

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ITU Inter-Regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ITU Inter-Regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation was held in a hybrid environment between the 29<sup>th</sup> of November and the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022. During the meeting, the results of the ITU-R studies were presented and a number of regional groups expressed their draft preliminary common views and/or 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.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Postal Directive Committee Meeting**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 a member of the MCA participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Postal Directive Committee (PDC) meeting for 2022. Presentations were delivered on developments in the postal sector, Digital Markets Act, State Aid cases in the postal sector, and developments in work on postal standardization and International issues.

## **Ad Hoc Expert Group for the Digital Single Market Meeting**

Bernard Agius, a senior officer, represented the MCA in the Ad Hoc Expert Group for the Digital Single Market that met on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to discuss the Delegated Act (DA); specifying the methodology and procedures for the application of the supervisory fees levied by the European Commission as provided for in Article 43 of the Digital Services Act (DSA). CION opened the meeting and explained that the main goal of the meeting was to discuss the DA on the fees, and that delegations were invited to provide written comments on the text by Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. CION also provided an update on the state of play of other secondary legislation related to the DSA, including the Implementing Regulation on internal procedures, the Delegated Act on performance of audits, and the Delegated Act on data access. Enrico Camilli then presented the draft Delegated Act on the fees and answered questions and comments from member state delegations. Delegations raised issues such as the calculation of the basic formula, the treatment of loss-making platforms, the difference between the scope of the fees and the scope of the DSA, and the definition of "systemic importance." The meeting concluded with the Commission thanking delegations for their participation and promising to take their comments into consideration in the finalization of the DA.

## **11<sup>th</sup> WADEX Meeting - Google's Approach to Accessibility**

During this webinar, which was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Mr Christopher Patnoe, who leads Google's efforts around the accessibility of

product, explained in some detail Google's approach to accessibility. Mr Patnoe stated that part of Google's mission is to make information as universally accessible as possible even in view of the fact that disability affects practically everyone to some degree and in different stages of life. In fact, disability can be a permanent condition as well as temporary, or an age related one. Also, it could be a condition affecting close friends, family or relatives, hence, at some point, everyone stumbles into such difficulties and accessibility to information is key to ensure inclusion at all times. Mr Patnoe explained how Google believes in progress rather than perfection. Back in 2009, Google introduced its first automatic captioning in English which was far from perfect but was, nonetheless, an important start. Over time, the improvement on inclusive products was constant and today, Google offers tools like the "Live Transcribe" App allowing real time transcriptions in over 80 different languages.

At Google, people with disabilities are consulted and involved in every stage of the design, development and testing of accessibility products. And even though prior to launching of products, extensive testing is carried out on various accessibility tools, Google is always committed to the continuous improvement of its products and after a product is launched, feedback is taken very seriously. Mr Patnoe stated that only in this way can accessibility become more robust and relevant over time. Google offers also a suite of products aimed to assist developers in creating accessible platforms, tools like "Android Studio", "Espresso" or the "Accessibility Scanner". These tools are able to scan and run automated tests that assess accessibility levels and offer recommendations on how to improve accessibility.

## 53<sup>rd</sup> BEREC Plenary

MCA participated in the 53<sup>rd</sup> BEREC ordinary meetings held in Prague on 8-9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. A Working Arrangements agreement was signed between BEREC and the Ukrainian National Commission for State Regulation of Electronic Communications (NCEC). The NCEC is now formally allowed to participate in the day-to-day work of BEREC's Board of Regulators and to join BEREC's working groups. The document is based on the Working Arrangements that BEREC and BEREC Office have signed with other participating NRA's without voting rights. BEREC's Work Programme 2023, along with a number of other documents. A full list of BEREC's public documents adopted at the 53<sup>rd</sup> ordinary plenary meetings will be available on the BEREC's website. The 54<sup>th</sup> BEREC ordinary meetings will be virtual and take place on 9-10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

It is worth noting that the BEREC Management Board approved a decision whereby MCA CEO Jesmond Bugeja, is designated as one of the four Reporting Officers to appraise the Director of the BEREC Office. The other designated Officers are: Roberto Viola (European Commission), Annegret Groebel (BNetzA) and Robert Mourouk (Comreg).

## P2B Expert Group on the proposed dedicated P2B WIKI

An MCA official participated in an online meeting was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 by the P2B Expert Group on the proposed dedicated P2B WIKI.

Following are some highlights from the meeting:

1. A presentation was delivered by Belgium explaining the purpose of the P2B network and updated the expert group on the work accomplished so far. It highlighted the need for collaboration between member states in this area due to the cross-border nature of eCommerce within the EU. Quarterly meetings were proposed, as well as other activities such as joint sweeps, etc.
2. A tour of the P2B Wiki by Ireland followed. Alan O'Connor mentioned the different areas that were created within this space, explaining the respective purpose and functionality of each segment, namely 'knowledge hub', 'call for information', 'coordinated activities' and 'country pages'. He remarked that member states can add more users to the wiki (EU login is required).
3. Denmark briefly explained the confidentiality terms for viewing and handling of information within the P2B wiki.
4. France provided a practical example (using the Apple case) on how the 'call for information' within the P2B wiki could be applied.
5. ACM (Netherlands), the authority which will be responsible for the supervision of the P2B Regulation once the legislative process is completed, carried out a market study, as well as published draft guidelines for consultation. The latter explains the specific obligations whilst it also offers guidance on how best to implement the regulation. It also highlights specific obligations and rights with the intent of creating more awareness. It was noted that the guidelines are not legally-binding. This was followed by a briefing from Agcom (Italy), the authority responsible for

overseeing the P2B Regulation, on the guidelines it also issued following a monitoring exercise, as well as consultation with the various stakeholders. Both documents will be shared with the other member states through the 'knowledge hub' on the P2B wiki.

6. The Commission informed the floor that the report on the implementation of the P2B Regulation will be published in the coming weeks, possibly before end of 2022.

## 81<sup>st</sup> Radio Spectrum Committee Meeting

The MCA participated in the 81<sup>st</sup> Radio Spectrum Committee meeting, which was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The agenda of the meeting included the following key items:

- (i) harmonization of the 40.5 - 43.5 MHz band for terrestrial systems capable of providing wireless broadband electronic communications services,
- (ii) local area networks in the 3.8 - 4.2 GHz band,
- (iii) Intelligent Transport Systems and
- (iv) the Radio Equipment Directive.

## PUBLICATIONS

### MCA Decision concerning the Wholesale Market for the

### Provision of Dedicated Capacity in Malta

Published On: Dec 23rd 2022 [Decision](#)

### Product and Price Developments Publication - July to Sept 2022

Published On: Dec 23rd 2022 [Monthly Pricing Developments](#)

### MCA International News Week 40-42 - 2022

Published On: Dec 22nd 2022 [News](#)

### Monthly Newsletter - November 2022

Published On: Dec 21st 2022 [News](#)

### Accounts Clerk

Published On: Dec 20th 2022 [Recruitment](#)

### Business Perception Survey - Large and Medium - ECS 2021

Published On: Dec 15th 2022 [Business Perception](#)

### Review of 'Must Carry' Obligations

Published On: Dec 6th 2022 [Consultation](#)

# Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post: Q1 2018 to Q2 2022

Published On: Dec 2nd 2022 [Data Report Sheet](#)

## EVENTS

### Women4IT Training Programme



The Malta Communications Authority participated in the Women4IT training programme which was organized by Tech.mt in December. As part of the Women4IT training programme, Tech.mt has organized a round of Empowerment and Job Shadowing sessions with the participation of Mr Johan Mifsud, an Executive at ESkills Malta Foundation, Mr Joseph Seychell, Senior Manager – ICT & Digital Services at Malta Communications Authority - MCA and Ms Elke Sghendo from Reġjun Punent.

The main topics addressed included valuable insights on how to prepare for a job interview with confidence and clarity, the top employability skills in the today's labour market, the transition to the world of work, and finally, how the SMART goal setting method sets you up for success.

## The MCA and The Malta Chamber of Commerce sign MoU



The Malta Communications Authority and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the aim of establishing a collaboration framework to advance digital services and promote regulatory compliance amongst local businesses.

Both parties agreed to work towards sharing knowledge and expertise through joint education and awareness initiatives with the objective of keeping businesses on a level with digital services developments and related regulations. The mutual collaboration will help Maltese businesses in ensuring that it is aware of the latest updates in the field of digitalisation particularly where eCommerce regulations, website and apps accessibility, trust services, and the Digital Service Act are concerned.

The agreement was signed by Jesmond Bugeja, CEO of MCA, Marisa Xuereb and Dr Marthese Portelli, President and CEO of The Malta Chamber respectively.