

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BEREC Training on Regulatory Framework for Electronic Communications

An MCA representative participated in the final session of the BEREC National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) training held via video conferencing on 26th and 27th May 2020. The BEREC NRA training programme, provided training on the regulatory framework and other issues related to BEREC activities. The training was divided into four sessions. In light of the pandemic situation, the final two sessions were held remotely in April and May respectively.

20th Electronic Communications Committee Working Group Numbering and Networks (WG NaN) Meeting

Representatives of the MCA participated in this remote meeting which was held between the 26th and 27th May 2020. During this meeting, participants were provided with updates on the work related to current and future numbering issues which was carried out by the four project teams reporting to this working group during the past six months. An overview of work activities taking place within BEREC, ITU-T Study Group 2 and ETSI in areas which are relevant to this working group was also provided. The meeting participants also discussed various topics related to ongoing and future work items which will be the focus of the WG NaN project teams during the coming months.

21st eCommerce Expert Group Meeting

The 21st eCommerce Expert Group meeting held on 26th May 2020 via video-conference addressed the preparedness of Member States vis-à-vis the P2B Regulation that will come into force in July 2020. The Commission requested Member States to provide a status update on the implementation of this Regulation within their countries in terms of who will enforce the Regulation on a national level, what rules are being put in place and the basis for decisions taken. Member States were urged to complete the questionnaire that the Council had

circulated in April, as only 14 members had replied at the time of the meeting.

Another item for discussion was the Digital Services Act Package (DSA) and the public consultation that will be launched in the weeks following the meeting and it will be looking into the challenges and opportunities that the digital environment is creating. It was noted that the purpose of the DSA for a fair and competitive economy goes beyond and is separate from the eCommerce Directive (ECD). The need for pre-defined practices (positive and prohibitive) and obligations to enable regulators to act fast, as well as pre-defined remedial actions for the latter to apply per case. The Commission will kick-start a 3-year ongoing evaluation and review the fitness of EU competition rules for the digital age, as well as, a sector inquiry, later this year. The DSA will also allow for an enhanced legal framework that will establish clearly the responsibilities that online platforms should abide with when entering the Single market. To mark the 20th anniversary since the coming into force of the ECD, the Commission will be undertaking the 4th evaluation of this directive to assess whether it has fulfilled its main objectives in strengthening the Single Market, harmonising liability exemptions and engendering trust in digital services.

A dedicated eCommerce Expert group meeting is being planned for Q4/2020.

RSPG Sub-Group on 'Good Office' Meeting

An MCA official participated in the RSPG Sub-Group on '@Good Office' remote virtual meeting on the 19th May 2020. The meeting considered developments in cross-border coordination activities between European Member States as well as between European Member States and third countries, particularly with respect to the UHF band and the 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency band. The meeting has also discussed developments to the harmful interference situation relating to terrestrial broadcasting services between Italy and its neighbouring countries.

RSPG Sub-Group on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme – RSPP

The same official also participated remotely in the RSPG Sub-Group on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) on the 19th May 2020. The sub-group meeting continued to discuss the structure and key pillars of an RSPG Opinion on the review of the RSPP.

ERGP 1st Contact Network meeting 2020

The ERGP 1st Contact Network meeting was held on 14th May 2020. The meeting, which was held via videoconference, brought together officials from European regulatory authorities to discuss issues related to postal services. The meeting focused on the documents which will be adopted during the meeting of the heads of the NRAs in June. Other deliverables included in this year's Working Programme scheduled to be adopted later this year were also briefly discussed following updates by the respective working groups.

European GNSS Programmes Committee Meeting

An MCA representative participated in the remote virtual meeting of the European GNSS Programmes Committee which was held on the 13th May 2020. During this meeting the European Commission, the European Space Agency and the European GNSS Agency presented information on the current state of play of Galileo and EGNOS, future developments and challenges including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mobile Applications employing Galileo such as Galileo Green Lane were presented to the Programmes Committee.

Radio Spectrum Policy Group – Sub Group for Radio Frequency Spectrum Sharing

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. The RSPG-SS met virtually on the

7th of May 2020 and continued to review the draft document. The next RSPG-SS meeting will be held on the 25th of June 2020.

Expert Group on Emergency Communications (EG112) Meeting

The MCA participated in the first EG112 Meeting held remotely on the 6th May 2020 as well as to the related Workshop on Advanced Mobile Location (AML) held on the 5th May, a day before the WG Meeting. The Member States' Expert Group on Emergency Communications (EG112) is set up in order to assist the Commission in the preparation of the delegated acts on emergency communications referred to in Article 109(8) EECC. The meeting served to present the Commission's approach to the delegated acts and discuss possible areas of intervention.

PUBLICATIONS

Market Analysis of the Provision of Wholesale Fixed Broadband Access in Malta

Published On: May 22nd 2020 *Consultation*

Monthly Newsletter - April 2020

Published On: May 15th 2020 *News*

Mail Redirection Services: MaltaPost plc proposed Changes in Tariffs and Service Conditions

Published On: May 14th 2020 *Decision*

Price Developments Publication - January to March 2020

Published On: May 7th 2020 *Monthly Pricing Developments*

Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post: Q1 2015 to Q4 2019

Published On: May 6th 2020 **Data Report Sheet**

eBiznify Launch 2020

Published On: May 5th 2020 **Ecommerce**

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 25.05.2020

Channel: TVM

Programme: Niskata

Topic: Service Provider Charges

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

Radio:

Date: 04.05.2020

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Familja Waħda

Topic: Subscribing to an Electronic Communications Service

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

LEGAL Updates

Litigation:

Scheduled Sittings for the 4th May 2020:

- Aspider vs MCA [contestation of administrative fine following non-compliance with porting norms]
- Vodafone Malta Ltd vs. MCA Case (VULA contestation)

Both cases were not held and instead adjourned to 17th June 2020 because of the current coronavirus pandemic.

Legal Notices:

- LN 197 of 2020 Electronic Communications Networks and Services (General) (Amendment No.3), Regulations 2020 [providing for an amendment to reg. 51 of SL 399.28 concerning resiliency of networks]
- LN 181 of 2020 Electronic Communications Networks and Services (General) (Amendment No.2), Regulations 2020 [amends fees under Part B of the Eighth Schedule of SL 399.28]