

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Digital Markets Act Workshop

The MCA participated in a Heads Workshop organised by BEREC on the Digital Markets Act on 24th February 2021. BEREC members had the opportunity to discuss the DMA proposal with representatives from the European institutions – Ms. Rita Wezenbeek (Director, DG CONNECT), Ms. Anna Cavazzini (IMCO Chair, European Parliament), and Ms. Tamara Weingerl-Požar, Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the EU. The Workshop was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Alexandre de Stree, Professor EU law, Namur University and CERRE who gave a keynote speech.

Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group Meeting

As the regulatory authority for the Web Accessibility Directive (WAD), the MCA attended the planned Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group (WADEX) meeting on 23rd February 2021. These meetings are held on a schedule and are meant to bring together website accessibility experts across the EU who are working on the WAD.

One main aspect of the WAD relates to an on-going monitoring and reporting process which the MCA is working on as per the WAD's requirements. This process aims to improve the accessibility of public sector websites over time in a proactive manner. This process includes a relatively high number of sample websites that are assessed on a yearly basis and part of these assessments is carried out using specialised tools that are designed to assist human website assessors. The meeting discussed the various tools and technologies which are available on the market at present. The benefits and any shortcomings in such tools were also discussed to improve this process across all member states.

The European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) Workgroup Meetings

During February, several ERGP meetings kicked-off to launch the various projects for 2021. The work of ERGP focuses on postal market development and ongoing challenges. Some of

the projects that ERGP is tackling this year relate to further analysis of the Covid impact, the cross-border postal market development and other matters.

Fixed & Mobile Termination Rates – Euro rates

Last year, the Commission published its study and draft Delegated Act regarding the fixed and mobile termination rate. Following the Delegated Act's finalisation, the Commission held meetings with the Member states on 17th February, 2021 to discuss and review any queries. NRAs submitted their questions before the meeting, and the Commission reviewed and tackled these pending matters during the session.

1st BEREC Contact Network 2021

The MCA participated in the 1st BEREC Contact Network 2021 held remotely on the 11th and 12th February. The objective of the Meeting was to prepare for the 46th Board of Regulators (BoR) Meeting planned for the following month, in March. During the Contact Network, the respective Expert Working Groups and BEREC Office presented to the Contact Network members a number of documents (including Guidelines, Reports and Opinions) as well as Oral updates on ongoing/completed BEREC deliverables.

29th Meeting of the Electronic Communications Committee Working Group NaN2 – Number Portability, Switching and Trust in Numbering

Representatives of the MCA participated in this remote meeting which was held between the 10th and 11th February 2021. Items on the agenda included drafting sessions for ongoing deliverables, a presentation on CLI Spoofing by an industry representative, and a discussion on number portability obligations emanating from the European Electronic Communications Code.

The 98th Working Group on Frequency Management (WGFM#98)

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) is responsible for developing strategies, plans and implementation advice for radio spectrum management within CEPT (European Conference for Postal and Telecommunication Administrations). The last meeting was held online, between the 8th and 12th February 2021. The meeting discussed aspects related to a number of radiocommunication services and reviewed several ECC decisions, recommendations and reports. The participation of the MCA allowed Malta to be involved in the process leading to the adoption of European spectrum management and licensing deliverables. This will feed into the review process of legal instruments pertaining spectrum management, in particular Malta's National Frequency Plan (NFP) and subsidiary legislation SL.399.40 - General Authorisations (radiocommunications apparatus) regulation.

PUBLICATIONS

MCA Consumer Perception Survey 2020 - Bundles

Published On: Feb 17th 2021 **Bundles**

Additional Spectrum for Wireless Broadband Electronic Communications Services

Published On: Feb 5th 2021 **Consultation**

MCA International News Week 43

Published On: Feb 4th 2021 **News**

LEGAL Updates

Litigation – 1st February 2021:

- MaltaPost vs MCA appeal before the Administrative Review Tribunal – MaltaPost are contesting a decision the MCA issued last August where MaltaPost were required to pay compensation for not having attained the QoS targets for 2019. Sitting was adjourned to 23rd March 2021 for MaltaPost to commence with their evidence in this case.
- Vodafone (now EPIC) vs MCA – re contestation of MCA's VULA 2016 decision. GO who intervened in this case presented an affidavit of one's of its witnesses. Case has been adjourned to 23rd March 2021 for continuation of evidence by GO and any cross-examinations.