

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

25th Meeting of the ECC Working Group Numbering and Networks

Two representatives from the MCA participated physically in the Working Group NaN Plenary meeting held in Zagreb, Croatia between the 22nd and 24th November, 2022. During this meeting, participants were provided with updates on the work related to current and future numbering issues which was carried out by the three project teams reporting to this working group during the preceding five months. An overview of work activities taking place within BEREC, CEPT's COM-ITU and ETSI in areas which are relevant to this working group was also provided. The meeting participants also discussed various themes of relevance to WG NaN, in particular those related to ongoing and future work items which will be the focus of the WG NaN project teams during the coming months. The meeting also approved for public consultation revisions proposed to two ECC Recommendations.

CEPT Workshop on Satellite Innovations and Regulatory Challenges

This workshop was held on 21st and 22nd November 2022 and served to address the technical and regulatory challenges raised by new satellite technologies and applications.

ERGP Plenary Meeting

The Authority attended the 2nd ERGP Plenary which was held at the end of November. During the meeting, the heads of the regulatory authorities approved the group's Medium-Term Strategy, the Work Programme for 2023 and several other important reports related to the European postal sector. In particular, an MCA official who chairs the Consumer and Market Indicators Working Group presented the reports related to the group, which were also approved and will be published in the coming weeks. During the meeting Dan Sjöblom, Director General of the Swedish regulator was elected chair for 2024.

The European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) is an advisory group to the European Commission. It facilitates consultation and cooperation between the independent National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) in EU countries, and between NRAs and the Commission to help consolidate the internal market for postal services and ensure the consistent application of the postal/parcel legislation.

BEREC/IRG 4th Contact Network 2022

MCA participated in the 4th BEREC Contact Network held in Budapest, Hungary on the 17th and 18th November 2022. The objective of the Meeting was to prepare for the 53rd Board of Regulators (BoR) Meeting planned for the following month, in December. During the Meeting, the respective Expert Working Groups and BEREC Office presented to the CN members a number of documents (including updated Guidelines and Reports) as well as Oral updates on ongoing/completed BEREC deliverables.

WADEX – 11th Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group Meeting - Apple's Approach to Accessibility

In this webinar, representatives from Apple; Sarah Herrlinger and Josh Elman, presented Apple's approach to accessibility, giving concrete examples of features built into Apple's products and of the philosophy behind their design. Ms. Herrlinger focused on accessibility related to apps, providing an overview of the tools made available to developers to help them make their apps accessible.

Sarah Herrlinger currently leads Accessibility for Apple — including Apple's award-winning Voiceover screen reader software for people who are blind, Made for iPhone Hearing Aids, and other initiatives that support Apple's culture of inclusion. She explained that at Apple, Accessibility is championed as a basic human right and it influences all Apple platforms. Josh Elman, on the other hand, is a product lead for App Store and Game Center and he manages the team responsible for driving the direction of the App Store's discovery experiences and its gaming layer.

Apple believes that 'the most powerful technology is designed for everyone.' This drives the company's perspective that accessibility is a human right and a core value that should be evident in everything it designs. Way back in 1985, Apple had already created its first team dedicated to implementing accessibility features in its products.

Apple has an institutional commitment to prioritizing assistive technology and envisages accessibility as being part of everyone's job. Through embedding this approach into the design process at the earliest stages of new products and initiatives, Apple has

developed world-leading accessibility features that have earned 21 awards in the last 13 years, including awards from disability organizations in the UK, Germany, and the USA.

6th Meeting of the CEPT/ECC Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23 (CPG-23-6)

The MCA participated in this meeting which was held between the 7th and 11th November in Switzerland. The meeting considered the work done by the various project teams and approved a European Common Proposal on WRC-23 Agenda Item 9.1 Topic C. The meeting also provided the opportunity to get updated information on the preparatory work being done by other regional groups outside Europe.

53rd 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 November, 2022. 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.

BEREC – Open Internet Expert Working Group Meeting

On the 3rd November, the MCA attended BEREC's Open Internet Expert Working Group meeting. The OI EWG treats different aspects related to the harmonised implementation of the Open Internet Regulation.

59th Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG#59)

An MCA official attended the 59th meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group. This plenary meeting considered the work done by the various RSPG sub-groups and approved the publication of a new RSPG Opinion on 'Mobile technology evolution – experiences and strategies'. This consultation runs until the 7th January 2023.

27th Meeting of the European Communications Office (ECO) Council

The MCA was represented by an official at the 27th meeting of the European Communications Office Council. This meeting considered various administrative and financial issues concerning the running of the ECO. In particular, it approved its new Director and approved its budget for 2023. It also considered matters concerning the ECO Convention and developments in relation to its work programme and specific projects.

BEREC – BEUC Joint Virtual Workshop on the Application of Rights of End-Users in the 'European Electronic Communications Code' (EECC)

The MCA participated in a workshop to discuss the application of end user rights under the EECC and further investigate the ability of end-users of all electronic communications services to make free and informed choices and to easily switch their providers. During this workshop, participants discussed market and technological developments

as well as arising harmful end-user issues which could hinder the application of these rules. The workshop provided an opportunity to also discuss the results of the monitoring study conducted by BEREC in 2021 on the applicability of the end-user requirements emanating from the EECC in different Member States.

PUBLICATIONS

Career Opportunity: Junior Analyst (Communications & PR)

Published On: Nov 30th 2022 [Recruitment](#)

Career Opportunity: Communications Coordinator

Published On: Nov 30th 2022 [Recruitment](#)

MCA International News Week 38/39 - 2022

Published On: Nov 29th 2022 [News](#)

Report on the Quality of Experience of Electronic Communications Services

Published On: Nov 25th 2022 [Consumer Perception](#)

Career Opportunity: Project Coordinator (Information

Management)

Published On: Nov 22nd 2022 [Recruitment](#)

MCA International News Week 36/37 - 2022

Published On: Nov 22nd 2022 [News](#)

Monthly Newsletter - October 2022

Published On: Nov 18th 2022 [News](#)

Consumer Perceptions Survey on Fixed Broadband - 2022

Published On: Nov 15th 2022 [Broadband Internet](#)

Decision Notice 'Number Portability in Malta'

Published On: Nov 15th 2022 [Decision](#)

MCA International News Week 34/35 - 2022

Published On: Nov 8th 2022 [News](#)

MCA International News Week 32/33 - 2022

Published On: Nov 3rd 2022 [News](#)

EVENTS

The Digital Juncture – A Regulatory Landscape for Digital Services in the EU



Following the CEO's address, the conference featured contributions by local and visiting key figures in the digital sphere. These included speeches by Head of Regulatory Training at Cullen International Veronica Bocarova, who discussed end-user protection in electronic communications and the digital world; MISCO Founding Partner and Director Lawrence Zammit on the findings of a study on end users' quality of service experience in electronic communications; Legal Officer at BEUC - The European Consumer Association Claudio Teixeira, reflecting on emerging challenges for consumers of electronic communications and digital services; Senior eSecurity & eSolutions Consultant Olivier Delos, who explored the opportunities of the eIDAS Regulation; as well as an overview of eCommerce, P2B and DSA regulations by MCA Digital Services Manager Bernard Agius and Senior eCommerce Analyst Denise Borda. Hon. Silvio Schembri, Minister for the Economy, European Funds and Lands, also delivered a keynote speech.



Panel discussions delving into eCommerce regulation also featured notable contributions by Joseph Farrugia, Director General of the Malta Employers Association; Marco Mizzi, Senior Legal Counsel within the Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner; Marcel Mizzi, Vice-President of The Malta Chamber of SMEs; and Odette Vella, Director of the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority.



A discussion on the myHealth Portal as a case study on web accessibility in the public service followed, featuring Janson Chetcuti, Senior Systems Analyst at the Ministry for Health's Project Management Office and Robert Spiteri Staines, on behalf of the Malta Information and Technology Agency.



The final panel discussion dealt with a vision for 2030 in terms of regulating for sustainable growth, featuring contributions by Kenneth Brincat, Chief Executive at the Malta Digital Innovation Authority; Luciano Brincat, Fintech Supervision Deputy Head at the Malta Financial Services Authority; Olivier Delos, Senior eSecurity & eSolutions Consultant; and Marthese Portelli, Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.



Rounding off the speakers at the conference, MEP Alex Agius Saliba, who was rapporteur of the Digital Services Act, also discussed the DSA and DMA, as well as platform-to-business regulation (P2B Regulation) – the first ever set of rules for creating a fair, transparent and predictable business environment for smaller businesses and traders on online platforms. Describing them as the most far-reaching laws that have the power to reshape the digital world – encapsulating app stores, online advertising, eCommerce, and other everyday digital tools – he heralded a future in which digital regulatory policies should be a priority to the EU and Malta alike, forward to further discuss this topic and take action to what is needed by the community in the coming future.

