

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BEREC - Market & Economic Analysis Working Group 2nd Meeting

An MCA official attended the second meeting organised by BEREC's Market and Economic Analysis Working Group (MEA EWG) on the 25th September in Brussels, Belgium.

The discussion focused on Article 76 of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), specifically on the conditions under which NRAs shall not impose certain obligations on operators deploying very high capacity networks (VHCNs). In this regard, BEREC is to publish guidelines to foster the consistent application by NRAs of the criteria set out in Article 76(1) of the EECC, whereby they will have to assess proposed commitments by these operators in order to determine whether their offer to co-invest with other operators in the relevant VHCN meets the specific cumulative conditions set in Article 76(1). On this basis, NRAs would decide whether not to impose any additional obligations pursuant to Article 68 (as in regards to the parts of the new VHCN that are subject to the commitments).

The main deliverable in the coming weeks will be to draft the Scoping and Working Document, which would outline the main issues to be addressed by the EWG in respect to the guidelines as well as the level of harmonisation that would be sought.

This meeting served as a follow-up to the first round of comments on the draft report entitled 'Guidelines to foster the consistent application of the criteria for assessing co-investments on very high capacity network elements'. Participants discussed the content and the comments made by the different NRAs and outlined their suggestions and proposals to the drafters. The MCA is a drafter to this report.

Communications Committee (COCOM) Plenary Meeting

A representative for the MCA participated in the Communications Committee (COCOM) Plenary meeting on the 24th September 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. The key agenda items focused on the contract summary template implementing act (EECC article 102), small-area wireless access points (EECC article 57), .eu Top Level Domain

Regulation, the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive and national broadband plans.

UKE-MCA Bilateral Meeting

MCA officials had the opportunity to attend a bilateral meeting at the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) in Warsaw, Poland, between the 23rd and 25th September 2019. The meeting was co-financed by EU's ERASMUS mobility project. During this meeting, various aspects on quality of service (QoS) were discussed, including quality of service performance measurements, net neutrality, broadband mapping, QoS requirements to be included in contracts, customer care and support services provided by service providers, consumer awareness activities undertaken by the NRA, initiatives taken to ensure equivalent access for all end-users and billing. MCA's representatives gained further knowledge in these areas through this experience and will surely provide further insight when implementing certain measures.

5G Capacity Building Organised by the GSMA

A representative for the MCA participated in a capacity building exercise on 5G technology between the 12th and 14th September 2019 in Athens, Greece. The capacity building exercise was delivered by the Groupe Special Mobile Association (GSMA). The capacity building exercise gave an overview of the technical and operational aspect of 5G technologies namely: 5G case uses, network slices, network function virtualisation, software defined networks and spectrum requirements. Such an exercise provided valuable input towards the MCA's 5G ongoing work streams.

BEREC/IRG 3rd Contact Network Meeting

The 3rd Meeting of the BEREC Contact Network for 2019 took place on the 12th and 13th September 2019 in Zadar, Croatia, kindly hosted by the Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM). The meeting was attended by senior representatives of the national regulatory authorities (NRAs) with primary responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the markets for electronic communications

networks and services. NRAs from the EU Member States, from the EEA countries and from the States that are candidates for accession to the EU were also represented. Representatives of the European Commission also attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to prepare the 40th ordinary plenary meetings of the BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) and the Management Board of the BEREC Office (MB), due to take place between the 3rd and 4th October 2019 in Crete, Greece.

CEPT Working Group on Numbering and Networks Joint Workshop with Japan's TTC

An MCA representative participated in the joint workshop held between CEPT/ECC Working Group on Numbering and Networks (WG NaN) and Japan's Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC) on the 10th and 11th September 2019.

Various topics were discussed including emerging trends in numbering and networks such as Machine-to-Machine (M2M) / Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity services, 5G and Over-The-Top communication services, numbering for eCall, Over-The-Air provisioning, ITU's Mobile Country Code for private mobile networks, and fraud a misuse of numbers.

During the workshop the MCA delivered a presentation including Malta's numbering framework for M2M/IoT connectivity services and other non-interpersonal communications services (non-ICS). The first part of this presentation provided an overview of the industry outlook, reports and recommendations published by the WG NaN on this matter and related European regulation emanating from the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC). In the second part, the MCA referred to the main outcomes of its decision on numbering for M2M/IoT connectivity services, and other Non-ICS published last July. These were presented as a case study of the solutions adopted on numbering for M2M/IoT connectivity services by Malta, from the perspective of both a CEPT as well as an EU Member State.

ERASMUS+ Programme – Implementing Better QoS for Telecommunications

through Expert Mobility – Mobility4Equality

The MCA participated in the ERASMUS+ EU programme which supports education and training in Europe and encourages the mobility of individuals/staff for a learning experience. Four staff members visited the Authority for the Consumers & Market (ACM) between the 9th and 11th September 2019 in The Hague, Netherlands. The ACM is responsible for the telecoms, postal, energy and transport markets. The scope of the visit was to gather insights and best practices on work, related to the 'In-building Physical Infrastructure', 'Universal Service Obligations', a general overview on 'Quality of Service' and VULA. The following is an overview of the main points discussed during the visit:

USO: Universal Service Obligations in the Netherlands include fixed telephony access, directory enquiry services and measures for disabled end-users. ACM has not yet defined the adequate functional internet access connection available for basic internet use, which is particularly because internet penetration rate in the Netherlands is quite high with nationwide coverage of 98% of broadband internet access.

QoS: Currently there is no QoS framework in place for fixed broadband in the Netherlands, however ACM is waiting for the establishment of the BEREC measuring tool & guidelines, which are expected to be in place by beginning next year. During our discussion on QoS with Mr Giancarlo Rex, we were presented with an application tool which is currently being developed by BEREC together with some Member States on measuring internet speed.

In-Building Infrastructure: Every household in the Netherlands, including multi-tenant buildings, are by default supplied by termination points supporting copper & fibre (KPN) and cable (Vodafone Ziggo) networks, giving the subscriber all available options to choose the preferred service. It is noted that since ACM had never encountered any issues or disputes relating to the in-building physical infrastructure submitted by the property owner or the service provider. This left no room for further discussions on the subject.

VULA: ACM have implemented the access obligation on Copper for quite some years and recently the access obligation on Fibre. During the last years, ACM published a decision regarding the access obligation on Cable network.

PUBLICATIONS

End-User Half Yearly Statistical Report January - June 2019

Published On: Sep 30th 2019 End User Half Yearly Report

MCA Consultation on the Market Analysis Findings concerning the Provision of Postal Services in Malta

Published On: Sep 30th 2019 Consultation

Notice: Assignment of Radio Spectrum for Fixed Radio Links

Published On: Sep 18th 2019 News

Annual Plan 2019

Published On: Sep 17th 2019 Annual Plan

Strategy Update for 2019 - 2021

Published On: Sep 17th 2019 Strategic Plan

Monthly Newsletter - August 2019

Published On: Sep 11th 2019 News