

NEWSLETTER

Highlights and activities for Weeks 6 - 8 (02.02.15 – 27.02.15)

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A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives

1. BEREC – WG – Benchmarking

This meeting was held on 4th February and discussed the new work program for 2015, which includes bundling and OTT indicators, termination rates, and information sharing portals. An overview of what has been tackled so far and the way forward for each of these work streams was provided.

2. BEREC – Contact Network

The MCA attended the 1st meeting of the BEREC Contact Network (CN) for 2015, which took place on 5 and 6 February in Prague. This event was hosted by the Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU). The main objective of the meeting was to make the necessary preparations in view of the 22nd ordinary plenary meetings of the BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) and the BEREC Office Management Committee (MC) which will take place on 26 and 27 February 2015 in Berne (Switzerland).

3. ENISA – Security and Networking

The 15th Article 13a Expert Group (EG) Meeting took place between the 18th and 19th February 2015 in Limassol. The event was hosted by the Office of Electronic Communications & Postal Regulations (OCECPR) of Cyprus. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss issues related with the implementation of Article 13a of the Universal Service Directive (USD). During the meeting, ENISA presented a number of related projects, which it will be carrying out during the year.

4. RSPG – Radio Spectrum Policy Group

An MCA representative participated in the 36th RSPG plenary meeting held on the 19th February 2015. The RSPG is a high-level advisory group that assists the European Commission in the development of radio spectrum policy. Two RSPG opinions were adopted during the meeting:

- (1) RSPG Opinion on a long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band
- (2) RSPG Opinion on Common Policy Objectives for WRC 15.

5. GSMA Workshop on Spectrum for 5G in Europe

The MCA participated in the Spectrum for 5G in Europe Workshop held on the 19th February 2015 in Brussels. The scope of this workshop was to discuss on the contributions that spectrum for 5G can bring in terms of innovation and growth to the European economy. With the advent of the Internet of Things, Machine to Machine communication and the increasing growth of data in mobile communication, spectrum will play a role for the development of the next generation networks.

6. BEREC/IRG – Plenary

The 22nd Ordinary Plenary Meeting, hosted by the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM - BAKOM) and Federal Communications Commission (ComCom), was held on 26 and 27 February 2015. During the Plenary meeting, a first discussion was held with the Commission ahead of the launch of the Digital Single Market initiative in May this year. A number of other “what-if” sessions will be held in the coming months with the aim of encouraging open and informal discussions amongst BEREC and the Commission on the Digital Single Market. The meeting was preceded by a public BEREC Workshop on Oligopoly Analysis and Regulation, which was held on 25 February 2015.

7. UNITE-IT

The MCA attended the Telecentre Europe General Assembly (GA) which took place on 25 and 26 February in Brussels. This event was hosted by Microsoft. The assembly is composed of all Telecentre Europe’s member organisations represented by one chosen delegate and is held once a year. It is dedicated exclusively to members, where each delegate has a voting right on discussed activities, proposals and overall development of Telecentre Europe.

B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads

1. Medium & Large Business Perception Survey Results – Electronic Communications

Published 19th February: <http://www.mca.org.mt/surveys/medium-large-business-perception-survey-results-electronic-communications>

C. MCA Events

1. 26th February: Project ENTER Certification Ceremony

A certification ceremony was held at the UHM premises by the Foundation Salvino Spiteri to reward individuals between the age of 25 and 64 years of age who successfully completed basic training in ICT as part of the Project ENTER which is led by the MCA.



2. Press Launch: Safer Internet Day 2015

5th February: “Let’s create a better internet together” was the slogan for this year’s Safer Internet Day celebrated in over a 100 countries on the 10th of February. This initiative is coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission and 28 Safer Internet Centres across Europe. The aim of this event is to promote the safer and more responsible use of the Internet amongst children, and young people. In order to commemorate this day, BeSmartOnline!, which brings together the Malta Communications Authority, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (Agenzija Appogg), the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the eLearning Department within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education, organised various activities. These included:



- A seminar entitled “The Impact of Technology on Child Development” for professionals of the Early Intervention Unit who work closely with very young children;
- A day of fun activities on the safe use of the Internet for migrant families residing in the open centres;
- An information day at the Birkirkara market in order to communicate directly with members of the general public and disseminate resources and other information about the safe use of the Internet; and
- The launch of a “Positive Content Competition” designed to encourage children and young people to make better use of the Internet.



TVM News Feature Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E1wGOZgF7Y&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkwc9k0ly9ko7VQNhTqRGtIC_&index=9

D. Media participation

MCA representatives participated in various TV and radio programmes.

1. Television Guest Speakers

09.02.15: 'S41' Grajjiet Kurrenti ONE TV (Mark Spiteri – BeSmartOnline!)

2. Radio

The MCA was offered air-time free of charge by Radju Maria to deliver 13 live radio programmes of 30mins each, held every Wednesday between 3.30pm – 4.00pm. Every programme tackles a particular subject related to ICT, such as the use of social media and other online tools, online shopping amongst others. The last radio programme is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 25th March.

04.02.15: 'L-Informatika u s-Socjeta' - Radju Marija

(Mark Schembri + Matthew Borg – *Kif tikkomunika onlajn Skype, chat, email*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ov6dEEo8lZ8&list=PLl8Jd_mlhkWdTjpHTpRgNg7TTuYgaHX9A&index=6

11.02.15: 'L-Informatika u s-Socjeta' – Radju Marija

(Mark Spiteri + Sephora Busuttil - *Internet Safety {Safer Internet Day 2015}*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHVMUKUWV7I>

18.02.15: 'L-Informatika u s-Socjeta' – Radju Marija

(Mark Spiteri - *Internet Safety*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQyp6AT-Ds8&list=PLl8Jd_mlhkWdTjpHTpRgNg7TTuYgaHX9A&index=8

25.02.15: 'L-Informatika u s-Socjeta' – Radju Marija

(Mark Spiteri + Helen D'Amato (Commissioner for Children) - *Internet Safety*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEOxj2MPd-0&list=PLl8Jd_mlhkWdTjpHTpRgNg7TTuYgaHX9A&index=9

E. Legal Updates

Notification of a new appeal before the Administrative Review Tribunal

Melita vs the Malta Communications Authority: This appeal was received during the 1st week of February, and is contesting the imposition of a daily administrative fine for failure to submit statistics concerning hybrid services in mobile telephony.

Case Sittings

- ➔ 4th February: The Malta Communications Authority vs SESCO: This case refers to the payment of authorisation dues to the MCA. The case has been adjourned to the 7th October 2015 for the Court's decision [pending before the Court of Magistrates].
- ➔ 4th February: Av. Paul Micallef noe vs Melitanet. This case also refers to the payment of authorisation dues to MCA and has been adjourned to the 7th October 2015 for the Court's decision [pending before the Court of Magistrates].
- ➔ 5th February: MaltaPost vs the Malta Communications Authority. This case refers to the contestation of a regulatory decision on postal markets and has been adjourned to the 7th March for the continuation of the presentation of evidence by MaltaPost [pending before the Administrative Review Tribunal].
- ➔ 5th February: GO plc vs the Malta Communications Authority. GO plc contested an MCA decision on markets 4 and 5. This case was adjourned for the Tribunal's final decision for the 26th February 2015 [pending before the Administrative Review Tribunal].
- ➔ 6th February: Melita plc vs the Malta Communications Authority et. This case refers to the contestation of rights of way fees payable to Transport Malta and was decided in favour of Government and public authorities [closed decision by the Court of Appeal Superior].
- ➔ 12th February: Vodafone vs the Malta Communications Authority. This case refers to the contestation of a regulatory decision on mobile termination rates, which was published in March 2014. This case has been adjourned to the 14th May 2015 for the continuation of evidence. [pending before the Administrative Review Tribunal].

F. International News

1. Television

Advanced Television Virgin's Premier League Auction Delay Request Rejected.

UK communications regulator Ofcom has rejected an application from UK quad-play operator Virgin Media to suspend the imminent auction of live English Premier League rights, suggesting that it does not consider that there is an urgent need to intervene to delay the process [[read more](#)].

re/code Apple Is Talking to TV Programmers About Its Own Web TV Service. Apple has spent years circling the TV business, without ever really getting into the TV business. Now it may be ready to try again [[read more](#)].

Advanced Television Premier League rights reach £5.136bn. The Premier League has concluded the sales process for the seven packages of UK live broadcasting rights for the three seasons 2016/17-2018/19, with existing rights-holders Sky and BT once again emerging successful and the sums reaching new record highs [[read more](#)].

2. Spectrum

Policy Tracker Germany to Hold Europe's First 700 MHz Auction This May.

New entrants would be exempt from rollout conditions in major multiband auction [[read more](#) – subscription needed].

The Verge AT&T Emerges as Big Winner in FCC Spectrum Auction.

The Federal Communication Commission revealed that it took in a record \$44.9 billion in bids for its AWS-3 wireless spectrum auction. It released more data about the winners and how much each company bid. Unsurprisingly, US wireless carriers were at the top of the heap, with AT&T alone bidding nearly \$18.2 billion for 251 licenses, the largest going towards the New York City metro area. Verizon forked out a total of \$10.4 billion for 181 licenses, while T-Mobile spent just \$1.7 billion [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker Slovakia Completes Auction of 3.7 GHz Band.

Three operators buy 120 MHz of spectrum for €1.2 million [[read more](#) – subscription needed].

Ofcom Ofcom Gives Green Light for 'TV white space' Wireless Technology.

Ofcom has given the green light for industry to harness the benefits of an innovative new wireless technology, following a series of successful industry trials [[read more](#)].

Cullen International RSPG: make 700 MHz band available for wireless broadband by 2020

Member states should make the 700 MHz band available for “effective use” by electronic communications services “as early as possible” but by the end of 2020 at the latest. Member states should be able to extend this deadline by two years without the need for derogation [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Ofcom Ofcom announces trials to help small stations join digital radio

Ofcom has announced trials of a new technology that could provide small radio stations across the UK with an affordable way to broadcast on DAB digital radio. If the trials are successful, UK radio listeners could benefit from more local and community radio stations on DAB [[read more](#)].

3. Internet

Techno Buffalo Apple Job Posting Hints at Possible Google Search Competitor.

Android may have the upper hand in smartphone market share, but Apple could be about to hit Google where it really hurts. A new job listing on its website suggests that the company could be working on its own search engine that will go head-to-head with Google’s [[read more](#)].

BBC 5G researchers manage record connection speed

Record-breaking speeds have been achieved during tests of 5G data connections, scientists have said. Researchers at the University of Surrey’s 5G Innovation Centre (5GIC) managed one terabit per second (Tbps) - many thousands of times faster than current data connections [[read more](#)].

BBC Net neutrality rules passed by US regulator

New rules on how the internet should be governed have been approved by the Federal Communications Commission. In what is seen as a victory for advocates of net neutrality, the commission voted in favour of changes proposed by Chairman Tom Wheeler [[read more](#)].

Engadget What you need to know about HTTP/2

HTTP/1.1, in use since 1999, will eventually be replaced by a new one, dubbed HTTP/2. This update improves the way browsers and servers communicate, allowing for faster transfer of information while reducing the amount of raw horsepower needed [[read more](#)].

4. Post

Post & Parcel Canadian City opposing Canada Post's switch to community mailboxes.

Canada Post is facing a backlash from the City of Hamilton, Ontario, against its plans to replace doorstep mail delivery services with community mailboxes [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel New Zealand Post to Switch to Alternate-Day Mail Delivery from July. The state-owned postal service announced back in 2013 it was planning on cutting delivery days in order to reduce operating costs in line with declining mail volumes [[read more](#)].

BBC Australia Post's half-yearly profit down 56%

Australia Post has reported a 56% fall in its half-year profit from a year earlier, and has forecast its first full-year loss in more than 30 years. The government-owned firm said on Monday its after-tax profit for the six months to 31 December was A\$98m Australian dollars (\$76.7m; £49.9m) [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel GLS introduces smartphone IT system into 5,000 parcel shops

Parcel carrier GLS has upgraded the IT in about 5,000 of its parcel shops within Germany, basing it on smartphone technology [[read more](#)].

5. Mergers & Acquisitions

Tech Crunch UK's BT Agrees To Buy Mobile Carrier EE For \$19B.

Major consolidation moves are underway in the UK mobile market. As expected, UK carrier BT has agreed to buy mobile carrier EE for £12.5 billion (\$19 billion). BT has been talking to EE since November 2014 but only confirmed that it was in talks to buy the mobile carrier, the largest in the UK, in December 2014 [[read more](#)].

6. eCommerce

Tech Crunch E-Commerce Sales in China Will Reach \$1 Trillion By 2019 Thanks To Mobile, Says Forrester.

A new report by Forrester finds that online spending in China will reach one trillion dollars by 2019. The growth will be fuelled by mobile apps and improving logistics networks, which have helped e-commerce companies reach new customers in smaller cities [[read more](#)].

Telecoms Google & Samsung move to counter Apple Pay debut

Google has stoked the fire burning underneath the mobile payments industry by announcing its acquisition of "some exciting technology and intellectual property from Softcard to make Google Wallet better" [[read more](#)].

7. Innovation

Tech Crunch Artemis Is Leasing Spectrum From Dish Network To Test Fiber-Like LTE

Artemis is a San Francisco-based startup looking to change wireless with a new approach to sending data to individual phones and a new approach to building out infrastructure [[read more](#)].

Telecoms LG claims first LTE smartwatch

Korean electronics giant has launched a premium addition to its recently announced new smartwatch range called the LG Watch Urbane LTE. As the name implies, LG is claiming this is the first smartwatch to feature an LTE modem, although Huawei is also talking up its LTE-M chip [[read more](#)].

8. Legal

Tech Crunch

Free calling and messaging service Viber could be banned in South Korea, after the company lost a patent suit to domestic operator SK Telecom [[read more](#)].

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