



MALTA COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2025

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fact-Finding Report on Competition Indicators and Regulatory Highlights in Different Jurisdictions

Taking into account earlier exchanges with experts from various NRAs, the MCA participated in a meeting that was held on 19th December 2025, between the co-chairs and the drafters of the *Fact-Finding Report on Competition Indicators and Regulatory Highlights in Different Jurisdictions* to discuss the way forward. It was agreed to revise the chapter's scope and reframe it as a literature review analysing relevant studies across different regions.

4th Meeting of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG-4)

The MCA participated in the 4th meeting of the Conference Preparatory Group between the 15th and 18th December 2025. The meeting considered the activities done by the project teams in developing CEPT Briefs and European Common Positions on the agenda items of WRC-27. The draft CEPT Briefs were updated to reflect progress made by the respective ITU Study Groups as well as within other organisations.

12th Meeting of Working Group 7 of the European Board of Digital Services

On 16th December 2025, the MCA attended the 12th meeting of Working Group 7 on Orders and Criminal Issues, held in Brussels. The agenda focused on identifying, handling, and reporting illegal content and cooperation with law enforcement, including a presentation by the Media Authority of North Rhine-Westphalia on AI tools for detecting infringements. Discussions covered the legal context of using AI by Digital Service Coordinators, challenges in enforcement, and cooperation procedures under Article 18 of the DSA. The second part addressed developing good practices for monitoring compliance with illegal content provisions, featuring presentations on German media authorities' workflows and the Commission's draft compliance monitoring template. The meeting concluded with updates on monitoring exercises under the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online and deadlines for feedback on templates and consultations.

16th Meeting of Working Group 3 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the full-day DSA Working Group 3 Meeting, held in-person in Brussels on 11th December 2025. The agenda covered debriefs from the previous day's workshops on ODS and Data Access, followed by discussions on Trusted Flaggers, specifically reviewing the Commission's draft guidelines on Article 22. The meeting concluded with a session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the outcomes of the recent Board deep dive.

Workshop on Out-of-Court Dispute Settlement (ODS)

The MCA also attended the Workshop on Out-of-Court Dispute Settlement (ODS), which took place in-person in Brussels on 10th December 2025. The meeting centered on the structure and best practice recommendations for the ODS drafters' group, defining main roles and responsibilities. Participants reviewed the Commission's Article 21 Study. Participants agreed on an initial way forward for the drafting of best practices to guide ODSBs, platforms and DSCs, to which the MCA will be contributing as a reviewer.

91st Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC #91)

The MCA participated in 91st Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee. The discussion at RSC#91 focused on two main agenda items:

- (i) a draft Commission Implementing Decision on harmonised conditions for the usage of aerial terminal stations with non-active antenna systems in EU-harmonised frequency bands for terrestrial systems capable of providing wireless electronic communications services in the Union (ATS); and
- (ii) a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1426 on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5 875-5 935 MHz frequency band for safety-related applications of intelligent transport systems (ITS). The meeting also considered updates from the CEPT/ECC, ETSI as well as from DG GROW on the Radio Equipment Directive.

Workshop on Data Access

On 10th December 2025, the MCA participated in the Workshop on Data Access, held in-person in Brussels. This full-day session focused on the processes for granting data access to vetted researchers, including a review of applications received by relevant Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs). The workshop also covered the practical usage of the DSA Data Access portal and the necessary coordination between DSCs of origin and establishment regarding data protection requirements.

9th Meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the ninth meeting of Working Group 1 (Horizontal and Legal Issues) of the European Board for Digital Services on 9th December 2025. The meeting focused on questions raised by DSCs, updates on the designation of VLOPs and VLOSEs and recent court rulings, and ongoing workstreams under Articles 16 and 91 of the DSA.

65th BEREC Plenary

The MCA hosted the BEREC Ordinary Meetings on 4th and 5th December which were held at the Malta Hilton. The BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) adopted the BEREC Strategy 2026-2030 that updates, reviews and consolidates the previous three strategies (Strategy 2021 – 2025, the Medium-Term Strategy for relations with other institutions and the Medium-Term Strategy for International Cooperation) along with the Action Plan 2030. The BoR also adopted BEREC's Work Programme 2026 which builds on the mandatory

tasks set out in the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) and anticipates work related to the forthcoming DNA. During the same meeting various other documents were adopted, including the draft BEREC Report on switching and termination of contracts, and the draft update of BEREC's Guidelines on geographical surveys of broadband network deployment. A [full list](#) of BEREC's public documents adopted at the 65th ordinary meetings (4-5 December 2025) can be found on the BEREC website.

Safer Internet Forum 2025

On 4th December 2025, the MCA took part in the Safer Internet Forum 2025, held in Brussels and online, under the theme "Why age matters: Protecting and empowering youth in the digital age." The forum explored age-appropriate online experiences through proportionate, rights-based approaches, discussed age assurance solutions and complementary tools to support parents, and addressed challenges in areas such as video games. Stakeholders, including youth representatives, shared perspectives on creating safer and more empowering digital environments for children.

1st Inter-regional Information Session on WRC-27 Preparation

The 1st ITU Inter-Regional Information Session on WRC-27 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2027) preparation took place in a hybrid format from 3rd to 5th December 2025. During the session, participants from regional groups had the opportunity to discuss and express draft preliminary positions on different WRC-27 agenda items. In addition, the event featured interactive discussions,

providing stakeholders to exchange views and deepen their understanding of the most challenging WRC-27 agenda items and related issues.

14th Meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board of Digital Services

On 4th December 2025, the MCA participated in the 14th meeting of WG4 – Integrity of the Information Space. The meeting provided a comprehensive overview of the European Democracy Shield, with particular emphasis on DSA aspects related to the incident and crisis protocol, the election toolkit, and the code of conduct on disinformation. Some DSCs also shared insights and experiences in preparation for upcoming elections in their respective member states

12th Meeting of Working Group 6 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the twelfth meeting of Working Group 6 (Protection of Minors) of the European Board for Digital Services on 3rd December 2025. The session focused on the implementation plan for Article 28 DSA guidelines, age verification solutions, and updates on relevant EU and national initiatives. MCA contributed to discussions aimed at strengthening measures for the protection of minors online.

33rd Meeting of the European Communications Council

Representatives from the MCA attended the 33rd meeting of the European Communications Council. The meeting considered various operational aspects of ECO as well as others concerning the ECO Convention.

Meeting with Safer Internet Centres

On 3rd December 2025, the MCA attended the meeting of Digital Services Coordinators and Safer Internet Centres. The discussion included presentations of successful cooperation cases, followed by a plenary exchange on good practices, challenges, and gaps. The session concluded with closing remarks from the European Commission.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Specialised Training Programme for Public Sector Employees on Web Accessibility



During the month of December, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) organised a specialised training programme for public sector employees to enhance their understanding of web accessibility. The course focused on practical guidance to help IT teams design and develop websites that are accessible to all users.

This initiative was organised in collaboration with the University of Malta - Faculty of ICT, FITA and MDIA.

Congratulations to our Quiz Winner!



During the Freshers' Weeks events held in October, MCA and MDIA jointly organised a quiz and we are proud to congratulate Christian Camenzuli as one of the winners!

Mr Camenzuli received a Kindle Scribe, which we hope will be a valuable tool in supporting his studies and academic journey.

Jesmond Bugeja, MCA Chief Executive Officer, commented: "At MCA, we strongly believe in investing in young minds and encouraging curiosity, innovation, and continuous learning. We are delighted to support students at this important stage of their journey and wish them every success in their future endeavours."

MCA's Strategy and Work Programme 2026



MCA employees took part in an informative seminar featuring key updates on the Authority's Strategy and Work Programme 2026, outlining MCA's direction and priorities for the year ahead.



Our staff also had the pleasure of hearing from Mr Charles Deguara Auditor General from the National Audit Office Malta (NAO), who shared insightful reflections on accountability and good governance; principles that support the MCA's role as Malta's communications regulator. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Deguara for joining us and for his valuable contribution to the session.



CEO Mr Jesmond Bugeja closed the session by thanking the team for their dedication and emphasising how important these events are for strengthening relationships between us and facilitate working hand in hand at our workplace. With determination and a shared vision, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

65th BEREC Ordinary Meetings



The 65th BEREC Ordinary Meetings held between the 4th and 5th December brought together regulators, industry leaders and experts in an atmosphere of collaboration and forward-thinking.



It was inspiring to see such participation and ambition; a clear reminder of how much we can achieve when we move forward together.



2 Day Visit by the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro (EKIP)



The CEO and senior officials from the MCA welcomed counterparts from the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro (EKIP) for a two-day study visit aimed at strengthening cooperation and exchanging best practices.

During the visit, MCA experts provided an overview of the Authority's organisational structure, international engagement, and key initiatives in network resiliency and connectivity. Discussions also addressed the implementation of the Digital Services Act, universal service obligations, consumer protection, market regulation, and recent quality-of-service benchmarking.

The visit offered a constructive platform for high-level exchanges and reinforced the commitment of both authorities to continued collaboration in the regulatory field. A productive and insightful exchange of knowledge and experiences!

MoU between the MCA and the Commissioner of Communications of Cyprus



On the 3rd December 2025, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) and the Commissioner of Communications of Cyprus, representing the Digital Security Authority, signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Jesmond Bugeja, Chief Executive Officer of the MCA highlighted, "This is not just a signature on a document. It is a meaningful commitment to strengthen cooperation, enhance cybersecurity, and ensure resilient electronic communications and postal services across our region."

Signed by Jesmond Bugeja and George Michaelides, Commissioner of Communications in Cyprus, this MoU paves the way for a more secure, connected, and resilient digital environment for our communities.

Bilateral Meeting with NCEC

On 2nd December 2025, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) held a bilateral meeting with the National Commission for the State Regulation of Electronic Communications, Radio Spectrum and Postal Services of Ukraine (NCEC). The hybrid meeting included the in-person participation of

NCEC Chairwoman Ms Liliia Malon at the MCA offices, together with MCA CEO Mr Jesmond Bugeja and senior officials from the MCA.

Discussions focused on each authority's operational framework, market regulation, consumer protection and network resiliency, as well as the current challenges facing Ukraine's electronic communications sector.

The exchange provided an invaluable opportunity for both authorities to share expertise, discuss mutual challenges, and strengthen cooperation in support of resilient and consumer-focused communications sectors.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our counterparts at NCEC.



PUBLICATIONS

International News Week 32 2025

Published On 23/12/2025 News

Monthly Newsletter - November 2025

Published On 23/12/2025 News

Career Opportunity: Senior Technical Specialist

Published On 15/12/2025 Recruitment Jobsplus permit no: 397/2025

International News Week 31 2025

Published On 11/12/2025 News

International News Week 30 2025

Published On 04/12/2025 News

LEGAL UPDATES

Litigation:

MaltaPost plc versus I-Awtorita ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni: It was decided on 1st December 2025 by the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) whereby the Tribunal did not uphold MaltaPost's appeal contesting a decision issued by the MCA on 3rd August 2020. The MCA in its decision required MaltaPost to pay compensation of €10,159 given that MaltaPost had failed to achieve the single mail item delivery target of 95% for financial year 2019. MaltaPost have lodged an appeal from ART's judgement before the Court of Appeal (inferior).

MEDIA ACTIVITY



TV/Radio:

Date: 16.12.2025

Channel: One

Programme: Morning Mix

Topic: Telecosts

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

End of Newsletter

Radio:

Date: 15.12.2025

Channel: NETFM

Programme: Brunch ma' Marbeck

Topic: Roaming

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 02.12.2025

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Minn Jum Għal Jum

Topic: Contract Summary & Changes to T&Cs

Participant: Yanika Buġeja