

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The European 5G Conference 2020

An MCA official attended the European 5G Conference on the 30th January 2020, in Brussels, Belgium. Commercial 5G deployments have begun around all the globe. The European 5G conference looked at early experiences that are being seen, and the challenges and opportunities that are ahead. Of particular interest for Malta, topic matters on Security for 5G and EMF aspects for 5G were discussed by industry experts in the related fields as well as the CION. The conference provided the MCA an opportunity to network and discover different approaches adopted for the planning, preparation, deployment and launch of 5G networks.

High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG) Meeting

A representative from the MCA participated in the scheduled High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG) meeting which was held in Brussels, Belgium on the 28th January 2020. During the morning Multi-Stakeholder Open Session, various themes were discussed including DNS and Cybersecurity, the IGF 2019, (which was held in Berlin) and a consultation on the UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. At the end of the morning session, the draft programme of EuroDIG 2020 was shared with the participants. This year, EuroDIG will be held in Trieste in Italy from the 10th to the 12th June 2020.

In the afternoon session, which is dedicated to the European Union Member States, the focus was on the ongoing work on the .eu Regulation. Further talks on the current situation of DNS abuse were held and the session ended with the Polish delegation presentation on the next IGF meeting, which will be held in Poland.

14th Seminar for National Judges and NRAs on “Balancing Regulatory Certainty and Investment in the Digital Era”

The MCA attended a one-day seminar, addressed to national judges and regulators, on “Balancing regulatory certainty and investment in the Digital Era”, which was organised by the

European Commission, on the 24th January 2020, in Brussels, Belgium.

The seminar opened with a keynote speech from Paul Nihoul, a judge from the General Court of the European Union, who discussed recent developments of EU case law. The rest of the morning was divided between discussions on two panels, each focusing on a different topic:

- Panel 1 dealt with the enforcing of the Electronic Communications Law; and
- Panel 2 dealt with stimulating investment in networks and 5G: National Developments.

During these panels Judges, Magistrates and NRAs presented their relevant national experiences. The interactive discussion between national judges focused on two main topics: enforcement of electronic communications law and stimulation of investment in networks and 5G.

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of selected policy issues, which are highly relevant for the regulation of the electronic communications sector in the Digital Era. A representative from each of the various NRAs opened the sessions providing an overview of potential bottlenecks in the distribution of digital services. Expert academics explored issues concerning competition and investment in high capacity networks. The European Commission closed off the session by discussing symmetric and asymmetric regulation under the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC).

BEREC – Workshop on the Recommendation on Relevant Markets

An MCA official participated in a workshop organised by the European Commission (EC) on the forthcoming review of the Recommendations on Relevant Markets in Brussels, Belgium, on the 23rd January 2020.

This Recommendation sets out the list of electronic communications markets that are deemed susceptible to ex-ante regulation. The EC has already carried out a public consultation exercise on the matter in 2019 and also appointed WIK-Consult to study the case and to present proposals on a revised list of relevant markets. The EC Workshop sought to get additional feedback from BEREC and NRAs on the preliminary conclusions reached by WIK-Consult on the matter.

Following a morning session dedicated to the presentation of the intermediary findings, workshop participants were able to address more specific issues by attending break-out group discussions dealing with the following:

- (i) physical infrastructure access (PIA);
- (ii) wholesale broadband access (WBA);
- (iii) dedicated access and backhaul; or
- (iv) fixed and mobile termination markets. On behalf of the MCA, Kevin Caruana attended the break-out groups on PIA and WBA.

The new EC Recommendation on Relevant Markets is envisaged to be in place by the end of year.

Bi-Lateral Frequency Coordination and RSPG 'Good Offices' Working Group Meetings

On the 23rd January, officials from the MCA attended the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) 'Good Offices' meeting in Rome, Italy to discuss cross-border related matters. The meeting, in particular, discussed issues of harmful interference affecting the provision of broadcasting services between Member States as well as developments to UHF national roadmaps.

During the Bi-Lateral Frequency Coordination meeting, discussions were held with the Italian ministry responsible for communications on the use of the band between 174 MHz and 230 MHz for digital terrestrial broadcasting services.

BEREC Wireless Network Evolution Working Group Meeting

A representative from the MCA attended BEREC's Wireless Network Evolution Working Group meeting on the 22nd January in Brussels Belgium. BEREC has organised full expert working groups treating the subject matter on Broadband Mapping, Spectrum Awards, 5g Feasibility Study, Infrastructure Sharing and Public warning systems. BEREC is currently actively working to consult publicly on a number of documents related on the subject matters. The MCA actively participates in the BEREC discussions and drafting processes

in order to ensure that the Guidelines address the needs of the local market.

PUBLICATIONS

Weighted Average Cost of Capital

Published On: Jan 23rd 2020 Decision

Monthly Newsletter - December 2019

Published On: Jan 21st 2020 News

Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post: Q1 2015 to Q3 2019

Published On: Jan 17th 2020 Data Report Sheet

LEGAL UPDATES

Publication of Legislation:

- 8 of 2020 – Radiocommunications (Amateur Station Licence) Regulations 2020

Government Gazette of Malta No. 20,327 – 10.01.2020

- 7 of 2020 – Fees leviable by Government Departments (Amendment) Regulations 2020

Government Gazette of Malta No. 20,327 – 10.01.2020

- 5 of 2020 – Application of the proviso to article 3(2)(b) of the Small Business Act (Exemption) Order 2020

Government Gazette of Malta No. 20,327 – 10.01.2020

- 4 of 2020 – Registration of Subscriber Identity Modules (SIMs) used for Publicly Available Electronic Communications Services Regulations 2020

Government Gazette of Malta No. 20,327 – 10.01.2020