

## NEWSLETTER

Highlights and activities for Weeks 32 - 35 (01.08.15 – 30.08.15)

- A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives
- B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads
- C. Media participation by MCA
- D. Legal Updates
- E. International News

## A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives

### 1. Optimising Social Media Strategies for Public Administrations and Institutions

In August, the MCA attended to an international communication seminar held in Berlin organised by the European Academy. Most public institutions use social media tools in their communication. Having said that, there are still several challenges that communication professionals face in their daily use of social media: content creation and management, internal issues – cooperation between departments, long term planning and effectiveness in implementation and measuring results to evaluate outcomes and impact. The seminar provided practical solutions for our daily work. High level experts addressed the common pitfalls and showed new creative ways how to handle them in practice.

## B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads

### 1. Request for Quotes: Call for External Experts – Innovation in Communications

Published 18<sup>th</sup> August: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/request-quotes-call-external-experts-innovation-communications>

### 2. Highlights and Activities for Weeks 27 to 31

Published 16<sup>th</sup> August: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/highlights-and-activities-weeks-27-31>

## C. Media participation

MCA representatives participated in various radio programmes & television news features.

### 1. Radio

12.08.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK

(Mark Spiteri, Project Coordinator - BeSmartOnline! & Suzanne Garcia Imbernon, Task Manager - Office of Commissioner for Children – Digital Parenting )

<http://bit.ly/1MpkYCI>

26.08.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK

(Yanika Cassar – Complaints & Enquiries received January – June'15 )

<http://bit.ly/1iMirpy>

## D. Legal Updates

No court sittings were held in August. No new cases were notified to the MCA during this period.

### Publication of Legal Notice [25<sup>th</sup> August 2015]

- General Authorisations (Radiocommunications Apparatus) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015 [L.N. 285 of 2015]
- Fees leviable by Government Departments (Amendment) Regulations, 2015 (L.N. 286 of 2015)
- Radiocommunications Apparatus Exemption Order, 2015 [L.N. 287 of 2015]

## E. International News

### 1. REGULATION

#### **Advanced Television**      *UK Now a Smartphone Society*

Smartphones have overtaken laptops as the most popular device for getting online, Ofcom research has revealed, with record ownership and use transforming the way Britons communicate [[read more](#)].

#### **Advanced Television**      *Ofcom Investigates Sky Over “Ignored” Cancellations*

Ofcom has opened an investigation into Sky after complaints made by consumers that the company had ignored their requests to cancel their contracts with the pay-TV broadcaster [[read more](#)].

#### **Ars Technica**      *FCC Urges Carriers to Turn Off Copper Networks, Upgrade to Fibre*

The FCC has imposed new rules on carriers that intend to turn off copper networks and replace them with fibre, but said that carriers should feel free to make the switch as long as they keep providing the same services to customers [[read more](#)].

#### **Politico**      *Google Gets More Time in EU Antitrust Case*

Google has been granted a second extension, until August 31, to its deadline for responding to the European Commission’s charge-sheet alleging the Internet giant acted anti-competitively by discriminating against competitors in ranking shopping searches [[read more](#)].

#### **BBC**      *Ofcom Releases Mobile Coverage Checker*

Ofcom has created an online tool that lets people see what kind of mobile coverage they should be getting. The coverage map is based on data provided by mobile operators as well as Ofcom's own testing of signal strengths around the UK. The webpage has gathered data about the quality of voice calls as well as 3G and 4G data [[read more](#)].

#### **Ars Technica**      *Company pays FCC \$750,000 for blocking Wi-Fi hotspots at conventions*

A Wi-Fi service provider has agreed to pay the Federal Communications Commission \$750,000 for blocking personal mobile hotspots used by convention visitors and exhibitors so they could avoid paying the company's \$80-per-day fee [[read more](#)].

**Politico**      *Google Issues Defiant Response to EU Charges*

Google flatly rejected European concerns over its business model, raising the stakes in its legal and political battle with Brussels regulators [[read more](#)].

**European Commission**      *New Survey Shows Potential For Cross-Border Access to Online Content, Mainly Among Young People*

For almost one in three Europeans, it would be important to be able to use their paid subscription for watching films, listening to music, playing games or reading ebooks online when travelling in another EU country [[read more](#)].

**EurActiv**      *Brussels Launches Public Consultation on Geo-Blocking*

The European Commission has launched a public consultation into the 1993 Satellite and Cable Directive, as a first step in its review of copyright law for online audiovisual content [[read more](#)].

## 2. SPECTRUM

**Policy Tracker**      *European Commission Delays DA2GC Decision*

A decision that would have obliged EU member states to make the 1900–1920MHz band available for Direct Air to Ground Communications (DA2GC) has been delayed by a further six months due to ongoing uncertainty about the system’s commercial viability [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Policy Tracker**      *French Regulator Allows More Operators to Use 1800MHz for LTE*

French regulator ARCEP has brokered a deal with the country’s mobile operators that will give Free Mobile more spectrum in the 1800 MHz band in return for allowing Orange and SFR to operate LTE in the former GSM band [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Telecoms.com**      *FCC Anticipates Major Role for 600MHz Spectrum in 5G*

Tom Wheeler, Chairman of US telecoms regulator the Federal Communications Commission, has offered an update on his views regarding 5G and spectrum [[read more](#)].

**re/code** *FCC Rejects T-Mobile Request to Limit Spectrum for AT&T, Verizon*

The Federal Communications Commission denied T-Mobile's request that more airwaves be set aside for smaller wireless companies like itself to bid on during a government auction next year [[read more](#)].

**Total Telecom** *The FCC Giveth and the FCC Taketh Away*

U.S. telcos hoping to shake AT&T and Verizon out of their comfort zone had cause to cheer when the Federal Communications Commission confirmed its plan to reserve spectrum for smaller players in next year's incentive auction [[read more](#)].

**Policy Tracker** *Europe Still Divided Over 2.7–2.9GHz Band*

A disagreement over Europe's Common Position for WRC-15 on the 2.7–2.9GHz band pivots on whether the band really can be shared between mobile broadband and incumbent radar applications by segmenting the latter in the upper part of the band [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Policy Tracker** *PPDR Sector Rejects German 700MHz Duplex Gap Proposal*

European ministries of the interior, commercial suppliers and industry associations have jointly rejected a German proposal to provide a 2 x 10MHz block of spectrum for broadband public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) services in the 700MHz duplex gap [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Policy Tracker** *Chorus of Boos Greets FCC's Finalised Incentive Auction Rules*

In a series of orders given the green light on 5-6 August, the US Federal Communications Commission edged closer to the long-awaited broadcast spectrum incentive auction, now due to begin on 29 March 2016 [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Policy Tracker** *WRC-15 May Establish 700/800MHz as Global Option for Broadband PPDR*

If WRC-15 decides to identify spectrum in the 700/800 MHz band for LTE-based public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) networks, it could secure the commercial viability of the PPDR sector [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Total Telecom** *FCC Votes to Deny Dish Spectrum Discount*

Satellite TV provider officially misses out on \$3.3 billion worth of small business credits [[read more](#)].

**Policy Tracker**      *Indian Cabinet Adopts Spectrum Sharing Guidelines*

The move is one of five recommendations for improving spectrum policy made by an influential thinktank. Although guidelines authorise spectrum sharing, they also impose some strict limitations [[read more](#) – subscription required].

**Total Telecom**      *Brazil to Sell Spectrum For Fixed Broadband*

Anatel approves proposal for auction of spectrum in various bands at 1900MHz and above for fixed broadband, as well as new mobile sale at 1800MHz [[read more](#)].

**Telecoms.com**      *Battle Emerges Over LTE-U and Wi-Fi Coexistence*

Major players from the North American telecoms industry have written to the FCC in staunch opposition of a recent Wi-Fi Alliance request for stringent testing on coexistence regulations between LTE-U and wifi devices [[read more](#)].

### 3. MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

**BBC**      *Nokia's Digital Mapping Bought by German Carmakers*

A group of German carmakers, including Audi, BMW and Daimler, are buying Nokia's Here digital mapping business for €2.8bn [[read more](#)].

**Bloomberg**      *Hutchison, VimpelCom to Merge Italy Assets in \$24bn Deal*

CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. and VimpelCom Ltd. agreed to combine their Italian telecommunications units in a deal valued at €21.8bn (\$24bn), creating a carrier that would unseat Telecom Italia SpA as the country's largest wireless provider by customers [[read more](#)].

**Telecoms.com**      *Google Creates Alphabet Holding company to Aid Diversification*

US search giant Google has announced the creation of a holding company called Alphabet that it's claimed will enable its founders to better pursue non-core initiatives [[read more](#)].

**Telecoms.com**      *Ofcom Sees No Major Regulatory Problems With BT Acquisition of EE*

UK telecoms regulator Ofcom has submitted its report into the proposed BTEE acquisition and doesn't anticipate any competition issues that can't be dealt with through the standard regulatory channels [[read more](#)].

**Total Telecom**     *TeliaSonera, Telenor Make Concessions on Denmark Merger*

TeliaSonera and Telenor have submitted proposed concessions on their planned Denmark merger to the European Commission. The pair offered concessions, the Commission said, without providing any further information [[read more](#)].

**4. INFORMATION SOCIETY**

**Bloomberg**     *Here's How Brazil Is Giving Every Citizen Free Mobile Data*

The Brazilian government is working with local companies and Qualcomm, the world's largest mobile phone chipmaker, on a modern version of toll-free calling. A new 1-800 system for mobile data allows Brazilians to access their bank accounts for free on smartphones without incurring data costs [[read more](#)].

**5. INNOVATION**

**Telecoms.com**     *Google Introduces Android 6.0 and Calls it Marshmallow*

In keeping with the tradition of naming major new versions of its mobile OS after sweet food beginning with successive letter of the alphabet, Android 6.0 is otherwise known as Marshmallow [[read more](#)].

**6. POST**

**Post & Parcel**     *DPD Germany Offers First Mobile Parcel Label Featuring Integration With Passbook and Apple Watch*

DPD Germany has announced that its mobile parcel label with PayPal payment functionality is now available on the re-designed 'DPD Web Parcel' online platform [[read more](#)].

**Post & Parcel**     *Post Office reports 3,000 branches are now open on Sundays*

The UK Post Office has announced it has hit the 3,000 mark for branches now open seven days a week [[read more](#)].

**Post & Parcel**     *Austrian Post Plans National Roll-Out for Saturday Parcel Delivery Service*

Austrian Post has informed Post&Parcel that it plans to roll out its six-day parcel delivery service to urban districts across Austria by the end of the year [[read more](#)].



**Post & Parcel**      *Posti to Test Drone Deliveries Next Month*

The Finnish postal services provider, Posti, will launch an experiment on 2 September which will test the use of drones for package delivery [\[read more\]](#).

**7. ECOMMERCE**

**Telecoms.com**      *Mobile to Drive 60% e-Commerce Growth – Report*

A new study has revealed how online commerce will grow as a result of consumers taking to mobile platforms for digital shopping [\[read more\]](#).

**8. INTERNET**

**Total Telecom**      *Vodafone UK Launches Home Broadband Service Nationwide*

Vodafone has made its broadband and home phone service available to its mobile customers across the UK and plans to open it up to non-mobile customers later in the year [\[read more\]](#).

**New York Times**      *U.S. Transfer of Internet Oversight Is Delayed*

In a climate of international mistrust over how the government of the United States handles Internet data, the Commerce Department said it would delay by at least a year its plan to cede authority over the global address system for the web [\[read more\]](#).

**Advanced Television**      *BT Connects First G.fast Trial Customers*

Residents of Huntingdon, a market town in Cambridgeshire, have become the first people in the UK to take part in the field trial of a new type of ultrafast broadband technology from BT which will allow people to stream live ultra-high-definition 4K video content to multiple devices at once [\[read more\]](#).

**9. QUALITY OF SERVICE**

**c|net**      *Verizon Kills Off Service Contracts, Smartphone Subsidies*

Verizon Wireless introduced a set of new data plans that require customers to pay for their smartphone in monthly instalments or buy it outright. The new plans go into effect August 13 [\[read more\]](#).

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