INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WADEX Webinar: "Monitoring Tools / Accessibility Conformance Testing Rules / Organisations' Registry and Automatic Sampling"

This meeting was part of a series of webinars held by the Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group (WADEX) with the aim of sharing knowledge and collecting feedback from all the member states currently implementing the Web Accessibility Directive. The MCA, being the officially appointed authority responsible for the Directive's implementation in Malta, regularly attends and participates in these webinars.

On the 29th March 2022, the WADEX webinar focused mainly on Finland's experience of the WAD monitoring process. Mr Eetu Komsi (Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland) gave a brief overview of Finland's specifically developed testing tool "Salvia". This tool uses QualWeb as an evaluation engine and can automatically generate accessibility reports in PDF format. Mr Komsi also explained how a Registry of Finnish public organisations was created to enable the extraction of a yearly sample of websites and mobile apps for testing.

Another topic tackled during this webinar was Accessibility Conformance Testing Rules (ACT-Rules). ACT-Rules are intended to address the challenging issue of a more harmonised and universal monitoring system. These rules will apply to both simplified and in-depth testing and aim at improving harmonisation across the various testing models and tools.

BEREC 10th Stakeholder Forum

Representatives from the MCA participated in the Forum held in Brussels on 23rd March, 2022. The incoming BEREC Chair for 2023, Konstantinos Masselos (EETT, Greece), presented the BEREC work plans for 2023 and stakeholder engagement throughout the Work Programme preparatory process. The event also featured an expert panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence, and a presentation of BEREC's study on the effect of electronic communications on the environment. Mr Roberto Viola (Director General, DG CONNECT European Commission)

closed the event with a presentation on the EU's Digital Decade Policy programme. A video recording of the event is available on BEREC's YouTube channel.

The MCA's Communications Coordinator attended the 10th Stakeholder Forum organised by BEREC between the 22nd and 24th March 2022. Ms Isabel Fereday also serves the role of Co-Chair of the BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group. This is the landmark event organised by BEREC where one can exchange ideas and engage in discussion with stakeholders that will further improve the consistency and harmonised application of regulatory rules in Europe.

At the aforementioned event, as Co-Chair of the BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group (ENG), Isabel Fereday coordinated a filming project to fulfil the first work item of the year: 'Faces of BEREC'. The BEREC WG co-chairs were all contacted previous to the filming and given practical instructions on how to speak and what to wear for the interviews. The filming started on Tuesday 22nd with set up and recording of first 3 contributors and continued the next day with 9 more recordings of the co-chairs of each WG. This project will contribute to the transparency assurance of BEREC, plus help further to develop the brand.

BEREC Communications Expert Networking Group Meeting at the IRG

During the meeting which took place on the 24th March, 2022, the Co-chairs gave a brief presentation about the planned ENG projects in 2022, concerning the three objectives in the new BEREC External Communications Strategy and the BEREC Communications Plan 2022. The Co-chairs presented the BEREC Communications Strategy pillars and the planned activities for 2022 set out in the BEREC Communications Plan 2022. The Co-chairs and the BEREC Office informed the meeting attendees that 16 hours of training sessions are planned for the ENG in 2022, in cooperation with Cullen International.

32nd Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN2

Two representatives from the MCA participated in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN which was held between the 22nd and 23rd March, 2022. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to number portability, switching, and trust in numbers, including ongoing Report drafting.

57th Meeting of Project Team FM22 (Monitoring and Enforcement)

The FM22 project team deals with issues related to spectrum monitoring and enforcement. The last meeting was held online, on the 15th and 16th of March 2022. During the meeting several aspects relating to a number of monitoring activities were discussed, including an HF Monitoring campaign, common measurement methodologies for MFCN, interference statistics and radio frequency measurements using drones. The next meeting is planned to take place in October 2022.

Meetings at the BEREC Office

MCA held meetings at the BEREC Office in Riga between the 14th and 16th March, 2022. These meetings were organised as part of the appraisal process of the Director BEREC Office for the year 2021, since the MCA CEO was nominated by the BEREC Management Board to serve as one of the two Reporting Officers.   During the visit, meetings were held with the Director, Heads of Unit and the Communications Team of the BEREC Office.

eCommerce Expert Group Meeting

An eCommerce Expert Group virtual meeting took place on 10th March 2022, during which the Commission initiated discussions with MS in relation to the IT system for the DSA prior to the adoption of the DSA. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the creation of a modern, real-time digital environment for EU-wide collaboration under the DSA. The information sharing system (ISS) is envisaged to be structured around four main modules, namely Cooperation, Transparency, Internal case-handling and Information sharing.

Highlights from the meeting:

- The objectives of the information sharing system for the DSA (DSA ISS), the role of the MS and the Commission, timeframes, as well as the requirements of the DSA ISS, such as a fully secure system, in line with the GDPR requirements; restricted access with some flexibility to incorporate an administrative structure; easy to use search facility as well as the inclusion of deadlines and reminders, were discussed.
- The possibility of extending the IMI system for the DSA implementation in view of the tight timeframes was mentioned.
- Other matters discussed included interoperability between the ISS and national systems, financing of the system (development and running costs), as well as the importance that the system is be able to handle issues with multiple complaints against specific companies to avoid processing of similar complaints against same companies by various MS.

In the latter part of the meeting, MS representatives were split in groups to brainstorm on different use cases and the roles and processes in the DSA ISS. The Commission stressed that the first module of the ISS needs to be in place in the first semester of 2023 and indicated its intent of holding regular meetings, following this introductory meeting, to focus on specific topics.

BEREC 50th Plenary Meeting

MCA participated in the first Board of Regulators (BoR) plenary meeting of 2022 held virtually on the 10th and 11th March. During the plenary meetings, BEREC discussed the implications of the crisis in Ukraine for the telecom sector. To provide guidance to internet access providers, BEREC has clarified that the Open Internet Regulation is not an obstacle in implementing EU sanctions to block RT and Sputnik to comply with legal acts by the EU and indicated which domains and subdomains fall within the scope of the sanctions. The BoR also approved for public consultation the revised and updated Open Internet Guidelines in the light of recent rulings of the European Court of Justice (ECJ). The public consultation will run until 14th April 2022. The draft updates to BEREC's Open Internet Guidelines reflect the ECJ's ruling that zero tariff offers are incompatible with the obligation of equal treatment

of traffic in the Open Internet Regulation. The guidelines are updated within the scope of the Court's rulings only. A full list of the public documents adopted by BEREC may be accessed here.

36th ECASEC/BEREC's Open Internet Working Group/BEREC 5G Cybersecurity Working Group Meetings

An MCA official attended the 36th ECASEC meeting hosted in Zagreb and Online. ECASEC (formerly Article 13a) is a forum for NRA and competent authorities to discuss security issues within the context of supervision of Articles 40 and 41 of the EECC directive.

The same MCA representative also attended various meetings of BEREC's Open Internet working group. Various topics were covered, including the zero-rating offers within the context of the open internet regulation and the ECJ judgements.

The MCA also attended meetings of the BEREC 5G Cybersecurity working group.

PUBLICATIONS

MCA International News Week 6 & 7 - 2022

Published On: Mar 30th 2022 **News**

MCA International News Week 4 & 5 - 2022

Published On: Mar 24th 2022 **News**

MCA International News Week 3 - 2022

Published On: Mar 23rd 2022 **News**

Looking back on a year of MCA work

Published On: Mar 22nd 2022 **News**

BEREC Publishes a Public Consultation to update its Guidelines on the Implementation of the Open Internet Regulation

Published On: Mar 22nd 2022 **News**

Monthly Newsletter - February 2022

Published On: Mar 22nd 2022 **News**

Annual Plan 2022

Published On: Mar 15th 2022 **Annual Plan**

Strategy Update for 2022 - 2024

Published On: Mar 15th 2022 **Strategic Plan**

Product and Price Developments Publication - September to December 2021

Published On: Mar 11th 2022 **Monthly Pricing Developments**

MCA International News Week 2 - 2022

Published On: Mar 10th 2022 **News**

MCA International News Week 48/49 - 2021

Published On: Mar 3rd 2022 **News**

MCA International News Week 47 - 2021

Published On: Mar 1st 2022 **News**

MCA International News Week 46 - 2021

Published On: Mar 1st 2022 **News**

EVENTS

Campus Tech Summit

This year, the Campus Tech Summit targeted the technology concept as a whole and focused on topics, such as how technology affects the way we live, how industries have been affected by these technologies and various other topics!

'Campus Tech Summit' was a three-day event commencing on the 14th of March at the University Quadrangle. During these three days, space was provided for various companies to promote technology. In addition, various renowned speakers were invited and gave their opinion on various topics.

The MCA was invited to participate in the Campus Tech Summit, where it ran an information booth which provided information on the MCA's role as a regulator of the Communications Market and Spectrum Monitoring and Management. Members of the External Relations unit within the MCA provided information on its remit and its experience in the international fora, which was provided in the form of talks and on a one to one basis to whomever had any related queries.

Members of the MCA's Spectrum Monitoring and Management Unit delivered talks and a Q&A session on the role of spectrum monitoring and management, particularly on 5G and the innovative technologies related to it.