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*Comunicación "A" 3998*, as amended by *Comunicación "A" 4066*, states that in addition to the maximum amounts set forth in (i) and (ii) above, individuals and legal entities with residence in Argentina will not be required, up to June 30, 2004, to obtain the Central Bank's prior approval for the purpose of purchase of foreign currency, *provided that*:

- (a) the amounts are used before December 31, 2004 to cancel bonds, syndicated financial loans, financial loans granted by foreign banks, debt held by foreign banks or certain other debt;
- (b) foreign currency purchased pursuant to *Comunicación "A" 3998* and the related rules and *Comunicación "A" 3722* (as amended) may not exceed US\$40,000,000 per month; and

(c) the aggregate of foreign currency purchased pursuant to *Comunicación "A" 3998* plus any foreign currency deposited in trusts pursuant to *Comunicación "A" 3872* (as amended) plus foreign currency purchased pursuant to specific Central Bank authorizations, may not exceed 25% of the total outstanding principal debt subject to restructuring or the aggregate of unmatured or past-due interest and past-due principal subject to restructuring.

Payments abroad for services rendered can be freely made if the service is rendered by a non-resident in Argentina. If the nature of the service to be paid does not have a direct relation to Telecom's business activity, a copy of the original agreement under which the obligation must be paid shall be filed with the relevant financial entity, together with a written statement as to its existence signed by an external auditor or a public accountant whose signature must be certified by the FACPCE.

**There can be no assurance that the Central Bank will not once again require its prior authorization for the transfer of funds abroad for principal and/or interest payments by Telecom to its foreign creditors or for dividend payments by Telecom to its foreign shareholders.**

## **TAXATION**

### **Argentine Taxes**

The following summary of certain Argentine tax matters is based upon the tax laws of Argentina, and regulations thereunder, in effect as of the date of this annual report on Form 20-F and is subject to any subsequent change in Argentine laws and regulations which may come into effect after such date.

#### *Taxation of Dividends*

Pursuant to Argentine Law 25,063 passed by the Argentine Congress on December 7, 1998, dividends of cash, property or capital stock of the Company on the Class A, B and C Shares or ADSs are, in general, exempt from Argentine withholding tax and other taxes. Nevertheless, under such law, a corporation that makes a distribution of dividends to its shareholders in excess of the amount of its accumulated income at the close of the previous taxable year, as determined by application of the Argentine Income Tax Law (the "Income Tax Law"), shall have to withhold a 35% tax from such excess. For purposes of this rule, the amount of income to be considered shall be determined by (1) deducting from taxable income (calculated under the general rules of the Income Tax Law) the income tax paid by the company during the fiscal year in which the profits that are being distributed were earned and (2) adding the dividends and profits received as distributions from other corporations not subject to tax. If the distribution is in kind, then the corporation must pay the tax to the tax authorities and will be entitled to seek reimbursement from the shareholders.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

Capital gains earned by non-resident individuals or foreign companies from the sale, exchange or other disposition of ADSs or Class A, B and C Shares are not subject to tax.

*Tax on Personal Property*

Pursuant to the Argentine Personal Assets Tax Law (the "Tax Law"), the following persons are subject to an annual tax on certain assets, which is levied at a rate of 0.50% or 0.75% taking into consideration if the value of such assets as of December 31 of each year is equal to or higher than P\$200,000, respectively (the "Personal Assets Tax"): (i) individuals domiciled in Argentina for assets located in Argentina and abroad and (ii) individuals domiciled outside of Argentina for assets located in Argentina. For purposes of the Tax Law, the ADSs and Class A, B and C Shares will be considered as assets located in Argentina.

Though as a rule the Tax Law does not explicitly apply to legal entities domiciled outside Argentina, pursuant to Argentine Law 25,585 passed by the Argentine Congress and published in the Official Gazette on May 15, 2002, the tax corresponding to the shares of stock corporations, such as the ADSs (held in book entry form or evidenced by ADRs) and Class A, B and C Shares, or equity interests in companies regulated by the Argentine Companies Law 19,550, as amended, and whose holders are individuals and/or undivided estates domiciled within the country or in a foreign country, and/or companies and/or any other legal entity located in a foreign country, shall be assessed and paid by the corresponding Argentine company issuer of the shares, such as Telecom.

The tax rate to be applied is 0.50% and the taxable base is the value of the shareholders' equity arising from the last balance sheet of the company at December 31. The minimum exempted of P\$102,300 shall not be applicable. The tax so paid shall be considered as a definitive payment.

Pursuant to the above mentioned, it is presumed - without the right to rebut such presumption - that shares of stock corporations, such as the ADSs (held in book entry form or evidenced by ADRs) and the Class A, B and C Shares, and/or equity interests of companies regulated by Argentine Companies Law 19,550, as amended, whose holders are companies, any other legal entities, enterprises, permanent establishments, trusts, and exploitations, domiciled, settled or located in a foreign country, belong indirectly to individuals or individual estates domiciled in a foreign country.

The companies in charge of the tax payment, such as Telecom, have the right to obtain the refund of the amounts paid, even by holding and/or foreclosing the property that originated the payment.

The amendment set forth by Law 25,585 applies as of December 31, 2002. Furthermore, Law 25,585 has been regulated by the AFIP through General Resolution 1497/03, published in the Official Gazette on May 5, 2003, which establishes that for the fiscal year 2002, the companies in charge of the payment of this tax with a net worth of P\$300,000 or more (such as Telecom) shall determine and pay the tax up to May 23, 2003.

Therefore, ADSs (held in book entry form or evidenced by ADRs) and Class A, B and C Shares held by individuals, irrespective of their place of residence, and legal entities domiciled outside of Argentina will be subject to this tax which, as mentioned above, shall be paid by Telecom on behalf of such holders of ADSs (held in book entry form or evidenced by ADRs) and Class A, B and C Shares. As of the date of this annual report no effective procedure has been developed which would allow the Company to collect from its shareholders the amount of this tax paid by the Company on their behalf. No assurances can be made that Telecom will be successful in the collection of the refunds from the holders of ADSs (held in book entry form or evidenced by ADRs) and Class A, B and C Shares. It is possible that said payments of the tax on behalf of such holders will result in losses for Telecom and, in practical terms, constitute an additional expense for Telecom.

*Value Added Tax*

The sale or disposition of ADSs or Class A, B and C Shares is not subject to value added tax.

*Other Taxes*

There are no Argentine inheritance or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of ADSs or Class A, B and C Shares. There are no Argentine stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of ADSs or Class A, B and C Shares.

*Deposit and Withdrawal of Class B Shares in Exchange for ADSs*

No Argentine tax is imposed on the deposit or withdrawal of Class A, B and C Shares in exchange for ADSs.

*Tax Treaties*

Argentina has entered into tax treaties with several countries. There is currently no income tax treaty or convention in effect between Argentina and the United States.

**United States Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following discussion is a summary of material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of ADSs or Class B Shares, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to acquire such securities. The summary applies only to persons that hold ADSs or Class B Shares as capital assets for tax purposes and does not address the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which may be subject to special rules, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- dealers and traders in securities or foreign currencies;
- persons holding ADSs or Class B Shares as part of a hedge, straddle or conversion transaction;
- persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- persons liable for alternative minimum tax;

tax-exempt organizations;

- partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or
- persons holding shares or ADSs that own or are deemed to own more than 10% of any class of Telecom stock.

This summary is based upon the tax laws of the United States, including the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended to the date hereof (the “Code”), administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, changes to any of which may affect the tax consequences described herein, possibly with retroactive effect. As mentioned above, there is currently no income tax treaty or convention in effect between Argentina and the United States. Prospective purchasers of the ADSs or Class B Shares should consult their own tax advisors as to the United States, Argentine or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of such securities in their particular circumstances, including the effect of any state or local tax laws.

In addition, the summary is based in part on representations of the Depositary and assumes that each obligation provided for in or otherwise contemplated by the Deposit Agreement or any other related document will be performed in accordance with its terms.

As used herein, the term “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of ADSs or Class B Shares that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of ADSs will be treated as the owners of the underlying Class B Shares.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom ADSs are released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for U.S. Holders of ADSs. Such actions would also be inconsistent with claiming the reduced rate of tax applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate tax holders. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Argentine taxes, and the availability of the reduced rate of tax for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders described below, could be affected by actions taken by the parties to whom ADSs are released.

#### *Taxation of Distributions*

To the extent paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits of Telecom (as determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles), distributions made with respect to ADSs or Class B Shares will be included in the income of a U.S. Holder as ordinary dividend income. Subject to applicable limitations, dividends paid to noncorporate U.S. Holders in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2009 will be taxable at a maximum rate of 15%. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the implications of this new legislation in their particular circumstances. The amount of this dividend will include any amounts withheld by us or our paying agent in respect of Argentine taxes. However, amounts paid on account of the personal assets tax will not be eligible for credit against the U.S. Holder's federal income tax liability will be treated as foreign source dividend income to you and will not be eligible for the "dividends received deduction" generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code. To the extent that a distribution exceeds Telecom's current and accumulated earnings and profits, it will be treated as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the ADSs or Class B Shares, and thereafter as capital gain. The amount of the distribution will equal the U.S. dollar value of the pesos received, calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date such distribution is received (which, for holders of ADSs, will be the date such distribution is received by the Depositary), whether or not the Depositary or U.S. Holder in fact converts any pesos received into U.S. dollars. Any gains or losses resulting from the conversion of pesos into U.S. dollars after the date on which the distribution is received will be treated as ordinary income or loss, as the case may be, of the U.S. Holder and will be U.S. source income or loss. You should consult your own tax advisors to determine whether you are subject to any special rules that limit your ability to make effective use of foreign tax credits.

#### *Sale and Other Dispositions of ADSs or Class B Shares*

Gain or loss realized by a U.S. Holder on (i) the sale or exchange of ADSs or Class B Shares or (ii) the Depositary's sale or exchange of Class B Shares received as distributions on the ADSs will be subject to U.S. federal income tax as capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the ADSs or Class B Shares and the amount realized on the disposition. Gain or loss, if any, will be U.S. source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal tax treatment of capital gains, which may be taxed at lower rates than ordinary income for individuals, and capital losses, the deductibility of which is subject to limitations.

Deposits and withdrawals of Class B Shares in exchange for ADSs will not result in taxable gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

#### *Passive Foreign Investment Company rules*

Telecom believes that it will not be considered a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the taxable year 2003. However, since PFIC status depends upon the composition of a company's income and assets and the market value of its assets (including, among others, less than 25 percent owned equity investments) from time to time, there can be no assurance that Telecom will not be considered a PFIC for any taxable year. If Telecom were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held an ADS or a Class B Share, certain adverse consequences could apply to the U.S. Holder.

If Telecom is treated as a PFIC for any taxable year, gain recognized by such U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition of the ADS or Class B Share would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the ADS or Class B Share. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other exchange and to any year before Telecom became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate, and an interest charge would be imposed on the amount allocated to such taxable year. Further, any distribution in respect of ADSs or Class B Shares in excess of 125 percent of the average of the annual distributions on ADSs or Class B Shares received by the U.S. Holder during the preceding three years or the U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter, would be subject to taxation as described above. Certain elections may be available (including a mark to market election) to U.S. persons that may mitigate the adverse consequences resulting from PFIC status.

#### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries may be subject to the information reporting requirements of the Code. Such dividends and sales proceeds may also be subject to backup withholding unless the U.S. Holder (i) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or (ii) provides a taxpayer identification number on a properly completed Form W-9 or a substitute form and certifies that no loss of exemption from backup withholding has occurred and that such holder is a U.S. person. Any amount withheld under these rules will be creditable against the U.S. Holder's federal income tax liability. A U.S. Holder who does not provide a correct taxpayer identification number may be subject to certain penalties.

#### **DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY**

Telecom files annual and special reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that Telecom files at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also inspect Telecom's filings at the regional offices of the SEC located at 175 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois, 60604 and 233 Broadway, New York, New York 10279.