

NEWSLETTER

Highlights and activities for Weeks 27 - 31 (29.06.15 – 31.07.15)

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

A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives

1. ECS – High Level Internet Governance

The High Level Internet Governance meeting took place on 2nd July. The meeting was chaired by DG CONNECT Principal Adviser, and was attended by 20 HLIIG Member States: AT, BE, BG, DE, DK, ES, EL, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SK, UK, CH + EEAS and DG HOME. The forum gave an update on EU level bilateral meetings including EU-India Cyber Dialogue, EU- China Cyber Dialogue, EU-US ICT Dialogue, EU-CELAC/EU-Eastern Partnership, update on NetMundial and an update on the outreach strategy of each MS.

2. ERGP – Plenary/Contact Network

In July, the MCA attended the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) Plenary. This is the biannual assembly of the Heads of the National Regulatory Authorities to discuss the status and adopt the deliverables of the Work Programme, discuss developments in the sector, and plan work for the coming year. During the meeting, a number of studies were discussed and adopted.

3. RSCOM – Radio Spectrum 52nd Meeting of the RSC

A meeting of the Radio spectrum Policy group was held between the 14- 15th July. During the meeting the following topics were discussed: The status of the implementation of EU law on spectrum across member states was reviewed and a decision was taken to review possible amendments to the Mobile Communications on Aircraft (MCA) and Mobile Communications on Vessels (MCV) Decisions. Alternative use for the unpaired 2GHz bands and also the 2.3 GHz band was discussed and it was decided that any decision should wait till after WRC15. The meeting agreed to issue a mandate to CEPT with respect to the possible use of wireless video cameras in the 2.7-2.9 GHz bands.

B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads

1. The Malta Communications Authority welcomes nominations for the fifth edition of the MCA eBusiness Awards

Published 6th July: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/malta-communications-authority-welcomes-nominations-fifth-edition-mca>

2. Expression of Interest – Lists of External Experts

Published 10th July: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/expression-interest-lists-external-experts>

3. Notice by the MCA re: Fixed Radio Links

Published 16th July: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/notice-mca-re-fixed-radio-links-6>

4. Entrepreneurs, investors and policy makers come together to talk about start-ups at MCA conference

Published 20th July: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/entrepreneurs-investors-and-policy-makers-come-together-talk-about-start>

5. Highlights and Activities for Weeks 23 to 26

Published 20th July: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/highlights-and-activities-weeks-23-26>

C. MCA Events

‘Disrupt. Startup. Malta.’ was the title of a conference held on Friday 17th July, at the Intercontinental Hotel St. Julian’s. The conference was organised by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) in collaboration with the TAKEOFF Business Incubator and StartUp Weekend Malta and forms part of a series of initiatives undertaken by the MCA, aimed at promoting and facilitating ICT innovation.

The conference addressed the central role start-ups are playing in an ever more globalised digital economy, the early stages of business start-ups and how Malta can serve as home for start-up activity, capitalising on disruptive innovation. The event served to explore the start-up phenomenon through business, policy and investor perspectives. Representatives from well known organisations, such as Seedcamp, Amazon AWS and Citrix gave a personal insight into their experience in international start-ups and early investment. CEO testimonials from companies such as Oulala, Mighty Box, Trackerbird, Discountif, Altaro, Pirate Roaming and HotJar, all success stories in their own right, served to further fuel healthy discussion on the subject. Various other local and international speakers with investment, coaching and entrepreneurial backgrounds contributed to the ensuing debate.



D. Media participation

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

1. Radio

- 01.07.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK
(Mark Spiteri – Use by Minors ICT Study Findings Part 2)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK0s1TYtXBA&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw&index=8
- 15.07.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK
(Yanika Cassar – Mobile Data)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkNona5EEJo&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw&index=9
- 29.07.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK
(Yanika Cassar – Consumer Rights)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xb7FY4KLveE&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw&index=10

2. Television

- 09.07.15: TVM News Feature
(Paul Cumbo – The MCA eBusiness Awards 2015)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tTiPoFLsd4&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWc9k0ly9ko7VQNhTqRG TIC_&index=17
- 17.07.15: TVM News Feature
(Bernard Agius - Disrupt.StartUp.Malta Conference)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qyr2jmQwS9o&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWc9k0ly9ko7VQNhTqRG TIC_&index=19
- 17.07.15: ONE News Feature
(Disrupt.StartUp.Malta Conference)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHjrb0jUZQI&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWc9k0ly9ko7VQNhTqRG TIC_&index=18

E. Legal Updates

Case Sittings

- ➔ 9th July – Melita vs DG (Konsumatur) et - Melita are contesting fines imposed by MCCA with regard to adverts concerning the use of the word ‘unlimited’. Adjourned for continuation of evidence by MCCA.
- ➔ 14th July - MCA vs WE Productions – outstanding authorisation fees due to MCA. Case was decided with costs against WE Productions.
- ➔ 14th July – Vodafone vs MCA – re contestation of MCA MTR decision of 2014. Continuation of evidence by parties. Was adjourned to 24th September, 2015 for cross-examination of witnesses by Vodafone.
- ➔ 14th July – Vodafone vs MCA – appeal contesting MCA’s decision relating to retail market access whether GO are no longer considered to be dominant. Case adjourned for 24th September, 2015 for Vodafone’s evidence.
- ➔ 14th July – Melita vs MCA – appeal contesting MCA’s decision relating to retail market access whether GO are no longer considered to be dominant. Case adjourned for 24th September, 2015 for Melita’s evidence.
- ➔ 14th July – Melita vs MCA – contesting MCA’s directory enquiry services decision. Case stands adjourned for 24th September, 2015.
- ➔ 14th July – Melita vs MCA – re contestation of a fine imposed on Melita following Melita’s alleged failure to submit statistics with regard to the hybrid category re mobile telephony. Continuation of evidence - stands adjourned for the 24th September, 2015
- ➔ 14th July – Melita vs MCA re contestation of a fine imposed on Melita concerning Melita’s alleged issue of incorrect bills following termination of subscriber contracts. Adjourned for final submissions for the 24th September, 2015
- ➔ 14th July – Melita vs MCA – fine imposed further to failure to undertake audit of billing processes. Adjourned for Tribunal’s decision for the 24th September, 2015
- ➔ 14th July – Melita vs MCA – Melita’s contestation of MCA ruling following Melita’s complaint about GO’s bundling of products issued in 2010. Continuation of evidence adjourned for the 24th September, 2015.
- ➔ 14th July – MaltaPost vs MCA – MaltaPost’s contestation of MCA’s market analysis re parcel post markets. Case adjourned to 24th September, 2015 for final submissions by both parties.

New appeals before the Administrative Review Tribunal

No cases were notified to the MCA during the month of July.

F. International News

1. REGULATION

ISPreview *BT Wants to Scrap Traditional UK Phone Services Within 10 Years*

BT is pushing Ofcom to relax their regulation so they can close their traditional phone network and move customers to a new Internet-based system [[read more](#)].

Digital Trends *FCC Votes to Use Cell Phone Taxes to Help the Poor Access Broadband Internet*

In a 3-to-2 vote the Federal Communications Commission narrowly agreed to approve a proposal that would allow the U.S. government to subsidise Internet access for low-income Americans [[read more](#)].

Engadget *Time Warner Cable Receives the First Net Neutrality Complaint*

Time Warner Cable has made history by being one of the first (if not the first) broadband providers hit with a net neutrality complaint [[read more](#)].

Politico *Mobile Roaming Charges Ban in 2017*

After months of delay, European negotiators finally agreed to a provisional deal on reforms that will secure open Internet access and eliminate mobile phone roaming charges throughout the EU starting in June 2017 [[read more](#)].

Ofcom *Ofcom Fines EE £1m Over Complaints Handling Failures*

Ofcom has fined EE £1,000,000 for failing to comply with Ofcom's rules on handling customer complaints. The investigation into EE (trading as 4GEE, Orange and T-Mobile) is part of Ofcom's wider monitoring and enforcement programme to ensure communications providers are dealing with customer complaints appropriately and fairly [[read more](#)].

BBC *Calls to 0800 numbers now free on mobile phones and landlines*

Freephone numbers starting with 0800 or 0808 are now free to call from mobile phones as well as landlines. The move is part of an overhaul of phone numbers and charges planned for many months by regulator Ofcom which has now come into force [[read more](#)].

Politico *EU Telecoms Reforms Take Leap Forward*

A package of EU telecoms reforms to secure open Internet access and ban mobile phone roaming charges moved closer to fruition after the Council approved a deal struck with the European Parliament [[read more](#)].

Politico *EP Targets Online Platforms in Copyright Debate*

The European Parliament attacked Internet platforms for siphoning money away from artists in a report approved Thursday about the current state of copyright laws [[read more](#)].

BBC *Adapt 999 for Smartphone Technology, Report Says*

Radical changes should be made to 999 call services in the UK to allow people to utilise smartphones in an emergency, a report has said. Emergency services should create a data-based system to filter reports and deploy responders, says the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) [[read more](#)].

Advanced Television *Chicago Imposes Streaming Tax*

Chicago, the third most populated city in the US, is to raise extra funds by charging a 'cloud tax' — taking an extra 9 per cent from the money raised through streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu [[read more](#)].

Ofcom *Strategic Review of Digital Communications: Discussion document*

Ofcom has published the discussion document related to its Strategic Review of Digital Communications, the first in 10 years and only the second one since Ofcom's establishment. The document summarises the main elements of the review that Ofcom is conducting into the UK's digital communications market [[read more](#)].

Ars Technica *Ofcom considers BT Openreach breakup*

UK telecoms giant BT Group may be forced to split up its Openreach fibre network and consumer internet service provider businesses under competition proposals put forward by communications watchdog Ofcom. The watchdog cites concerns over Openreach's performance on behalf of other ISPs—to whom it must lease its network "on equal terms"—saying that it has "too often been poor," leading to the introduction of new rules on faster line installations and repairs [[read more](#)].

Politico *Vestager Targets Qualcomm*

The European Commission launched two formal investigations Thursday against Qualcomm, the world's largest chip maker for mobile phones, highlighting the cut-throat competition and rapidly changing industry landscape [[read more](#)].

Ars Technica *Because landlines are dying, VoIP providers must sell 24-hour batteries*

As phone providers like AT&T and Verizon seek to phase out copper telephone networks in favor of fiber- and wireless-based VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) services, the Federal Communications Commission must consider whether to require home phones to work during power outages. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler has decided what the requirement should be—carriers will have to offer 24-hour backup systems, but they'll be able to charge consumers for the batteries [[read more](#)].

Ars Technica *Senators ask FCC to investigate cable and broadband prices*

On Thursday, four US senators, led by Bernie Sanders (Independent-Vermont.), asked the Federal Communications Commission to investigate how cable and broadband providers are charging their customers [[read more](#)].

Mashable *Google Fiber to bring free high-speed Internet to public housing*

Google announced on Wednesday it is giving away access to its high-speed internet service to public housing residents in its current and future markets. The move is in partnership with the White House and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's recently-revealed ConnectHome plan, which will bring low-cost or free Internet service to 27 cities [\[read more\]](#).

Microsoft Blog *Microsoft Digital Single Market Communication Response*

On 17th July Microsoft issued a press release in support of the creation of the European Digital Single Market [\[read more\]](#).

European Commission *Trillion-euro global high-tech trade deal agreed*

The European Union, the United States, China and the vast majority of the World Trade Organization (WTO) members that were participating in the negotiations agreed today to eliminate custom duties on 201 high-tech products. The extension of the 1996 Information Technology Agreement (ITA) is the biggest tariff-cutting deal in the WTO in almost two decades [\[read more\]](#).

European Parliament *Google antitrust proceedings: Digital business and competition*

Google holds around 90% of the market share for internet search services in most European Economic Area (EEA) countries, and several companies have complained to the European Commission about Google's market dominance. The European Commission has thus formally launched two separate investigations, one on Google's comparison shopping and the other on the company's handling of applications installed on Android operating mobile devices [\[read more\]](#).

Politico *EC charges six US studios for antitrust violations*

The European Commission charged six major U.S. movie studios and the U.K.'s leading pay-TV broadcaster with antitrust violations [\[read more\]](#).

Nokia *Nokia Networks explores potential of 5G below 6 GHz frequencies with NTT DOCOMO*

To help drive future standardization of 5G technology, Nokia Networks has partnered with NTT DOCOMO to explore and harness the potential of Nokia Networks' 5G radio technology in the 4.4-4.9 GHz band [\[read more\]](#).

Financial Times *Apple, Samsung in talks with telecom groups to launch e-Sim card*

Apple and Samsung are in advanced talks to join the rest of the telecoms industry to launch electronic SIM cards, in a move could fundamentally change how consumers sign up to mobile operators. The GSMA, the industry association which represents mobile operators worldwide, is close to announcing an agreement to produce a standardised embedded SIM for consumer devices that would include the smartphone makers [\[read more\]](#).

2. SPECTRUM

Advanced Television *France votes for 700 MHz reallocation*

France's National Assembly has voted unanimously to accept a socialist party proposal to allow the allocation to mobile telephony of frequencies in the 700 MHz band currently used by digital terrestrial television, as well as the modernisation of DTT in France [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *Europe Formally Agrees to Oppose IMT Identification for UHF Spectrum Below 700MHz Band*

European administrations have agreed to oppose adding a series of key bands to the list of those allocated to mobile and identified for IMT at this year's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) [[read more](#) – subscription required].

c|net *How the Future of US Wireless Service Hangs on a Government Auction*

The name of the game is spectrum, and the carriers are jockeying for rules that could determine the ultimate winners and losers of the wireless wars [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *EU Agrees Spectrumless "Connected Continent" Package*

The "trilogue" of European institutions have crafted an agreement to abolish roaming charges by June 2017 and to establish the EU's first net neutrality laws, hours before Latvia's presidency of the Council of Ministers expired at the end of June [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *France dedicates 2 x 8 MHz in 700 MHz band to PPDR*

Amidst heightened security concerns, the French government has decided to reserve 2 x 8 MHz of spectrum for LTE-based PPDR as part of their arrangements for the upcoming 700 MHz band assignment [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *FCC Proposes Rules to Prevent Misuse of "Designated Entities" Scheme in Incentive Auction*

The FCC says it plans to introduce new rules designed to prevent the kind of behaviour that led to Dish saving \$3 billion in the AWS-3 auction earlier this year [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Total Telecom *France Kicks Off 700MHz Sale*

Government ratifies Arcep's proposals on allocation of 700 MHz spectrum, including price and coverage obligations. French government ministers formally launched the country's 700MHz spectrum allocation process [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *Telecoms Industry Alliance to Campaign For More 5G Spectrum*

The Next Generation Mobile Networks Alliance (NGMN), a global group of major telecoms providers and "co-operation partners" such as 5GPPP, the GSMA and ETSI, plans to push for more spectrum allocation as part of its 5G work programme [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *Licensed shared access trial begins in Italy*

Italy's ministry of economic development is hosting an indoor trial of licensed shared access (LSA) in the 2.3 GHz band in Rome [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *Qualcomm's European president outlines 5G vision*

Enrico Salvatori, Qualcomm's senior vice president and president in Europe, says the company's vision of 5G will include a unified air interface that will scale to spectrum below 6 GHz, as well as additional bands above 6 GHz that are being considered for an Agenda Item at WRC-19 [[read more](#) – subscription required].

New York Times *F.C.C. Votes to Limit Discounts in Airwaves Auction*

The Federal Communications Commission approved plans to prevent large businesses from gaining access to small-business discounts in a much-anticipated auction of airwaves expected early next year. The new rules are in part a response to actions taken last year by Dish Network, the large satellite television operator, in another auction of airwaves. In that auction, Dish teamed up with smaller entities. Those corporations received a \$3.25 billion discount on the \$13 billion worth of spectrum they bought [[read more](#)].

3. MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Politico *Commission Objects to Danish Telecoms Merger*

The EU's competition commissioner slows TeliaSonera and Telenor's attempt to fuse its mobile operations [[read more](#)].

Total Telecoms *Bouygues Rejects Altice Offer*

Bouygues' board unanimously rejected Altice's unsolicited bid to acquire Bouygues Telecom [[read more](#)].

Total Telecoms *Verizon Completes \$4.4bn AOL Takeover*

Verizon has closed its acquisition of AOL, just six weeks after it announced the US\$4.4 billion takeover [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *Vivendi Closes €217m Dailymotion Deal*

Vivendi has closed the acquisition of an 80% stake in video sharing site Dailymotion from Orange. The French firm confirmed that it paid €217 million for the stake, in line with the terms of the agreement it negotiated in April [[read more](#)].

Engadget *Microsoft Plans 7,800 Layoffs, \$7.6bn Nokia Write-Down*

After cutting its workforce by around 18,000 over the past year, Microsoft is readying another round of heavy layoffs. The company will cut 7,800 jobs over "the next several months." Many of the

dismissals will come from Microsoft's phone business, which joined the company's newly formed "Windows and Devices Group" in June [\[read more\]](#).

Total Telecom *BT/EE merger probe will factor in 3UK/O2 tie-up – CMA*

The U.K. competition watchdog has revealed that its investigation into the impact of BT's proposed acquisition of EE will take into account the implications of the planned merger between mobile operators 3UK and O2 [\[read more\]](#).

Total Telecom *BT Proceeds With G.fast plan, Repeats Warnings Over Openreach Split*

BT on Monday reiterated its warning that it requires regulatory certainty to justify future infrastructure investments, but said that for now it is still pushing on with G.fast. The comment came after BT CEO Gavin Patterson told the Sunday Telegraph that he would postpone network investment and go to court to prevent Ofcom from forcing a structural separation of BT and Openreach [\[read more\]](#).

4. INFORMATION SOCIETY

9to5Google *Camp Google*

This year Google will be hosting Camp Google, a free 4-week long program that teaches children about science. The 4 different themes are Ocean week, Nature week, Space week and Music week. The content was created through collaboration between Google, National Geographic, Khan Academy, NASA and National Parks [\[read more\]](#).

BBC *BBC Micro Bit computer's final design revealed*

The BBC has revealed the final design of the Micro Bit, a pocket-sized computer set to be given to about one million UK-based children in October. The device - which features a programmable array of red LED lights - includes two buttons and a built-in motion sensor that were not included in a prototype shown off in March [\[read more\]](#).

5. INNOVATION

CNNMoney *MasterCard Will Approve Purchases by Scanning Your Face*

This Autumn MasterCard will start experimenting with a new program: approving online purchases with a facial scan. At checkout, you'll be asked to hold up your phone and snap a photo. The logic behind this is that it's easier than remembering a password [\[read more\]](#).

Engadget *Virgin's New In-Flight WiFi is Strong Enough to Stream Video*

Virgin America has announced that it's teaming up with satellite internet company ViaSat to provide the fastest in-flight WiFi of any commercial carrier. The new system uses a hybrid Ku-/Ka-band receiver to deliver an internet pipeline eight to 10 times faster than anything else on the market [\[read more\]](#).

Re/Code *Forget Bitcoin — What Is the Blockchain and Why Should You Care?*

A blockchain is essentially just a record, or ledger, of digital events — one that’s “distributed,” or shared between many different parties. It can only be updated by consensus of a majority of the participants in the system. And, once entered, information can never be erased. The bitcoin blockchain contains a certain and verifiable record of every single bitcoin transaction ever made [[read more](#)].

New York Times *Unicorn: A Fitting Label for Its Time and Place*

Aileen Lee tried a few lesser terms before she hit on “unicorn” - an unusual, mysterious word to describe what, in the tech industry, was an unusual, mysterious phenomenon: American software companies that had achieved a valuation of at least \$1 billion [[read more](#)].

6. POST

Post & Parcel *New Report Analyses Impact of eCommerce on Europe’s Express Delivery Market*

A new study has analysed the impact of e-commerce and IT-enabled services on the European express delivery market. The report, which is now available on the Research and Markets website, has analysed the extent to which the growth in Ecommerce trade has resulted in an increase in B2C express delivery services in the market [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Amazon Prime Now Launches in London*

Amazon has started offering one-hour delivery or same-day, two-hour delivery windows in some areas of London for Prime members. Prime members can now get delivery within one-hour of ordering for £6.99, or within a two-hour, same-day window for free. The delivery runs from 8am – midnight, 7 days a week, but it is only available in some postcodes [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Swiss Post Drones take to the Air*

In an official statement, Swiss Post said that “the widespread use of drones is not expected within the next five years”, but “possible areas of application offered by drone technology are very diverse, ranging from delivery to peripheral areas to the express delivery of goods” [[read more](#)].

BBC *Royal Mail shares fall on Ofcom review*

Shares in Royal Mail fell on Friday after Ofcom confirmed the scope of a review into the company's operations. The review could result in a price cap being imposed on the postal operator [[read more](#)].

7. TELEVISION

European Commission *Commission Seeks Views on Europe's Audiovisual Media Rules*

The European Commission seeks the views of all interested parties on how to make Europe's audiovisual media landscape fit for purpose in the digital age [[read more](#)].

BBC *BBC set for £650m licence fee hit*

Culture Secretary John Whittingdale, speaking in parliament July 6th, has confirmed that the BBC will take on the cost of providing free TV licences for over-75s. This will be phased in from 2018-19 with the BBC taking on the full cost from 2020-21. He also confirmed that the government will introduce legislation to enable the BBC to “modernise” the licence fee to cover the BBC iPlayer [[read more](#)].

Advanced Television *BT Calls For Ofcom Action on Sky Pay-TV Dominance*

John Petter, CEO of BT's Consumer Division has called on UK comms regulator Ofcom to broaden the scope of its Digital Communications Review (DCR) to include pay-TV, citing high prices and poor outcomes for consumers arising from a lack of competition in pay-TV [[read more](#)].

Politico *10 takeaways on the BBC fight*

The U.K. government has set the stage for a fundamental overhaul of the BBC that could result in a smaller public broadcaster focused on a narrower range of programs. Ministers kicked off a three-month consultation on the future of the BBC with the publication of a green paper that the corporation argued would diminish popular programs and be “bad for Britain” [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *Comcast Takes on Netflix, Amazon With Video Streaming Service*

Comcast has taken the wraps off an online video streaming service, putting it in direct competition with the likes of Amazon, Google and Netflix [[read more](#)].

8. ECOMMERCE

Bloomberg Business *Google Unveils Buy Button on Ads in Mobile-Commerce Push*

The Internet-search company's service, Purchases on Google, will let people using smartphones click on select search ads that take the users directly to a retailer-branded product page hosted by Google, according to an e-mail. The tools will work with a “limited number of retailers” for now [[read more](#)].

Disclaimer

The information contained in this newsletter is for general information purposes only and while we endeavour to keep the information up to date and correct, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the information contained therein. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk.