

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ERGP Plenary Meeting

The Authority attended the second ERGP Plenary which was held at the end of November. During the meeting, the heads of the regulatory authorities approved the group's 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.

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.

Meeting between the Authority and the Portuguese National Regulatory Authority, ANACOM

During the last week of November, a bilateral meeting between the MCA and ANACOM was held. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss postal services. During the meeting a Memorandum of Understanding was signed. Via this agreement, the two authorities will be joining forces to shape the future in key areas like regulation of resilient telecom networks (including 5G/6G) & broadband networks, advancement of new telecommunication technologies, regulation of postal services, and enforcement of digital regulation, including the Digital Services Act. This collaboration underscores the importance of international cooperation in navigating the dynamic landscape of the digital future. This MoU follows two others signed with the Regulatory Authorities of Serbia (RATEL) and Montenegro (EKIP) earlier this year.

27th Meeting of the ECC Working Group Numbering and Networks (WG NaN)

Two representatives from the MCA participated physically in the WG NaN Plenary meeting held in Lisbon, Portugal between the 28th and 30th November, 2023. 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 ITU-T SG2, ETSI and EENA 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 a number of deliverables for final adoption, in particular, a new ECC Recommendation on “Measures to handle incoming international voice calls with suspected spoofed national E.164 numbers”.

BEREC Digital Markets Working Group Meeting

An MCA official attended an online meeting organised on 23rd November by the BEREC Digital Markets Working Group. The discussion focused on the dynamics between ISPs and CAPs in the case of SmartTV and set-top boxes. The meeting aimed to deliberate on expanding the scope of dynamics outlined in the draft CAPs report regarding this matter.

ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) Subgroup

A delegation from the MCA is participating in WRC-23 being held in Dubai between 20th November and 15th December 2023.

2nd Meeting of the Informal Network on the Digital Services Act

The MCA participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Informal Network on the Digital Services Act, held online on 21st November 2023. Discussions focused on the enforcement of the Digital Services Act on VLOPs, incident and crisis protocol, a follow-up on evidence requested from DSCs/proto-DSCs, and a proposal for an incident response mechanism.

BEREC/IRG 4th Contact Network 2023

MCA participated in the 4th BEREC/IRG Contact Network for 2023, held in Cluj Napoca, Romania on the 16th and 17th November 2023.

The objective of the Meeting was to prepare for the 57th Board of Regulators (BoR) Meeting planned for the following month, in December. During the Meeting, the respective Expert Working Groups, the BEREC Office and the Commission presented to the CN members a number of updates on ongoing initiatives and BEREC deliverables.

13th Meeting of the Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group

Joseph Seychell and Marcelle Attard attended the 13th WADEX (Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group) meeting in Brussels.

The meeting was spread over 2 days, 15th and 16th of November 2023, and it aimed at bringing together a number of member state representatives to share their knowledge and experience on the implementation of the Web Accessibility Directive (WAD). The WAD is an EU Directive, which focuses on making public sector websites and mobile applications more accessible and the MCA is the officially appointed body that manages its implementation locally.

These were a very productive couple of days which allowed knowledge sharing, showcasing of best practices and included also a number of workshops on various topics such as monitoring and testing of websites as well as reporting practices and enforcement procedures.

Informal Network of (Prospective) Digital Services Coordinators

The MCA took part in a virtual meeting of the informal network of (prospective) Digital Services Coordinators on 10th November 2023. This meeting focused on reviewing papers related to Out-of-court Dispute Resolution, Trusted Flaggers, Data Access, and Complaint Handling. Prior to the meeting, the MCA had submitted written feedback on these topics. Additionally, the session included a forward-looking discussion about the future role and structure of the Informal Network, especially in

the context of the period following February 2024.

Meeting of the RSPG Sub-Group on Cross Border Coordination

The MCA co-chaired the meeting under reference held on the 6th November 2023. The meeting assessed progress made on resolving the cross-border coordination issues and cases of harmful interference.

PUBLICATIONS

MCA International News Week 27 2023

Published On: Nov 28th 2023 [News](#)

Decision on the Source of Funding for the Net Cost incurred in providing Universal Service Obligations during 2018

Published On: Nov 22nd 2023 [Decision](#)

Information Notice concerning the Installation or Use of Combined PLB-AIS Devices - Notice No. MCA/O/23-5124

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

Monthly Newsletter - October 2023

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

MCA Annual Report & Financial Statements 2022

Published On: Nov 7th 2023 [Annual Report](#)

EMF Quarterly Report - Q3 2023

Published On: Nov 7th 2023 [EMF Reports](#)

Proposed Decision on Source of Funding for the Net Cost incurred in providing Universal Service Obligations during 2018

Published On: Nov 7th 2023 [Consultation](#)

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 13.11.2023

Channel: TVM

Programme: Għaddi S'Hawn

Topic: Telecosts

Participant: Yanika Bugeja / Naomi Mallia

Date: 06.11.2023

Channel: TVM

Programme: Niskata

Topic: Internet

Participant: Yanika Bugeja / Naomi Mallia

Radio:

Date: 30.11.2023

Channel: NETFM

Programme: Brunch ma' Marbeck Spiteri

Topic: Fault Repair Timeframes & Compensation Schemes

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 23.11.2023

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Minn Jum għal Jum

Topic: Telecosts, Contract Summary & Information to be included in the Contract

Participant: Yanika Bugeja / Naomi Mallia

Date: 22.11.2023

Channel: NETFM

Programme: Minn Jum għal Jum

Topic: MCA's Remit Vis-à-vis Consumers

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

LEGAL UPDATES

Litigation:

15th November, 2023: Sitting before the Court of Appeal in relation to the appeal filed by Vodafone Malta Limited (now EPIC Communications Limited) and GO Plc, contesting a decision by the First Hall of the Civil Court given in 2018, in relation to the payment legal interception fees.

During this sitting the Court issued a preliminary judgement in relation to the contestation by EPIC & GO, of MCA's submission of an incidental appeal (appell incidental), whereby MCA had filed an appeal contesting the judgement of the First Hall given in 2013, whereby that Court did not uphold MCA's preliminary plea relating to the competence of that court to determine the claims made by EPIC. The court of appeal upheld the right of the MCA to contest the preliminary 2013 judgement of the First Hall. Case now stand adjourned to 9th January 2024, for continuation on the other issues raised by both parties, namely MCA's contestation of the 2013 judgement and EPIC's request for a reference to CJEU on the interpretation of articles 6, 12 and 13 the (former) EU Authorisation Directive 2002/20/EC.