

NEWSLETTER

Highlights and activities for Weeks 18 - 22 (01.05.15 – 31.05.15)

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A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives

1. BEREC meeting to discuss the review of the Electronic Communications Framework

In May, the MCA participated in a meeting convened by the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) to discuss with the European Commission the upcoming review of the Electronic Communications Regulatory Framework. The discussions focused on the main aspects enshrined in the current rules and deliberated on the shape that a future legal framework should take in view that this would come into force around 2018/2019.

2. RSPG – Radio Spectrum Policy Group Informal Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on a number of recent developments in particular the initiative by the European Commission (EC) on the Digital Single Market and to prepare for the RSPG meeting scheduled for the 12th June 2015. Discussions took place on WRC15 and the 700MHz band amongst others.

3. BEREC / IRG Contact Network (2nd BEREC Contact Network 2015)

The MCA attended the 2nd meeting of the BEREC Contact Network for 2015, which took place on 14 and 15 May 2015 in Budva, Montenegro. This event was hosted by the Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro (EKIP). The main objective of the meeting was to make the necessary preparations in view of the 23rd ordinary plenary meetings of the BEREC Board of Regulators and the BEREC Office Management Committee which will take place on 4 and 5 June 2015 in Bergen (Norway).

4. PO – EU Market Postal Statistics (Regulatory Meeting on Postal Statistics)

This is an annual meeting set by DG-MRKT to discuss the postal indicators that are being analysed. During the meeting, an overview of the data collected is presented and the issues encountered will be further discussed so that it would be possible to minimise the issues for the next data collection process. Also the next questionnaire is discussed for any clarifications required. During the meeting, a number of operators deliver a presentation regarding their data collection for postal statistics in which they describe the development and the problems that they encounter to collect such information.

5. BEREC – Market & Econ Analysis (Full MEA EWG Meeting)

BEREC's Market and Economic Analysis Working Group held a meeting in Brussels on the 21st of May. This meeting was attended by Kevin Caruana. The discussion mainly focused on the finalization of the BEREC Report on Oligopoly Analysis and Regulation, which will be discussed at Plenary in the first week of June. The BEREC work stream on post-mergers & acquisitions across the EU also featured on the agenda, with the discussion focusing on the objectives of the study and the way forward. This work stream will be dealt with in the latter half of this year and is envisaged to be concluded in 2016. Reference was also made to a BEREC internal workshop on the implementation of the Recommendation on Relevant markets and the Common Position on the Geographical Segmentation of markets, which will be held in October

2015. This event will serve as an opportunity to NRAs to share their cases and explain how these new market reviews (under the new Recommendation) are being handled.

6. ERGP Contact Network Meeting

On the 26th May, the MCA attended to the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) Contact Network meeting which takes place biannually and carries out the preparatory work for the Plenary meetings.

7. IS – Managment (ICT for Development)

The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2015 represents the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community. The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators, has proven to be an efficient mechanism for coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals.

8. BEREC – WG Benchmarking (Drafters meeting regarding the OTT Indicators BEREC group)

As part of the OTT benchmarking process, a questionnaire was sent to all NRAs regarding the data collected about OTT. During this meeting, an overview of the results will be presented from which the drafters have to write a document that will be presented to CN in which they have to outline the current OTT data collection and possible way forwards.

9. IS –BeSmartOnline 3 (Insafe Training Meeting and Steering Committee)

This training meeting focused on a number of current issues and risks being faced by European children. Mr. Bruno Jakic opened the meeting with a discussion on the "Internet of things". He spoke about how such a development, which will see everyday electronic items being connected to the Internet, will be in a position to monitor and evaluate a host of personal information about us. This data could be used for relatively trivial matters, such as the car sound system playing music dependent on the occupants mood to the more serious health related issues. He spoke about the importance of making sure this data is well protected and used for the advantage of citizens. He explained how such information could be used to strongly shift the balance towards insurance companies who can make use of information such as how much alcohol one consumes, to exclude or higher one's premium. Dr. M. Conway, a senior lecturer in International Security in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University and a principal investigator on VOX-Pol (voxpole.eu), gave an overview on how the Internet, particularly social media, is used by extremists to attract sympathy and also recruit western teens. She focused on how Safer Internet Centres like BeSmartOnline! can deal with such issues. In addition, Dr. Conway navigated through Twitter, Facebook and other social networks and blogs to inform those present on how to identify content, symbols and imagery frequently used by these groups.

B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads

1. **Seminar: MCA seeks stakeholders' views on the establishment of a new submarine cable link for Malta**
Published 23rd April: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/mca-seeks-stakeholders-views-establishment-new-submarine-cable-link-malta>
2. **Vacancy for Office Assistant**
Published 19th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/careers/vacancy-office-assistant>
3. **The MCA and its employees collect EUR825 in aid of Puttinu Cares Foundation**
Published 15th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/mca-and-its-employees-collect-eur825-aid-puttinu-cares-foundation>
4. **Highlights and Activities for Weeks 14 to 17**
Published 14th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/highlights-and-activities-weeks-14-17>
5. **Decision on the Universal Service Obligations on Electronic Communication Services**
Published 12th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/decisions/decision-universal-service-obligations-electronic-communication-services>
6. **SMEs benefit from information sessions on Internet Marketing**
Published 7th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/smes-benefit-information-sessions-internet-marketing>
7. **TAKEOFF turns one year**
Published 6th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/consumer/notices-and-announcements/takeoff-turns-one-year>
8. **Career Development Programme**
Published 4th May: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/career-development-programme>

C. MCA Events

15th May: Puttinu Cares 60 hour football and volleyball Marathon

In the wake of the Puttinu Cares 60 hour football and volleyball marathon held last week, the MCA is proud of its employees who got together and participated in such a charitable cause. Employees donated without hesitation and collected a total of €825. 'The MCA is a regulatory institution behind which lies a formidable team of professional individuals who strive to obtain results but who also come together for the good of others,' said a member of the Social Committee. This is one of several social activities the Authority participates in or organises throughout the year as part of its corporate social responsibility programme.



7th May: SMEs benefit from information sessions on Internet Marketing

As part of its remit to facilitate the promotion of ICT applications in business operations, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) is currently leading an initiative aimed at addressing potential misconceptions on the use of Internet marketing and highlight how effective this can be in bringing in new business leads amongst local small entrepreneurs, whilst increasing reach to new markets. With the assistance of the Malta Enterprise and the Kordin Business Incubation Centre (KBIC), the MCA is organising a number of short information sessions for entrepreneurs who are seeking to gain an insight into the business value of internet marketing and how it can be leveraged to achieve competitive advantage.



D. Media participation

MCA representatives participated in various radio programmes.

1. Radio

25.05.15: 'It-Teknoloġija f'Ħajjtna' – Radju RTK

(Mark Spiteri – BeSmartOnline! Study Findings ICT use by Minors)

20.05.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK

(Nicholas Vella + Marcelle Attard – Introduction to Internet Banking Sessions)

(Mark Spiteri – Study Findings ICT use by Minors)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnspbaCUkU8&index=5&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw

06.05.15: 'Għalina Lkoll' – Radju RTK

(Matthew Borg – Overview Information Society Projects Part 2)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjrfYonOMA&index=4&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWf-wgb_MRQd_LfD0foOu_Uw

2. TVM News Feature: Launch of Project CoderDojo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4TuHbkRAIw&index=16&list=PLI8Jd_mlhkWc9k0ly9ko7VQNhTqRG TIC

E. Legal Updates

Case Sittings

- ➔ 14th May: Vodafone vs MCA – contestation by Vodafone of MCA’s regulatory decision issued in 2014 establishing mobile termination rates. In this sitting MCA’s foreign consultant gave evidence in cross-examination.
- ➔ 18th May: MaltaPost vs MCA – contestation of regulatory decision defining SMP in certain parcel post markets. MaltaPost continued to submit their evidence in this case.
- ➔ 19th May: Melita Plc vs Direttur Generali (Konsumatur) – MCCA et pending before the Competition & Consumer Appeals Tribunal. In this case Melita are contesting administrative fines imposed by MCCA following the carriage by Melita in 2010-12 of adverts with the word ‘unlimited’ in relation to some of these products. In this sitting MCCA continued with their evidence. Case stands adjourned for continuation of evidence by the MCCA.

New appeals before the Administrative Review Tribunal

Three new appeals were filed against the MCA namely:

- 24/2015VG – appeal by Vodafone contesting MCA’s regulatory decision on the retail access market relating to fixed telephony
- 25/2015VG – appeal by Melita contesting MCA’s regulatory decision on the retail access market relating to fixed telephony
- 31/2015VG – appeal by Melita contesting MCA’s regulatory decision on wholesale access to data and the provision of publicly available directory services

F. International News

1. REGULATION

Ars Technica *Tom Wheeler tells cable industry to stop complaining, start competing*

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler spoke to cable companies at their annual conference, telling them it's time to move beyond the net neutrality debate and start boosting competition [\[read more\]](#).

Ars Technica *Broadband industry fears come true: FCC rules are costing them money*

Broadband industry trade groups have gone back to court, demanding an immediate halt to the Federal Communications Commission decision to reclassify Internet access as a common carrier service [\[read more\]](#).

Mashable *FCC fines Sprint and Verizon \$158 million for shady billing practices*

The Federal Communications Commission is taking Sprint and Verizon to task for billing practices that hid extra charges in customers' bills [\[read more\]](#).

Mashable *The Netflix Tax: How to avoid the government's tax on fun*

From July 1, 2017, foreign businesses that sell digital goods and services to Australians — from streaming platforms and music downloads to e-books — will have to charge a 10% Goods and Services Tax (GST) [\[read more\]](#).

POLITICO *New Glitch in Telecoms Talk*

A surprise issue has crept into last-ditch negotiations over proposed telecoms regulations in the European Union: zero rating [\[read more\]](#).

Advanced Television *BT challenges Ofcom 'margin squeeze' test*

BT says it will take Ofcom to a court over the watchdog's decision to introduce restrictions on the wholesale price of superfast broadband [\[read more\]](#).

Post & Parcel *SingPost to trial personalised parcel locker delivery*

Singapore Post has unveiled a new personalised version of its parcel locker delivery system, the POPStation [\[read more\]](#).

Post & Parcel *Local UK bicycle post company trials mail box service*

Velopost, a company which operates bicycle postal delivery networks in Bristol, Bath and Edinburgh, is trialling its own post box collection service [\[read more\]](#).

Post & Parcel *USPS developing mail and package notification services*

The US Postal Service is working on new services to notify customers when mail or parcels are being delivered to their mailbox [\[read more\]](#).

2. INTERNET

Tech Crunch *As Acquisition Rumours Swirl, Free Mobile Service FreedomPop Goes Live In The UK*
FreedomPop, the mobile carrier that gives away mobile, data and text services and upsells users on other services, is today announcing its first international launch outside of the U.S [\[read more\]](#).

BBC *China reveals ambitious broadband plan*

China is to accelerate the development of its high-speed broadband network to raise speeds but cut prices, its State Council has said [\[read more\]](#).

3. INNOVATION

Tech Crunch *Google Integrates Food Ordering Into Search Results For Restaurants*

Google now lets users in the U.S. order food from six companies—Seamless, Grubhub, Eat24, Delivery.com, BeyondMenu, and MyPizza.com—directly from search results [\[read more\]](#).

Digital Trends *The world's first nine dollar computer has more ports than the MacBook*

Microcontrollers like Arduino and Raspberry Pi have become very popular in recent years, but their functionality is primarily aimed at hobbyists and coders, rather than being a small-scale computer in their own right. Now, a new product on Kickstarter looks set to make the idea of a microcomputer more attainable than ever [\[read more\]](#).

4. POST

Post & Parcel *TNT Italy launches bicycle delivery service in Milan*

Express carrier TNT Italy has launched a new bike delivery service within the city of Milan [\[read more\]](#).

Post & Parcel *An Post back in the black, as cost-cutting programme hits targets*

Ireland's An Post returned to the black last year, thanks to cost-cutting efforts and growth in its parcels business. The state-owned national postal service said it turned around the EUR 11.4m loss seen in 2013 into a EUR 5.9m profit for the 2014 year [\[read more\]](#).

European Commission *Internet shopping? Public consultation on cross-border parcel delivery*

The European Commission is launching an online public consultation on parcel delivery – one of the main priorities in the development of a Digital Single Market in the EU [\[read more\]](#).

Post & Parcel *Singapore Parliament passes drones regulation bill*

Members of the Singapore Parliament voted yesterday (11 May) to pass the Unmanned Aircraft (Public Safety and Security) Bill [\[read more\]](#).

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Post & Parcel *Local UK bicycle post company trials mail box service*

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Post & Parcel *USPS developing mail and package notification services*

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Post & Parcel *DPD extends Saturday deliveries as standard to 90% of German population*

DPD Germany says it has now rolled out Saturday deliveries as a standard option for parcels for around 90% of the German population. The carrier said the offering was available for rural areas as well as cities [\[read more\]](#).

Post & Parcel *ParcelHome launches three-month trial for intelligent letterbox*

ParcelHome is running a three-month trial for its “intelligent letterboxes” in the Belgian city of Mechelen. The carriers DHL Parcel, GLS and DPD are taking part in the trial – and ParcelHome reports that this makes

it “a world first collaboration in the field smart package boxes shared amongst multiple carriers” [[read more](#)].

5. SPECTRUM

Policy Tracker *UK regulator not targeting satellite or WiGig bands for 5G*

Ofcom is not planning to target the satellite industry's core bands or WiGig frequencies for IMT-2020 identification at WRC-19 [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Total Telecom *EU opens up 1452 MHz-1492 MHz band for mobile broadband*

The European Commission moved to open up spectrum in the 1452 MHz-1492 MHz band for mobile broadband services with a particular view to adding downlink capacity [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *UK election result clears the way for LTE PPDR project*

The UK Home Office's controversial project to replace its TETRA network with an LTE system hosted by a public mobile operator could now be continued after the Conservative Party won a surprise majority in the UK general election [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *FCC consults on LTE in unlicensed spectrum*

US regulator the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a consultation on the potential opportunities and risks of using LTE in unlicensed bands [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Telecoms.com *Ofcom unveils plans to auction new 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz spectrum*

UK telecoms regulator Ofcom has announced plans to auction spectrum currently being used by the Ministry of Defence in the 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz bands [[read more](#)].

European Commission *EU and Japan announce cooperation on 5G mobile technology*

On the occasion of the EU-Japan summit, both parties have announced a milestone agreement in the global race to develop 5G mobile technology. The EU and Japan have agreed to join forces to cope with the increasing need for wireless Internet [[read more](#)].

6. ANTI-TRUST: EU vs. GOOGLE

Business Standard *EU Opens Anti-Trust Probe Into eCommerce Sector*

European officials opened an antitrust investigation into whether large technology companies were impeding competition in online shopping, the latest in a string of inquiries in Europe focused on the web's biggest players [[read more](#)].

7. MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Total Telecom *Netflix urges FCC to block AT&T-DirecTV deal*

OTT giant says merged company would have 'powerful incentives' to harm online video providers [[read more](#)].

Politico *Vestager on telecoms collision course with Juncker*

The European competition commissioner plans to take a closer look at acquisitions, sparking potential tensions with her boss [[read more](#)].

The Verge *US government probably won't stop the AT&T-DirecTV merger, report says*

AT&T's acquisition of DirecTV is likely to receive approval from regulators, creating the largest pay TV company in the US, according to The Wall Street Journal [[read more](#)].

re/code *Verizon Buys AOL for \$4.4 Billion*

Verizon, which will pay \$50 a share for AOL, says the deal will help its "wireless video and OTT (over-the-top video) strategy." Verizon says the transaction should close this summer [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *EE deal will enhance competition in UK, BT tells CMA*

U.K. operator submits its proposed £12.5 billion acquisition of EE to the competition watchdog [[read more](#)].

Advanced Television *Deutsche Telekom acquires 100% of Slovak Telekom*

Deutsche Telekom is acquiring the 49 per cent stake of Slovak Telekom that it does not already own for a purchase price of €900 million [[read more](#)].

Advanced Television *Mediaset, Sky Italia plot pay-TV alliance*

Italian broadcasters Mediaset and Sky Italia are negotiating a pay-TV alliance that could create a monopoly in the sector [[read more](#)].

Telecoms.com *Orange acquisition of Jazztel cleared after concessions*

The European Commission has finally given the acquisition of Spanish fixed-line player Jazztel by French mobile operator Operator Orange the green light, subject to some concessions from Orange [[read more](#)].

Business Insider *Charter Communications buys Time Warner Cable for over \$55 billion*

US cable company Charter Communications officially announced that it's buying Time Warner Cable, with a far more generous offer than the botched attempt by Comcast that unravelled in April [[read more](#)].

8. DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

European Commission *A Digital Single Market for Europe: Commission sets out 16 initiatives to make it happen*

The Digital Single Market Strategy has been adopted and includes a set of targeted actions to be delivered by the end of next year [[read more](#)].

EUbusiness *EU unveils Digital Single Market: Consumers must be central*

The EU's Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy, a top priority of the Juncker Commission, has been published [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *European Commission unveils digital single market strategy*

The two European commissioners who deal with spectrum have talked up the prospects for their proposals at the launch of Europe's "digital single market" strategy, despite the fact that similar initiatives have been consistently rejected by EU member states in the Council of Ministers [[read more](#) – subscription required].

9. NET NEUTRALITY

Ars Technica *Report: EU member states seek to dump net neutrality completely*

The French digital rights organisation La Quadrature du Net claims to have obtained a leaked copy of a "non-paper" on the hotly-contested matter of net neutrality, apparently written by the presidency of the Council of the EU, currently held by Latvia [\[read more\]](#).

Ars Technica *AT&T CEO confident Title II will be overturned by courts or Congress*

AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson last November claimed he would pause the company's fiber investments because of the impending broadband reclassification and imposition of net neutrality rules [\[read more\]](#).

re/code *Why Facebook's Internet.org Is Stumbling in India*

Over the past month, critics hammered Facebook's Internet.org, the company's initiative to bring wireless Internet access to everyone in the world [\[read more\]](#).

10. INFORMATION SOCIETY

Ofcom *Half of UK homes turn to tablets - in just five years*

The tablet computer has established itself as a must-have device in just five years with more than half of UK homes now owning one [\[read more\]](#).

StartUpJuncture *Neelie Kroes launches CodePact to get people digitally skilled*

The 21st of May saw the official launch of CodePact, an initiative between public and private partners to get more people digitally skilled. Because, according to special envoy for startups Neelie Kroes, all jobs ask for some form of digital knowledge [\[read more\]](#).

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