CLAIMS

1. A Policy and Charging Rules Function node, a PCRF node (120), for a communications system (100), the PCRF node (120) being equipped with ~~an~~ first interface ~~(Gx)~~ towards a Policy and Charging Enforcement Function node, a PCEF node (130), in the communications system (100), the PCRF node (120) being arranged to use said first interface ~~(Gx)~~ to provide the PCEF node (130) with new or updated Policy and Charging Control, PCC, rules for a User Equipment (140) in the communications system (100), the PCRF node (120) being characterized in that it is also equipped with ~~an~~ second interface ~~(Sy)~~ towards an Online Charging System node, an OCS node (115), in the communications system, and in that the PCRF node (120) is arranged to:

- ~~A~~as a result of a trigger signal which is internal or external to the PCRF node (120), request a credit indication for new or updated PCC rules for the User Equipment from the OCS node (115) over the second interface ~~(Sy) to the OCS node (115)~~,
- ~~A~~as a result of said request, receive a credit indication for the new or updated PCC rules for the User Equipment from the OCS node (115) over the second interface ~~(Sy) to the OCS node (115)~~,
- ~~To~~ provide said credit indication to the PCEF node (130) over the first interface ~~(Gx) to the PCEF node (130)~~.

2. The PCRF node (120) of claim 1, being arranged to provide the credit indication to the PCEF node (130) in a charging policy decision which the PCRF node (120) transmits to the PCEF node (130).

3. The PCRF node (120) of claim 1 or 2, in which the internal trigger signal is a timer.

4. The PCRF node (120) of claim 1 or 2, in which the external trigger signal is one or more of the following:
- a session activation request from the User Equipment (140),
- a session modification for the User Equipment (140),
- a request for a new or changed service for the User Equipment (140),
- a received update in the User Equipment's (140) subscription data.

5. The PCRF node (120) of any of claims 1-4, being arranged to request the credit indication per service, group of services or per rating group used by the User Equipment (140).

6. The PCRF node (120) of any of claims 1-5, in which the second interface towards the OCS node (115) is the Sy interface.

7. The PCRF node (120) of any of claims 1-6, in which the first interface towards the PCEF node (130) is the 3GPP Gx interface.

~~8. An Online Charging System node, an OCS node (115), in a communications system, the OCS node (115) being characterized in that it is equipped with an interface towards a Policy and Charging Rules Function node, a PCRF node (120), the OCS node (115) being arranged to:~~

~~receive a request for a credit indication for a service, group of services or rating group associated with one or more Policy and Charging Control rules, PCC rules, for a User Equipment (140) from the PCRF node (120) over the interface to the PCRF node, and,~~

~~as a result of said request, to transmit a credit indication for the service, group of services or rating groups for the User Equipment (140) to the PCRF node (120) over the interface to the PCRF node.~~

~~9. The OCS node (115) of claim 8, in which the interface to the PCRF node (120) is the Sy interface.~~

8~~10~~. A Policy and Charging Enforcement node, a PCEF node (130), for a communications system (100), the PCEF node (130) being equipped with a first~~n~~ interface ~~(Gx)~~ towards a Policy and Charging Rules node, a PCRF node (120), and with a~~n~~ second interface ~~(Gy)~~ towards an Online Charging System node, an OCS node (115), the PCEF node (130) being arranged to:

receive rules for Policy and Charging Control, PCC rules, for a User Equipment (140) in the communications system (100) from the PCRF node (120) over the first interface ~~(Gx)~~ to that node~~, the PCEF node (130) being characterized in that it is arranged to~~,

if the PCC rules for the User Equipment (140) contain a credit indication that indicate that the User Equipment (140) has sufficient credit to utilize the service or services associated with the credit, wait for the User Equipment (140) to start utilizing the system, and when that happens, to establish a session with the OCS node over the second interface ~~(Gy)~~ to the OCS node, and

if the PCC rules received from the PCRF node (120) contain a credit indication that indicate that the User Equipment (140) doesn't have sufficient credit to utilize the services associated with the credit, to establish a session with the OCS node (115) over the second interface ~~(Gy)~~ to the OCS node and await a decision from the OCS node regarding actions to be taken with traffic from the User Equipment (140).

9~~11~~. The PCEF node (130) of claim 10, in which the first interface to the PCRF node (120) is the 3GPP Gx interface.

10~~2~~. The PCEF node (130) of claim 10, in which the second interface to the OCS node (115) is the 3GPP Gy interface.