concerning the interconnection with the telecommunications facilities in question.

3) Consultation

The Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications acknowledged that

negotiations between the two parties had failed and deemed that the interconnection in this case fulfilled the conditions for ordering a restart of negotiations as specified in the Telecommunications Business Act. Therefore, the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications submitted a letter of consultation to the Commission to determine whether it was appropriate to order SoftBank to restart negotiations concerning the interconnection of telecommunications facilities.

4) Report

The Commission submitted a report to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications stating that it was appropriate to order a restart of negotiations concerning the interconnection in this case.

Subsequent developments after the report

JCI withdrew its petition to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, since a consensus was reached on an interconnection agreement with SoftBank. Accordingly, the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications decided not to issue an order to restart negotiations.