

TELECOM ARGENTINA STET FRANCE TELECOM SA
Form 6-K
January 05, 2004

FORM 6-K
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of January 5, 2004

Commission File Number: 001-13464

Telecom Argentina STET-France Telecom S.A.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Alicia Moreau de Justo, No. 50, 1107

Buenos Aires, Argentina

(Address of principal executive offices)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes

No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes

No

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the Registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Yes

No

If **Yes** is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A

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Item

1. Free Translation of Shareholders Agreement dated December 19, 2003.

FREE TRANSLATION

Buenos Aires, December 19, 2003

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to inform you that on this date the holders of class A common shares and of class B common shares of Nortel Inversora S.A. (hereinafter "Nortel"), i.e. Telecom Italia S.p.A., Telecom Italia International N.V. (hereinafter the "TI Group"), France Câbles et Radio S.A. and Atlas Services Belgium S.A., transferred 100% of their share participation in Nortel to Sofora Telecomunicaciones S.A. (hereinafter "Sofora"). Subsequently, France Câbles et Radio S.A. and Atlas Services Belgium S.A. transferred 48% of their share participation in Sofora, the current controlling shareholder of Nortel, to W de Argentina- Inversiones S.L. (hereinafter, "W de Argentina").

In connection with these transfers, a shareholders' agreement came into effect between W de Argentina and the TI Group, whereby W de Argentina will acquire certain rights related to the management and administration of Sofora, Nortel, Telecom Argentina STET-France Telecom S.A. (hereinafter "Telecom") and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Telecom Argentina Group").

With regards to Sofora, W de Argentina will have the right to appoint three out of the six members of the board of directors, leaving the TI Group to appoint the remaining three members of the board. Decisions will be made by the majority of votes issued by the board members present at each meeting of Sofora's board of directors (clause 3.2).

In relation to Nortel, out of Nortel's six members of the board of directors, both W de Argentina and the TI Group will have the right to appoint two directors each, and W de Argentina and the TI Group will jointly appoint a fifth director, who will be required to be an independent, in accordance with applicable regulations. The sixth and last member of the board of directors will be appointed by the holders of preferred shares A and B, as long as they have right to do so. Nortel's board of directors will make its decisions by majority vote issued by the members present at each meeting of Nortel's board of directors (clause 3.3).

Regarding Telecom, Nortel will have the right to appoint five members of the board of directors and Telecom's independent shareholders will have the right to appoint one member of the board of directors. Of the five board members to be appointed by Nortel, three of them will be appointed by the TI Group and the remaining two will be appointed by W de Argentina. One of these five directors will be required to be independent, in accordance with applicable regulations.

Telecom's board of directors will make its decisions by majority votes issued by the members present at each meeting of Telecom's board of directors (clause 3.4).

In addition, the above referred shareholders agreement contemplates that representatives from the TI Group and W de Argentina shall meet previously to those shareholders' or board of directors' meetings at which the matters to be discussed would be (i) subject to Shareholders' Meetings approval or (ii) would be related to the holders of Nortel's preferred shares. The purpose of these previous meetings will be to define the manner in which the respective representatives of the TI Group and W de Argentina will vote in the respective meetings, in agreement with the provisions of the Shareholders Agreement (clause 4). Two representatives of the TI Group and one representative of W de Argentina will attend these previous meetings, at which decisions will be made by majority vote issued by the respective representatives, except for certain relevant and essential matters to which W de Argentina will have the right to veto (clause 4.6). These matters include:

- (i) the approval of any amendments to the by-laws;
- (ii) dividend policy;
- (iii) any capital increase or decrease, except for any capital increase or decrease in connection with any possible debt restructuring;
- (iv) changing of the location of Telecom's headquarters;
- (v) any acquisition of subsidiaries and/or creation of subsidiaries;
- (vi) the sale, transfer, assignment or any other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets or any of its subsidiaries;
- (vii) decisions relating to the establishment of joint ventures;
- (viii) creation of any lien, charge, encumbrance, pledge or mortgage, exceeding in aggregate the amount of US\$20,000,000 (twenty million)
- (ix) any change of external auditors, to be chosen among auditors of international reputation;
- (x) any related party transaction which is not at an arms length basis exceeding the amount of US\$5,000,000 (five million), with the exception of (i) any correspondent relationship, traffic agreements and/or roaming agreements with any national and/or international telecommunications operator or carrier, including the establishment, expansion or amendment

of such correspondent relationship with any new telecommunications carriers; and (ii) any transaction in connection with the debt restructuring;

- (xi) any extraordinary transaction involving Telecom exceeding the amount of US\$30,000,000 (thirty million), except for of any transaction in connection with the restructuring of Telecom's debt; and
- (xii) the approval of the financial statements.

Finally, with respect to Telecom's financial budget, the shareholders agreement provides for the formation of an advisory committee to be composed of two representatives of the TI Group and two representatives of W de Argentina.

Sincerely,

Telecom Italia S.p.A.

Telecom Italia International N.V.

W de Argentina Inversiones S.L.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Telecom Argentina STET-France Telecom S.A.

Date: January 5, 2004

By:

/s/ CHRISTIAN CHAUVIN

Name: Christian Chauvin

Title: Vice-President