

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1st ITU Inter-Regional Workshop on WRC-23 - Preparation

The 1st ITU Inter-regional workshop on WRC-23 preparation took place online between the 13th and the 15th of December 2021. During the meeting, a number of regional groups expressed their draft preliminary common views/position on different WRC-23 agenda items. In addition, round tables allowed participants to share their views, which also provided more clarity on the most challenging agenda items that will be discussed during WRC-23.

49th BEREC Plenary Meeting and 4th IRG General Assembly

MCA participated in the meetings held on 9th & 10th December in Stockholm, hosted by PTS, the Swedish national regulatory authority. The BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) held an extensive discussion on the application of the Open Internet Regulation and the need to update its Guidelines following the recent rulings of the European Court of Justice – the updated Guidelines will be published for public consultation in March 2022. The BoR also approved for publication a draft report regarding the consistent migration and copper switch-off approach. Stakeholders are invited to provide input to this public consultation by 28th January 2022. In line with the obligation emanating from the European Electronic Communications Code, BEREC also adopted an Opinion on the market and technological developments and on their impact on the application of end user rights in the Code. BEREC's Work Programme 2022 was also adopted. A full list of public documents adopted at the 49th plenary meeting is available on the BEREC website.

Of relevance to Malta, was also a decision adopted by the BEREC Management Board that designated Mr Jesmond Bugeja (MCA, CEO) as one of the two Reporting Officers entrusted to carry out the appraisal of the Director of the BEREC Office for the period 1st January to 31st December 2021.

BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group Presentations to the 49th BEREC Plenary

During the 49th BEREC Plenary the Co-chairs of the BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group (ENG), Isabel Fereday (MCA) and Jennifer Gartland (ComReg) presented the BEREC Communications Strategy which sets out an overall approach on how BEREC connects with its stakeholders and is complemented by the BEREC Message House, the annual BEREC Communications Plan and an annual internal editorial plan of communications activities.

The purpose of this Strategy is to promote the work of BEREC and its achievements to external stakeholders by streamlining the internal workings of the BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group, the BEREC Office Communications Team and other respective actors.

This Strategy describes the objectives, resources, review process and a way of working, target audience, communications channels, identity and branding, message house, communications channels, editorial plan, and evaluation methods foreseen for BEREC's external communications. The Strategy is considered to be long-term, open-ended and standalone, and BEREC may revise it whenever needed.

The Co-Chairs also presented the BEREC Communications Plan 2022 which sets out the communications activities that are planned for the year. The objective is to strengthen the perception of BEREC as an impartial, independent, European, forward-looking expert body and in support of the BEREC overall strategic objectives – including promoting competition, investment and the internal market and empowering and protecting end-users.

This plan complements the BEREC External Communications Strategy, which sets out the overall approach of BEREC to communications. The communications activities for 2022 will continue the work of the BEREC Communications Plan 2021.

This document sets out the objectives of the communications campaign, activities planned, target audience and expected results. The main idea of the activities is to develop and provide qualitative information to the BEREC key target audience and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), which

could be a source of information for them in their communications activities.

This Communications Plan includes multi-annual projects foreseen to continue into 2023.

The Message House was also presented this builds on the BEREC External Communications Strategy that has been elaborated by the BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group and the BEREC Office Communications Team. Together with the BEREC External Communications Strategy, the Message House is the framework used to guide all of the BEREC communications from social media to traditional outlets. It outlines the objectives of communicating, target audience, channels used, content creation process and tools to keep track of progress. The Message House ensures cohesiveness in the content produced, formats and visual assets. It is the strategic tool that ensures all communications go in the same direction, as approved by the BEREC Chair.

77th Radio Spectrum Committee Meeting

An MCA official attended the 77th Radio Spectrum Committee Meeting on the 9th December 2021. The meeting continued discussing draft instruments aimed at harmonising the use of radio spectrum within the European Union. In particular, the meeting agreed on the text of draft Commission Implementing Decisions amending the Short Range Devices, 5 GHz Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Networks and the 900 MHz/1800 MHz Decisions.

2nd Postal Directive Committee Meeting

On the 2nd December 2021 a member of the MCA participated in the second Postal Directive Committee (PDC) meeting for 2021. The PDC established by the European Postal Services Directive (PSD) serves as a scrutiny body for the application of postal legislation and for the improvement of quality of service, notably the establishment of quality standards for intra-EU cross-border services. The meeting discussed the 'Report on the application of the Postal Services Directive' and the 'Report on the Application and implementation of the Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services' issued by the European Commission on the 8th November 2021. The PDC was updated on the study being carried out to assess and analyse the impact of e-commerce driven transport and parcel

delivery on air pollution and CO2 emissions. In addition, the PDC was informed about the ongoing and planned work on postal standardisation and the documents adopted by the ERGP in 2021.

Communications Expert Working Group Meeting & Workshop

In the first week of December the Communications Expert Working Group held a workshop and group meeting. The Co-chairs of the BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group (ENG), Isabel Fereday (MCA) and Jennifer Gartland (ComReg) opened the meeting and thanked all the participants for attending - some were participating physically in Brussels, some connected remotely. The external contractor presented the Agenda, and the purpose of the 2nd December workshop, which was to reflect on the outcomes of the website audit and to discuss the first steps for 2022 – the conceptualization of three different website designs, based on the results of the outcomes of the research phase.

PUBLICATIONS

Market Potential and Regulatory Aspects concerning VHC Broadband Competition in Malta

Published On: Dec 29th 2021 *News*

MCA International News Week 27

Published On: Dec 21st 2021 *News*

Monthly Newsletter - November 2021

Published On: Dec 16th 2021 *News*

Number Portability in Malta - Consultation and Proposed Decision

Published On: Dec 15th 2021 *Consultation*

Modalities of Payment for General Authorisations and Rights of Use under the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act

Published On: Dec 14th 2021 *Decision*

Modalities of Payment for Authorisations under the Postal Services Act - Consultation on Proposed Amendment to the Directive

Published On: Dec 10th 2021 *Consultation*

MCA International News Week 26

Published On: Dec 2nd 2021 *News*

LEGAL UPDATES

[1] Publication of a New Directive on Modalities of Payment for General Authorisations and Rights of Use under the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act - see link below
<https://www.mca.org.mt/consultations-decisions/modalities-payment-general-authorisations-and-rights-use-under-electronic-10>

[2] Consultation on amendment to Directive No.1 of 2005 entitled 'Directive of the Modalities of Payment for Authorisations under the Postal Services Act - see link below
<https://www.mca.org.mt/consultations-decisions/modalities-payment-general-authorisations-and-rights-use-under-electronic-1>