

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The 5th Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) - Shared Spectrum Subgroup

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 in a number of frequency bands. During the past meeting which was held on the 27th October 2020, the group discussed in detail the inputs received from various member states on the draft opinion. The next RSPG-SS meeting will be held on the 16th November 2020.

The 97th Working Group on Frequency Management (WGFM#97)

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) is responsible for developing strategies, plans and implementation advice for radio spectrum management within CEPT (European Conference for Postal and Telecommunication Administrations). The last meeting was held online, between the 19th and 23rd October 2020. The meeting discussed aspects related to a number of radiocommunication services and reviewed several ECC decisions, recommendations and reports. The participation of the MCA allowed Malta to be involved in the process leading to the adoption of European spectrum management and licensing deliverables. This will feed into the review process of legal instruments pertaining spectrum management, in particular Malta's National Frequency Plan (NFP) and subsidiary legislation SL.399.40 - General Authorisations (radiocommunications apparatus) regulation.

First Edition of 2 Online Workshops: "Sustainability within the Digital Sector; what is the role of BEREC?" - BEREC

Expert Networking Group (ENG) on Sustainability and the BEREC chair 2020

MCA's Communications Coordinator was invited to take part in the first edition of two online workshops "Sustainability within the digital sector; what is the role of BEREC?" organised by the BEREC Expert Networking Group (ENG) on Sustainability and the BEREC chair 2020 which took place virtually on the 5th and 6th October 2020, 10h00 – 13h00 CET.

On the first day, the focus was on the EU institutional level with speakers from the European Commission and the EU Member States who presented the political state of play at the EU level and scientific methods for assessing the environmental impact of the ICT industry.

On the second day, the focus was on external stakeholders from various spheres, such as industry, civil society and global organisations, who shared good practices and their opinions about possible actions.

BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) 44th Plenary Meeting

The BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) held its 44th ordinary plenary meeting virtually on 1st and 2nd October 2020. The MCA's Communications Coordinator, who is also the Co-Chair of the Expert Networking Group Communications for BEREC presented an oral update of the work in progress by the group as well as the forecasted draft plan for the 2021 Communications Work Plan.

The meeting was attended by the Heads and/or high-level representatives of the NRAs from each EU Member State which have primary responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the markets for electronic communications networks and services. Heads and high-level representatives of the NRAs from the EFTA States and the States that are candidates for accession to the EU, the European Commission and the EFTA Surveillance Authority also took part in the meeting.

44th BEREC Plenary Meetings

The MCA participated in the 44th ordinary plenary meetings of BEREC held virtually on 1-2 October 2020. During the meeting the Board of Regulators (BoR) adopted the

Guidelines on Very High Capacity Networks (VHCN) and launched the BEREC Work Programme 2021 for public consultation. The BoR also approved a new composition of the BEREC Mini-Board for 2021 and elected the BEREC Chair 2022, Annemarie Sipkes, the Director of the Telecommunications, Transport and Postal Services Department at the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM). Next year she will serve as a Vice-Chair and the incoming BEREC Chair 2022. The other elected Vice-Chairs are Jesmond Bugeja (MCA, Malta) and Alejandra Iturriaga de Gandini (CNMC, Spain) together with Dan Sjoblom (PTS, Sweden) as the outgoing BEREC Chair. They will support Michel Van Bellinghen (BIPT, Belgium) - the BEREC Chair 2021. Dr Rainer Schnepfleitner (AK, Lichtenstein) was elected as the representative of participants without voting rights and together with the BEREC Chair and Vice-Chairs will compose the Mini-Board. This is the first time since the setting up of BEREC, that the MCA will be assuming a Vice-Chair role within BEREC's leadership team.

Informal Dialogue with the European Commission on NRA Independence

The MCA participated in an informal dialogue organised by the BEREC Regulatory Framework Expert Working Group with the European Commission to discuss the independent provisions within the European Electronic Communications Code that are intended to strengthen NRA's autonomy.

PUBLICATIONS

MCA International News Week 23

Published On: Oct 30th 2020 News

MCA International News Week 22

Published On: Oct 30th 2020 News

Update of the National eCommerce Strategy

Published On: Oct 29th 2020 News

MCA International News Week 21

Published On: Oct 23rd 2020 News

MCA International News Week 20

Published On: Oct 23rd 2020 News

Remote Identification Procedures, Electronic Trust Services Regulations, 2020

Published On: Oct 16th 2020 News

Remote Identification Procedures, Electronic Trust Services Regulations, 2020

Published On: Oct 16th 2020 Consultation

Monthly Newsletter - August/September 2020

Published On: Oct 15th 2020 News

The Assignment of Radio Spectrum in the sub-700MHz band - Call for Expression of Interest

Published On: Oct 5th 2020 News

The Assignment of Radio Spectrum in the sub-700MHz band - Call for Expression of Interest

Published On: Oct 5th 2020 Consultation

Review of GO plc's Application for Funding of the Net Cost claimed to have been incurred to provide Universal Service Obligations during 2016 - Decision

Published On: Oct 5th 2020 **Decision**

Accounts Officer

Published On: Oct 1st 2020 **Recruitment**

Accounts Clerk

Published On: Oct 1st 2020 **Recruitment**

LEGAL UPDATES

Litigation:

- Aspider vs MCA [contestation of administrative fine following non-compliance with porting norms]. This appeal has now been closed.
- Vodafone Malta Ltd vs. MCA Case (VULA contestation) – this appeal has now adjourned to the 4th December 2020 for

the continuation of evidence. MCA has in the meantime declared that it has no further evidence to submit.

- A new appeal by MaltaPost plc contesting a decision issued by the MCA dated 3rd August 2020 whereby MaltaPost were required to pay compensation into the collective compensation scheme since they did not achieve delivery targets for 2019 in line with the scheme.

- A sitting in the MaltaPost appeal was held on the 7th October 2020 in relation to MaltaPost's request to suspend the decision taken on the 3rd August 2020 pending the outcome of the appeal before the Tribunal. MCA declared that until the appeal is decided it did not intend to proceed with the recovery of the compensation due.

- Another sitting was scheduled for the 29th October 2020. This has now been adjourned to the 4th December 2020 for the same purpose.

Consultation:

- Government in tandem with the MCA issued a public consultation entitled ‘

Remote Identification Procedures, Public Consultation on draft regulations entitled ‘Electronic Trust Services (Remote Identification Procedures), Regulations, 2020