

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **BEREC Communications Expert Network Group virtual meeting**

An MCA representative participated in a BEREC Communications Expert Network Group virtual meeting was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. During the meeting, the content of the background document for this year's communication plan was discussed and updates on the progress with the design of the campaign were given by the WG. The virtual meeting was Co-chaired by Isabel Fereday.

### **Co-Chairs Meeting of all the BEREC Expert Network Group**

Representatives of the MCA participated in Co-Chairs meeting of all the BEREC Expert Network Group took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. During this meeting Isabel Fereday presented the Strategy/Work Programme and sought out comments and ideas for the topic for the communications in 2021 from the rest of the Co-Chairs.

### **43rd BEREC Plenary**

MCA participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> BEREC plenary and IRG General Assembly held on 11-12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. All meetings were held virtually with the participation of Heads from all NRAs and the representatives from the European Commission, including DG Roberto Viola. BEREC guidelines on the public warning systems, as well as an update for the guidelines on the open internet regulation were adopted. In addition, Michel Van Bellinghen, the incoming BEREC Chair 2021, presented the new BEREC Strategy 2021-2025. The Strategy is aligned with the legislative cycle of the European Commission, and the objectives and new priorities set out by President von der Leyen. The BEREC Board of Regulators also adopted a number of draft documents and launched a public consultation process. These include draft guidelines on symmetric access regulation, draft guidelines on co-investments in new very high capacity network elements, and a report on the impact of 5G on regulation. Stakeholders can access these documents and submit their written contributions through the BEREC website.

### **The 3rd Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) - Shared spectrum sub group:**

One of the subgroups of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) deals with sharing of the radio frequency spectrum and aims to develop an RSPG opinion. This opinion will explore different dynamic spectrum sharing options implemented and also advise on a possible roadmap to increase spectrum sharing in a number of frequency bands. The RSPG-SS met virtually on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and continued to review the draft document. The next RSPG-SS meeting will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **The 96th Working Group on Frequency Management (WGFM#96)**

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 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Apart from RF monitoring and interference matters, the meeting also discussed aspects related to short range devices, mobile, satellite and maritime services. Several ECC deliverables pertaining these services were also revised. 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 (radio communications apparatus) regulation.

### **Training Session Organised by BEREC's Open Internet Working Group with The participation of Aladdin and Zafaco**

Participants from the MCA attended a training session organised by BEREC's Open Internet working group with the participation of Aladdin and Zafaco, the software developers

engaged by BEREC to develop the Net Neutrality tool. The training session provided the valuable information about the tool and how it can be deployed by NRAs.

## **31<sup>st</sup> Article 13a Working Group Hosted by ENISA**

Representatives of the MCA attended for the 31<sup>st</sup> Article 13a working group hosted by ENISA. The working groups brings together experts from the national authorities supervising the telecom sector across Europe. Of note is the sessions discussing the experiences and work carried out during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other areas of discussion were related to the upcoming Article 40 legislation and updates to the working guidelines necessary to carry out the required supervision under the new code.

## **High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG)**

The scheduled HLIG meeting was organised in an online format as part of the EuroDIG which this year was also organised online due to the current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic. The HLIG was open to all interested stakeholders besides the European member states. During the meeting, an overview of the EuroDIG sessions was presented. The chair then presented information gathered earlier from a number of member states (including Malta) in relation to the impact of the COVID-19 crises on DNS resilience in particular. The member states did not report any particular issues. The discussion then focused on ongoing and new initiatives shaping the future of Internet governance, including the follow-up on recommendations 5A/5B of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the Global Stakeholders engagement project “We, the Internet” and the Commission’s Global Digital Cooperation Strategy. At present, the IGF+ model as proposed by the High-level Panel seems to be the model of choice for most stakeholders.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Report of the Malta Communications Authority on its Monitoring and Findings**

### **in Accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 concerning the European Net Neutrality Rules.**

*Published On: Jun 30th 2020* **News**

### **Overview**

*Published On: Jun 24th 2020* **MCA Overviews**

### **MCA Consumer Perceptions Survey - Fixed Telephony**

*Published On: Jun 16th 2020* **Fixed Telephony**

### **Monthly Newsletter - May 2020**

*Published On: Jun 12th 2020* **News**

### **Price Developments Publication - April and May 2020**

*Published On: Jun 11th 2020* **News**

### **MCA Consumer Perceptions Survey - Usage of Mobile Telephony Services by Expats living in Malta**

*Published On: Jun 11th 2020* **Mobile Services**

## **MEDIA ACTIVITY**

### **Television:**

**Date:** 22.06.2020

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** Niskata

**Topic:** Fault Repair Timeframes

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia

## Radio:

**Date:** 15.06.2020

**Channel:** Radju Malta

**Programme:** Familja Wahda

**Topic:** Fault Repair Timeframes

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia

**Date:** 08.06.2020

**Channel:** Radju Malta

**Programme:** Familja Wahda

**Topic:** Postal Services

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia

**Date:** 01.06.2020

**Channel:** Radju Malta

**Programme:** Familja Wahda

**Topic:** Internet User Experience

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia

## LEGAL Updates

### Litigation:

Scheduled Sittings for the June 2020:

- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 sitting before ART in the appeal by Aspider Solutions Malta Ltd. Aspider are contesting

a regulatory decision of the MCA imposing an administrative fine for non-compliance with number porting requirements. Aspider have advising that they are withdrawing their appeal. Appeal stand adjourned for the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020: Vodafone vs MCA before ART – contesting MCA’s decision entitled ‘Virtual unbundled Access to Fibre-to-the-home: implementing the VULA remedy’. MCA have now presented a note submitting MCA’s remaining documentary evidence and declaring that MCA has terminated its evidence. Case stands adjourned for the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### Legal Notices:

- L.N. 257 entitled Electronic Communications Networks and Services (General) (Amendment No.4) Regulations,2020 was published on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. This LN amends Part C of the Eighth Schedule of the Electronic Communications Networks and Services (General) Regulations, which Part relates to the fees per allocated numbering block.