

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

36th Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN2

Two representatives from the MCA participated virtually in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN which was held between the 31st May and 1st June, 2023. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to number portability, switching, and trust in numbers, including ongoing Recommendation and Report drafting and discussions on future work items.

31st Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics

The MCA participated in the 31st Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics held between 24th and 26th May 2023, which brought together various scholars, regulators, and business operators in the postal and delivery sectors. During the event, a number of topics were discussed including market dynamics, sustainability of the postal sector, product innovation, and ongoing challenges

8th Meeting of the CEPT/ECC Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23 (CPG23-8)

As part of its preparatory process for the 2023 World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-23), a delegation from the MCA participated in the 8th meeting of the CEPT/ECC Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23, which was held in the Thessaloniki, Greece between 22nd and 26th May 2023. The meeting approved the first set of European common proposals (22 in total) covering various WRC-23 agenda items. WRC-23 will be held in Dubai, UAE between 20th November and 15th December 2023.

BEREC/IRG 1st Contact Network 2023

MCA participated in the 2nd BEREC/IRG Contact Network for 2023, held in Paris, France on the 11th and 12th May 2023.

The objective of the Meeting was to prepare for the 55th Board of Regulators (BoR) Meeting planned for the following month, in June. During the Meeting, the respective Expert Working Groups, the BEREC Office, the Commission and IRG presented to the CN members a number of updates on ongoing initiatives and BEREC deliverables.

55th Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN1

Two representatives from the MCA participated virtually in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN which was held between the 9th and 10th May,

2023. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to future numbering issues, including ongoing drafting of Reports, reviewing of ECC Recommendations and discussions on future work items.

Digital Accessibility - Building Bridges to Inclusion Webinar

This was an online webinar by Connect University with the aim of presenting the ongoing initiatives to improve the digital accessibility in Europe. Leading European experts from research, technological, industrial, and societal perspective, discussed the importance, benefits, and challenges of digital accessibility for every citizen. This event was part of the EU Diversity Month, exploring links between digital accessibility, equality, and inclusion.

The first speaker, Ms. Lowry-Kingston from the EU Commission, explained how people with disabilities are at a higher risk of poverty, exclusion and unemployment and how digital technology and relevant skills can drastically change this. Giving due attention to digital accessibility means empowering disabled users and making a difference in their quality of life.

Ms. Emilia Andrejova, EU Commission, elaborated on the EU's commitment towards a "Union of Equality". She explained how the "New Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030" sets clear and ambitious targets for accessibility in Europe. Skills, Infrastructure, Government digitisation are only a few of the topics and milestones included in this strategy. This compliments the legal provisions that have already been set up like the Web Accessibility Directive which requires public sector websites and apps to be accessible and the European Accessibility Act which targets the private sector

websites. Other EU initiatives like the “Accessible EU” strengthen further the drive towards inclusion as a basic human right.

Mr. Jakob Rosin gave us an idea of “the user perspective” when he explained his first-hand experience of navigating the web as a blind person. He explained how frustrating such an experience can be even because, since accessibility isn’t a standard feature yet, a user never knows if a website will be accessible, inaccessible or partly accessible. He will discover this only after trying to use a website and, consequently, it can be very time consuming and highly frustrating to successfully conduct a basic task online. Mr. Rosin emphasized that digital accessibility matters to everyone, not only to disabled people and that it is of utmost importance that people with various needs and abilities are involved during the design and development processes.

Ms. Susanna Laurin from Funka dealt with another issue, namely, the urgent need for more expertise in the digital accessibility sector. Demand for web accessibility is always increasing and, unfortunately, there are few experts in this field. Hence the need for more specialised training and professional certified courses to ensure a good supply of expertise. Moreover, Ms. Laurin stressed that anyone involved in the web development activity needs to be aware of the importance of accessibility and how to implement it.

Finally, Prof Miesenberger from Linz University, Austria, gave an idea on the future trends, the ongoing research and the Impact of AI on web accessibility.

BEREC Workshop on Features of NRA Independence

An MCA expert was one of the speakers in a workshop organized by BEREC on 3rd May, dealing with the independence of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). The organisation of this virtual workshop was one of the activities included in BEREC’s 2023 Work Programme, aimed at discussing measures that may be taken by BEREC to assist those NRAs that are facing issues within their national jurisdictions.

Radio Spectrum Policy Group Sub Group Meetings

The MCA participated in various sub-group meetings of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group, concerning the UHF band, 2 GHz Mobile Satellite Services, Climate Change, 6G and the ‘Good Offices’.

1st Meeting of the ICT Subgroup of the Digital Services Expert Group

The MCA participated in the first meeting of the ICT Subgroup of the Digital Services Expert Group focused on the implementation of the DSA Regulation and the Information Sharing System (ISS). The meeting addressed access to the wiki for sharing information, minimal investigation details for recording, and ISS privacy and security. Members discussed the ISS testing phase, integration with other systems, and raised concerns about information translation and interoperability. The Commission took note of the concerns and requested feedback from members on several questions, including user access levels, onboarding processes, and notification preferences. The EC presented the legal requirements and a demo of the database established in Article 24(5) DSA, requesting feedback on onboarding hosting services. The next meeting is scheduled for May/June in an online-only format.

PUBLICATIONS

MCA International News Week 11/12 - 2023

Published On: May 25th 2023 [News](#)

Enhanced Number Portability Framework in force from 1st June 2023

Published On: May 25th 2023 [News](#)

Press Release - Better End-User Rights on Number Portability in Malta

Published On: May 25th 2023 [News](#)

MCA Overview 2022

Published On: May 24th 2023 [MCA Overviews](#)

MCA Decision on Extension to Consultation Period for MCA Market Analysis of Wholesale Physical and Virtual Infrastructure Access in Malta

Published On: May 19th 2023 [Decision](#)

MCA International News Week 10 2023

Published On: May 17th 2023 [News](#)

Monthly Newsletter - April 2023

Published On: May 16th 2023 [News](#)

New Publication: Predefined EMF Audit Report

Published On: May 15th 2023 [News](#)

EMF Quarterly Report - Q1 2023

Published On: May 15th 2023 [EMF Reports](#)

MCA International News Week 9 2023

Published On: May 11th 2023 [News](#)

Notification of Possible Extension to Consultation Period for MCA Market Analysis of Wholesale Physical and Virtual Infrastructure Access in Malta

Published On: May 10th 2023 [Consultation](#)

Notice of Application for a Licence and Authorisation to provide Postal Services

Published On: May 3rd 2023 [News](#)

MCA International News Week 8 2023

Published On: May 3rd 2023 [News](#)

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 17.05.2023

Channel: ONE

Programme: Kalamita

Topic: Telecosts

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

LEGAL UPDATES

Litigation:

23rd May 2023: Sitting before the Court of Appeal (Superior), in the appeal by EPIC and GO, relating to an MCA 2005 Directive concerning Legal Interpretation Payments. Case stands adjourned for oral submissions, by all the parties, on the incidental appeal by MCA, from the judgment of the First Hall of June 2013, re preliminary pleas raised by MCA and on the application by Epic & GO for a reference to CJEU, on the interpretation of the EU norms as per Directive 2002/20/EC. Case is now adjourned for the 10th October 2023.