

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network 17<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting**

The MCA participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReG Network). The Plenary Meeting was held remotely on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and was attended by the representatives of telecommunication regulatory bodies from the six Eastern Partnership countries and several EU Member States.

The main objectives of the Meeting were to:

- discuss the EaPeReG programme of activities for the rest of 2021;
- discuss its external activities including its cooperation with BEREC and;
- to present the EaPeReG Expert Working Groups activities for the first half of 2021.

### **75<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee**

An MCA official participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee, which was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. This meeting discussed various measures concerning the harmonisation of radio spectrum for a number of systems including, railway mobile radio, 5 GHz wireless access systems (including radio local area networks), electronic communication networks in the 900/1800 MHz bands, short range devices and private networks in the 3.8-4.2 GHz band.

### **BEREC Open Internet Expert Working Group Meeting**

On 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, a representative for the MCA attended BEREC's expert working group (EWG) on the Open Internet. These working groups are intended to share best practices and expert opinions related to various aspects arising from the supervision and enforcement of the Open Internet Regulation.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Frequency Coordination Meeting on the GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa**

The MCA participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Frequency coordination meeting on the GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa was held virtually between the 28<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. The scope of the meeting was to optimise the use of the 87.5-108MHz FM sound broadcasting band in order to allocate new frequencies to African countries. Malta was involved in the process as some of the Northern African countries require Malta's coordination agreement in order to register specific radio frequencies in the GE84 plan. The next meeting will take place in quarter four 2021.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **MCA International News Week 18**

*Published On: Jul 29th 2021 News*

### **The Assignment of Radio Spectrum in the 1.8 GHz and 2.5 GHz Bands - Call for Expression of Interest**

*Published On: Jul 29th 2021 News*

### **EMF Measurements in Carriage Ways around the Towns and Villages across the Islands of Malta and Gozo**

*Published On: Jul 22nd 2021 News*

### **Monthly Newsletter - June 2021**

*Published On: Jul 14th 2021 News*

## LEGAL UPDATES

### Litigation:

- 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for MaltaPost to continue 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for continuation of cross-examination of MCA witnesses.

### Legislation:

**1.1** Publication – Act LII of 2021 – the 'Communications (Amendment No. 2) Act, 2021' was published in the Gazette on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – this Act amends chapter 81, 399 and 418 and is in part implementation of the European Electronic Communications Code.

**1.2** Publication of Commencement Notice as per LN 296 of 2021 – Commencement Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 which brought into force the provisions of Act No. XXXIII – 'Communications Laws (Amendment) Act 2021'.

## EVENTS

### Launch of eBiznify Lite and eBiznify Graduation Ceremony

41 business owners and employees completed the eBiznify eCommerce training programme organised by the Malta Communications Authority ('MCA') in partnership with eSkills Malta Foundation, whilst a new digital commerce training programme entitled eBiznify Lite has opened for enrolment. The graduation ceremony was presided by Minister for the

Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri who hailed MCA's ceaseless effort to further improve Malta's stature on the eCommerce front as part of the country's National eCommerce Strategy.



Photo: DOI - Clifton Fenech

First launched in 2018 by the MCA, the eBiznify eLearning platform offers free-of-charge programmes developed to assist individuals and businesses in acquiring or sharpening their digital skills, specifically in relation to eCommerce practices. In 2020, the MCA partnered with the eSkills Foundation to roll out further intakes of the training programmes offered through eBiznify, and to continue developing the platform in line with modern-day needs.

Following on the success of the fully accredited eBiznify Certified training programme, the MCA together with eSkills have now launched eBiznify Lite, a flexible programme which follows the same modules as eBiznify Certified yet has no fixed timetable for tutorials, assignments or deadlines.



Minister Silvio Schembri encouraged business owners and individuals to take advantage of digital commerce and enrol in the eBiznify Lite training programme which is currently open

for registration. “Through the eBiznify Lite, we are widening further the eBiznify audience. With this being a non-accredited programme, we are removing the entry requirements, allowing more people to take their first steps into the eCommerce world,” said Minister Schembri.



MCA’s CEO Mr Jesmond Bugeja said, “I am extremely pleased to note that since its launch, just two and a half years ago, over 400 students applied for the eBiznify programme. This is testimony to the MCA’s incessant efforts in ensuring that

whoever has the drive to invest in eCommerce, is well-prepared, and is equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge, and is therefore sure to derive tangible benefits.”



eBiznify Lite is a course delivered via a dedicated eLearning platform, completely free of charge. Those interested in registering for eBiznify Lite are invited to do so at <https://ebiznify.com>.