

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

7th High-Level Discussion on Europe's Digital Transformation

Upon the invitation of the GSMA and the European Internet Forum (EIF), the MCA participated in this event organised on 30th June in the context of the GSMA Ministerial Programme at the Mobile World Congress 2021. The joint discussion brought together legislators, regulators, and both supply and demand side market participants, focusing on two topics: "What will it take to reach Europe's Digital Decade targets?" and "The role of 5G connectivity in driving Europe's economic recovery during and post COVID-19". The discussion was chaired by Pilar del Castillo, MEP and EIF Chair, and Daniel Pataki, GSMA Vice President for Policy and Regulation & Head of Europe, Russia and CIS, and was moderated by Magnus Franklin, Managing Director at Teneo.

BEREC – GSMA Roundtable during the Mobile World Congress 2021

MCA participated in the Roundtable organised by the GSMA and BEREC at the start of the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. The meeting held on 28th June, gathered BEREC members and high-level representatives from European telecom operators to discuss various themes of common interest including: the promotion of connectivity; supporting sustainable and open digital markets; and empowering end users. Daniel Pataki (GSMA Vice President, Policy and Regulation & Head of Europe, Russia and CIS) moderated the discussion.

European Regulators Group for Postal Services 1st Bi-Annual Plenary Meeting

The heads of the national regulatory authorities met in virtual format on the 25th June for the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) 1st Bi-Annual Plenary Meeting.

ERGP is an advisory group which facilitates consultation and cooperation between the independent national regulatory authorities responsible for postal services in EU countries, and

between these authorities and the European Commission in order to help consolidate the internal market for postal services and ensure the consistent application of the postal/parcel legislation. The MCA is an active participant in the expert working groups and high-level meetings of the group.

The Plenary discussed and approved the ERGP's Draft Work Programme (WP) for 2022, which was developed, as in previous years, by taking into account the three strategic pillars of the ERGP Medium Term Strategy 2020-2022:

- (1) revisiting the postal sector legal framework;
- (2) promoting a competitive EU postal single market; and
- (3) empowering end-users and ensuring a user oriented universal service.

The Draft Work Program 2022 will be submitted for public consultation.

The Plenary also approved a Report on the contractual situation of consumers of postal services that will also be submitted for public consultation.

EU Postal Directive Committee Meeting

On the 17th June 2021 an officer of the MCA participated in the EU Postal Directive Committee (PDC). The PDC, established by the Postal Services Directive, serves as a scrutiny body for the application of postal legislation and for the improvement of quality of service, notably the establishment of quality standards for intra-EU cross-border services.

4th Multilateral Frequency Coordination Meeting

The 4th Multilateral frequency coordination meeting was held virtually between the 14th and 15th June 2021. The meeting was chaired by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the main aim to solve interference issues caused by Italy affecting broadcasting services of its neighbouring countries, namely, Croatia, France, Switzerland, Slovenia and Malta.

The meeting assessed developments in the interference situation of these countries and agreed on the actions to be undertaken to solve harmful interference issues.

47th BEREC Board of Regulators Meeting and 2nd IRG General Assembly 2021

MCA participated in the meetings of Heads of national regulatory authorities (NRAs) held on 10-11th June via videoconference.

The Board of Regulators (BoR) approved a number of documents including:

- the BEREC Guidelines on Geographical surveys - Verification of information;
- Draft BEREC Report on the interplay between the EECC and the EC's proposal for a DMA concerning number-independent interpersonal communication services;
- Draft BEREC Report on WACC parameters 2021;
- Draft BEREC Report on COVID-19 crisis - lessons learned regarding communication networks and services for a resilient society;
- Draft BEREC Study on consumer behaviour and attitudes towards Digital Platforms.

The BoR also held an exchange of view on the topic of independence of NRAs with BEREC and the European Commission agreeing to collaborate further on this matter.

BEREC Extraordinary Contact Network Meeting

The MCA nominated 2 officials to attend the BEREC Extraordinary Contact Network meeting. The Contact Network Group reviews the work carried out by the Expert Groups and prepares the agenda for the BEREC Plenary meeting. During this meeting, Contact Network members discussed the draft papers to support BEREC's proposals in the context of the European Commission's Digital Markets Act. This meeting was held virtually on 8th June 2021.

Legal Advisor

Published On: Jun 30th 2021 Recruitment

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 2021 News

Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post: Q1 2017 to Q1 2021

Published On: Jun 24th 2021 Data Report Sheet

New Prices for Certain Postal Services

Published On: Jun 23rd 2021 Decision

Licensing Regime for Short-Range Radio-Communications Apparatus operating below 9 kHz

Published On: Jun 22nd 2021 Consultation

Broadband as a Universal Service: Ensuring the Availability of an Adequate Broadband Internet Access Service, including the Underlying Connection, at a Fixed Location

Published On: Jun 21st 2021 Decision

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Factsheet

PUBLICATIONS

Published On: Jun 18th 2021 News

MCA International News Week 17

Published On: Jun 16th 2021 News

Financial Analyst Economic

Published On: Jun 15th 2021 Recruitment

Notification of Re-Assessment by the MCA of the Wholesale Fixed Broadband Access Market in Malta

Published On: Jun 11th 2021 News

Monthly Newsletter - May 2021

Published On: Jun 10th 2021 News

Union-Wide Fixed and Union-Wide Mobile Voice Termination Rate

Published On: Jun 10th 2021 News

MCA Overview 2020

Published On: Jun 8th 2021 MCA Overviews

MCA International News Week 16

Published On: Jun 3rd 2021 News

Quarterly Statistical Data Collection Guidelines

Published On: Jun 1st 2021 Guidelines

Legislation – 18th June 2021:

- Act XXXIII of 2002 entitled the 'Communications Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021' was published in the Gazette. This Act amends the Malta Communications Authority Act (cap. 418) and the Electronic Commerce Act (Cap. 426)

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 14.06.2021

Channel: TVM

Programme: Niskata

Topic: Post

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

Date: 08.06.2021

Channel: TVM

Programme: TVAM

Topic: Post

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

Radio:

Date: 28.06.2021

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Aħna l-Maltin

Topic: Termination & Porting

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

Date: 14.06.2021

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Aħna l-Maltin

Topic: Post

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

LEGAL UPDATES