

## NEWSLETTER

Highlights and activities for Weeks 23 - 26 (01.06.15 – 26.06.15)

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## A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives

### 1. WRC – Preparation and Presentation CPG Meeting

The main objective of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) is to provide a forum within the CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations) to prepare European positions for the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) and Radiocommunication Assemblies (RAs) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The next WRC and RA will be held in October/November 2015 in Geneva (Switzerland). The MCA participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of CPG which was held in Porto (Portugal) between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015. This meeting approved the first set of European Common Proposals (ECPs) concerning various agenda items of WRC-15.

### 2. BEREC Plenary and IRG Meeting

The MCA participated in the second plenary session of BEREC for 2015 which was held in Norway and which was preceded by a meeting of the Independent Regulators Group (IRG). During the IRG, NRAs had the opportunity to discuss the future of the electronic communication services in Europe and the role of regulatory authorities following a presentation of a study on this subject by PWC. The European Commission delivered another presentation during the BEREC Plenary on the Digital Single Market Strategy, providing an overview of its three main pillars – ‘Better access for consumer and businesses to digital goods and services’; ‘Creating the right conditions for digital networks and services’; and ‘Maximising the growth potential of the digital economy’. The Plenary also discussed its Work Programme for 2016 which is currently being formulated and which will be looking, amongst others, at the review of the telecoms framework; the impact of OTTs/CAPS; revision of Universal Services; NGA roll-out and infrastructure competition. Amongst the highlights of the session, the Plenary approved the publication of a report on ‘How Consumers Value Net Neutrality in an Evolving Internal Marketplace’ for public consultation.

### 3. Workshop on Digital Contracts

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, a representative of the MCA participated in a workshop organised by the Commission to discuss the future proposal for online sales of goods and purchases of digital content products in the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy. During the workshop a number of issues and problems that are being faced by consumers and businesses when making online and digital purchases were discussed with. The workshop also provided the possibility to participants to better understand the Commission’s views and plans for a future legislative framework to simplify and render cross-border rules for consumers and businesses more efficient.

### 4. RSPG – Radio Spectrum Group

The 37<sup>th</sup> radio spectrum Policy group meeting was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. During the meeting, the RSPG welcomed the commission position on the 700MHz, the L band and 3.4 GHz band highlighting the importance of making available spectrum for wireless broadband. The meeting also reviewed progress on the drawing up of a paper on efficient spectrum awards, an important document which could provide input into the Digital Single Market strategy being drawn up by the Commission. An overview of the work

is being carried out on the review of the radio spectrum policy programme was given. This document will be published for public consultation in October. Another report that has been developed relates to the identification of spectrum for wireless backhaul particularly in view of small cells and 5G technology. A meeting of the working group on cross boarder co-ordination was also held. During this meeting, Italy confirmed that further legal measures required to support the removal of interference being caused by regional broadcasters had been published and that it expected to clear interference issues around October/November. The RSPG work programme for next year was also discussed, the telecoms framework review will be a key activity as well as work in the transport sector given the increasing spectrum needs. The RSPG is also working on increasing its profile and its formal role within the EU spectrum related, decision making process.

#### **5. EU – Postal Directive Committee Meeting**

A member of the MCA participated in the Postal Directive Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June in Brussels. The meeting discussed the Digital Single Market initiative on parcel delivery “Initiative to enhance the affordability, quality and convenience of cross-border parcel delivery”. The meeting also discussed the postal sector statistical data and activities taking place in the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP).

#### **6. Enisa – Security & Network Integration**

The MCA attended the 16th Article 13a Expert Group (EG) Meeting which took place between the 16th and 17th June in Bucharest. The event was hosted by ANCOM, the National Regulatory Authority of Romania. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues related with the implementation of Article 13a of the Universal Service Directive (USD).

#### **7. 26<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference of the International Telecommunications Society**

The MCA attended the 26th European Regional Conference of the International Telecommunications Society that was held in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain between the 24th and 27th June. The conference addressed issues that are highly relevant to Europe’s dynamic telecommunications market focusing on the structure and regulation of the telecommunications sector and dealing with the fragmented nature of the market that is preventing the emergence of the sort of telecommunications industry that the EU needs if it is to prosper in today’s global information based economy.

#### **8. BEREC– WG – Bench Marking (BMK Bundles PRD)**

The Working Group met on the 26<sup>th</sup> June to review the definition of what is considered a bundle and the set of indicators to collect and to update the draft report. The original document of this workgroup was presented to the Contact Network but following ARCEP feedback, it was required to review the document and discuss the feedback. Following the meeting a number of updates were identified and will be implemented in the document. The scope of this meeting was to review the document that was

presented to CN. This revision arose due o feedback sent by ARCEP directly to CN and hence resulted in a discussion for the indicators that need to be collected. During the meeting, EC representatives were present and they presented a new definition for bundle indicators which led to a complete revision of the Bundles definition and indicators. During the meeting a number of points were raised regarding the definition, the data collection process, the indicators and it was concluded that a new definition of bundles will be presented, the indicators will be reduced to a more concise number. A revised document will be distributed among the NRAs for further feedback.

## B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads

- 1. EXTENSION to consultation deadline: Virtual Unbundled Access to Fibre-To-The Home: Implementing the VULA Remedy**  
Published 3<sup>rd</sup> June: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/extension-consultation-deadline-virtual-unbundled-access-fibre-home>
- 2. Key market indicators for electronic communications and post: Q1 2011 to Q1 2015**  
Published 11<sup>th</sup> June: <http://www.mca.org.mt/statistics/key-market-indicators-electronic-communications-and-post-q1-2011-q1-2015>
- 3. Highlights and Activities for Weeks 18 to 22**  
Published 16<sup>th</sup> June: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/highlights-and-activities-weeks-18-22>
- 4. Tourism and Hospitality Sector to Benefit from Free Digital Training**  
Published 16<sup>th</sup> June: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/tourism-and-hospitality-sector-benefit-free-digital-training>
- 5. The MCA received an expression of interest from GO plc on the provision of specific measures for disables users as a universal service obligation**  
Published 25<sup>th</sup> June: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/mca-receives-expression-interest-go-plc-provision-specific-measures>
- 6. Malta retains its position as one of the EU top performers in access to fast broadband**  
Published 26<sup>th</sup> June: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/malta-retains-its-position-one-eu-top-performers-access-fast-broadband>

## C. Media participation

MCA representatives participated in various radio programmes.

### 1. Radio

03.06.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK

(Yanika Cassar – Number Portability)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq7qH5CxHYc&index=6&list=PLI8Jd\\_mlhkWf-wgb\\_MRQd\\_LfD0foOu\\_Uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq7qH5CxHYc&index=6&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw)

17.06.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK

(Mark Schembri – The use of Internet)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOr8L\\_Tmthk&index=7&list=PLI8Jd\\_mlhkWf-wgb\\_MRQd\\_LfD0foOu\\_Uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOr8L_Tmthk&index=7&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw)

22.06.15: 'It-Teknologija f'Ħajjitna' – Radju RTK

(Yanika Cassar – Mobile Data)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoBIhtsQedI&list=PLI8Jd\\_mlhkWeoYAOphJzPiLiZZ3hNMLJZ&index=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoBIhtsQedI&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWeoYAOphJzPiLiZZ3hNMLJZ&index=10)

## D. Legal Updates

### Case Sitings

- ➔ 18<sup>th</sup> June - MCA vs WE Productions – outstanding authorisation fees due to MCA. MCA presented evidence and case was adjourned for Court's decision [14<sup>th</sup> July 2015]
- ➔ 23<sup>rd</sup> June – MaltaPost vs MCA – contestation of regulatory decisions further to findings of significant market power in parcel post markets. MCA concluded with its evidence. Case adjourned to the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 for continuation before the Administrative Review Tribunal

### New appeals before the Administrative Review Tribunal

No cases were notified to the MCA during the month of June

## E. International News

### 1. REGULATION

**The Malta Independent**      *Government of Malta squarely in favour of removal of roaming tariffs*

The government of Malta is squarely on the side of EU citizens when it comes to the issue of mobile phone roaming tariffs, said Parliamentary Secretary Jose Herrera [[read more](#)].

**Gov.mt**      *IL-Gvern Malti maċ-ċittadin fuq it-tariffi tar-roaming fl-UE*  
<http://www.gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Pages/2015/June/04/pr151288.aspx>

**Politico**      *Council to Parliament: talk to the hand*

A compromise on roaming and net neutrality is as far away as ever as Council and Parliament fail to reach agreement [[read more](#)].

**The Verge**      *Google comments on EU antitrust charges: 'We don't always get it right'*

Google has addressed the anti-trust charges leveled at it by the European Union for the first time, blaming miscommunication and a difference in cultural values between the US and Europe [[read more](#)].

**The Washington Post**      *AT&T is prepared to abide by the new net neutrality rules under the DirecTV deal*

In a few weeks, federal regulators are likely to approve AT&T's \$49 billion purchase of DirecTV. To seal the deal, AT&T is expected to make several promises to soothe concerns that the acquisition could hurt consumers [[read more](#)].

**Total Telecom**      *AT&T backs 'Obamaphone'*

AT&T on Monday lent its support the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) plan to subsidise broadband access for low income households [[read more](#)].

**Politico**      *Telecoms breakfast turns out to be waffle*

A breakfast meeting touted as the make-or-break moment for the telecoms single market package proved disappointing to participants, who had hoped for progress towards banning mobile roaming charges and securing open Internet access [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television**      *Ofcom probes BT broadband prices*

Ofcom is proposing cutting what BT charges for leasing its telecoms lines, which could result in drastic price cuts for those who buy them – such as broadband operators, schools and libraries [[read more](#)].

**Total Telecom**      *Title II opponents pledge to fight on as US net neutrality rules come into force*

Opponents of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) new net neutrality rules have vowed to keep fighting, after an appeals court denied a petition to block them [[read more](#)].

**Politico**      *Brussels outlines Google antitrust case*

The European Commission has sent a redacted version of its charge sheet against Google to more than six parties that complained that the Internet giant discriminated against them in ranking shopping searches [[read more](#)].

**Telecoms.com**      *Operators call for lighter regulation to help fight OTTs*

A group of European operators, including Orange, Deutsche Telekom, Telefónica and KPN, have written to the President of the European Council urging lighter touch regulation to help them compete with OTTs [[read more](#)].

**Engadget**      *FCC appoints an ombudsperson to hear your complaints*

As it promised when it made broadband a "Title II" utility, the FCC now has an ombudsperson in charge of "open internet questions and complaints." The regulator appointed Parul P. Desai to the job, who previously worked as communications policy counsel for the non-profit society behind Consumer Reports [[read more](#)].

**The Verge** *FCC fines AT&T \$100 million for misleading customers about throttled unlimited data plans*

The FCC is fining AT&T \$100 million for misleading customers about its unlimited data plan, which was previously throttled to extremely slow speeds after a certain amount of data usage. The commission is charging AT&T with falsely labeling its plans as "unlimited" and not properly informing customers that their speeds would be slowed after it implemented throttling in 2011 [[read more](#)].

**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](#)].

## 2. INNOVATION

**Digital Trends** *Burn your bills: Denmark wants to go cashless by 2016*

According to recent reports, Denmark may go completely cashless by January of 2016, making it the first country in the world to entirely abandon paper currency in favor of electronic money [[read more](#)].

**Tech Crunch** *Doorman Raises \$1.5 Million To Eliminate Missed Package Deliveries*

A company called Doorman is trying to solve the problem of missed package deliveries by allowing customers to schedule their own deliveries as late as midnight, seven days a week [[read more](#)].



### 3. POST

**Post & Parcel** *Travel firm boss Peter Long set to become next Royal Mail chairman*

Royal Mail has named its next chairman as Peter Long, who is currently the joint CEO of travel and tourism giant TUI AG [\[read more\]](#).

**Post & Parcel** *UK government to sell remaining 30% stake in Royal Mail*

The Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has announced that UK government's remaining 30% stake in Royal Mail is to be sold off. The chancellor said the shares – currently valued at around £1.5 billion – would help to reduce the budget deficit [\[read more\]](#).

**Post & Parcel** *“Universal service remains important – but needs updating,” argue European postal chiefs*

Postal chiefs speaking at the World Mail and Express Europe conference argued that the concept of the universal service operator (USO) remains important, but needs to be updated to take into account changes in customers' needs and new technology [\[read more\]](#).

**Post & Parcel** *Canada Post wins legal battle over super mail boxes*

Ontario Superior Court Justice Alan Whitten has declared that the City of Hamilton's bylaw which sought to regulate the placement of Canada Post's community mailboxes is “inapplicable and inoperative” [\[read more\]](#).

**BBC** *Whistl ends home delivery service, putting 1,800 jobs at risk*

Postal business Whistl has confirmed it is ending its home delivery service in London, Liverpool and Manchester, putting up to 1,800 jobs at risk [\[read more\]](#).

**BBC** *Royal Mail Regulation to be Reviewed by Ofcom*

The regulation of Royal Mail is to be reviewed by Ofcom after the withdrawal of rival Whistl from the direct delivery letters market [\[read more\]](#).

**The Daily Mail** *Millions are facing junk mail deluge: Secret Royal Mail plan to deliver marketing letters to shoppers who simply click on a product online*

Homeowners will be sent ‘targeted’ junk mail based on their internet shopping habits under plans being trialled by Royal Mail [[read more](#)].

**The Verge** *Amazon reportedly wants to turn its own customers into couriers*

The Wall Street Journal is reporting that Amazon is quietly working on a smartphone app that would allow its everyday customers to start working for the online retailer and make deliveries in their area [[read more](#)].

**Post & Parcel** *Amazon leads criticisms of UPU terminal dues system before Congress*

E-commerce giant Amazon has called on Congress to help encourage “fair” competition between domestic shippers and those shipping items into the US from abroad [[read more](#)].

#### 4. SPECTRUM

**European Commission** *Results of the Lamy Report Public Consultation on 700MHz spectrum band*

The European Commission has just published the results of a public consultation on the September 2014 Lamy report concerning the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) band. The results of the consultation suggest that an EU coordinated approach, a common roadmap as well as a cost-efficient transition are needed for a successful release of the 700MHz band in the European Union (the upper part of the UHF band) [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *GSMA urges timely release of 700Mhz spectrum*

Anne Bouverot, Director General of the GSMA, which represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, has called on European regulators to give Member States the flexibility to keep pace with the changing needs of consumers by supporting a co-primary mobile broadcasting allocation in the UHF band [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *Telco bodies oppose spectrum reassignment*

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has agreed a common position which opposes the allocation of the UHF band (470-694MHz) to mobile services [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *German spectrum auction raises over €5bn*

After 16 days and 181 rounds, the spectrum auction for mobile broadband has concluded [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *France outlines 700MHz allocation plans*

France's telecoms regulator ARCEP has revealed details of its proposed allocation plans for the freed-up 700 MHz band, which will see 2x30MHz of spectrum offered to mobile operators to enable them to keep pace with increases in consumption [[read more](#)].

**Policy Tracker** *Italy Could Miss Europe's Proposed 700MHz Deadline*

The widely-endorsed Lamy report on spectrum below 790 MHz, as well as an RSPG Opinion on the subject, both supported a pan-EU deadline of 2020 (plus or minus two years) to make the band "effectively available" for mobile broadband. For this deadline to be met, cross border coordination would have to be settled by the end of 2017. However, according to a representative from its regulator Italy may struggle to meet a possible 2022 deadline to make the 700 MHz band available for mobile broadband [[read more – subscription required](#)].

**Advanced Television** *ITU roadmap for 5G mobile development*

ITU has established the overall roadmap for the development of 5G mobile and defined the term it will apply to it as "IMT-2020" [[read more](#)].

**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 Radio Communication 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](#)].

## 5. MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

**National Public Radio** *Intel Makes Biggest Bet In Its History*

The chipmaker Intel is buying a company that makes chips. Altera will cost about \$16.7 billion in cash [[read more](#)].

**Total Telecom** *John Legere will reportedly lead merged T-Mobile/Dish Network*

T-Mobile US and Dish Network are in talks over a possible merger with the former's CEO John Legere named as the likely leader of the combined entity [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *Vodafone, Liberty Global in asset-swap talks*

Vodafone Group has confirmed that it is in early-stage discussions with Liberty Global over an exchange of assets [[read more](#)].

**Reuters (UK)** *Austria becomes battleground in fight over mobile mergers*

When the number of mobile network operators competing in Austria was cut by a merger from four to three in January 2013 it was seen as an important test case just as a deal-making frenzy was about to break out among telecoms firms across Europe but there is still no consensus as to whether Austrians are better off in terms of coverage or service, and regulators and operators are disputing whether consumers are paying more [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *BT/EE merger fast-tracked*

The Competition and Markets Authority has referred BT Group's anticipated acquisition of EE Limited for an in-depth phase 2 investigation [[read more](#)].

**Telecoms.com** *BT persists with EE merger propaganda campaign*

BT has fired another salvo in its PR campaign to persuade the UK competition authority to OK its acquisition of EE, arguing the combination will result in a "true UK digital champion" [[read more](#)].

**Nokia** *U.S. Department of Justice Permits Nokia and Alcatel-Lucent to Proceed With Proposed Combination*

Nokia announced that the US Department of Justice granted an early termination to the US anti-trust waiting period, enabling Nokia to proceed with its merger with Alcatel-Lucent [[read more](#)].

**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](#)].

## 6. DIGITAL AGENDA

**European Commission** *Digital Skills: New National Coalitions for Digital Jobs to be Launched in Belgium, Cyprus, the Netherlands and the UK*

4 new National Coalitions for Digital Skills and Jobs in Belgium, Cyprus, the Netherlands, and the UK were announced at the Workshop Digital Skills for the Digital Single Market of the European Digital Assembly in Riga [[read more](#)].

**European Commission** *Digital Agenda Scoreboard 2015: Most Targets Reached, Time Has Come to Lift Digital Borders*

The European Commission has just released new data and analysis on digital performance in the EU in 2014 [[read more](#)].

**European Commission** *Implementation of the EU Regulatory Framework for Electronic Communications – 2015*

This is the 19th monitoring report on the electronic communications market and regulations, covering in particular key market and regulatory developments in 2014 [[read more](#)].

## 7. BROADBAND

**Total Telecom** *UK consumers can walk away from slow broadband*

U.K. consumers will be able to walk away from their broadband contract if service providers fail to live up to their promises on speed, under a new code of practice from Ofcom [[read more](#)].

**Advanced Television** *Vodafone fixed-line broadband for UK*

MNO Vodafone is launching a fixed-line broadband service in the UK. Initially the service will be offered in Manchester, Berkshire and parts of Hampshire and Surrey [[read more](#)].

### Disclaimer

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