

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 14<sup>th</sup> BEREC Stakeholder Forum

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, BEREC leaders, national regulatory authorities, European Commission officials, industry players and academia convened for the 14<sup>th</sup> BEREC Stakeholder Forum. This annual event focused on BEREC's current and future work, Europe's current digital policy environment, the upcoming regulatory framework, and emerging technological developments shaping the electronic communications and digital sectors. During the morning, Meet&Greet sessions with the co-Chairs of the various BEREC Working Groups were held. BEREC also hosted a conference during which the draft BEREC Work Programme was presented and feedback sought. Panel discussions and keynote speeches were also held. The MCA attended the Forum as a member of BEREC.

### 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 2 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the online meeting of the European Board for Digital Services Working Group 2, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The meeting focused on best practices for complaint handling, discussion on the working methods of the Board, cooperation with civil society organisations, progress on the drafting of the Article 91(7) DSA opinion and the Article 35(2) DSA report.

## **16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 4 of the European Board of Digital Services**

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, the MCA participated in the sixteenth meeting of Working Group 4 – Integrity of the information space of the European Board for Digital Services, where updates were provided by Digital Services Coordinators on recent and upcoming elections, followed by a presentation from DG COMM and EEAS on Democracy Shield activities related to the FIMI Blueprint, discussions on Democracy Shield DSA related actions including election toolkit escalation channels and the DSA incident and crisis protocol, an exchange on the impact of AI chatbots on information integrity, and updates on the implementation and reporting progress of the Code of Practice on Disinformation and the related task force activities.

## **Ad hoc Meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board of Digital Services Meeting**

The MCA participated in an ad hoc WG1 information session focused on the Board's opinion pursuant to Article 75 of the Digital Services Act. The Commission outlined the legal basis and implications of the opinion, including the requirement for very large online platforms to submit action plans setting out measures to remedy identified infringements, with reference to the expected role of DSCs in the process.

## **15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 6 of the European Board of Digital Services**

On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026, The MCA participated in the fifteenth meeting of Working Group 6, which focused on the protection of minors under the DSA. The discussion covered updates on the Age Verification Solution Project, the continued work on Article 28 implementation, and ongoing initiatives at national and EU level. The Commission presented progress on the trusted list for age verification issuers and Member States exchanged views on enforcement challenges related to minors' online safety.

## **18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 3 of the European Board of Digital Services Meeting**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the MCA attended the 18<sup>th</sup> WG3 meeting, which focused on the state of play of data access applications and the 2026 WG3 Data Access Workplan. The group reviewed new materials, including the right to be heard cheat sheets, harmonised researcher guidance, and assessment templates.

## **CMS Webinar on Non-VLOPSE Risk Assessment Framework**

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the MCA followed the CMS Webinar on Non-VLOPSE Risk Assessment Framework held online. The Slovak DSC explained the methodology and detailed the data collection process it carried out to identify below threshold services, along with key insights derived from the implementation of this exercise. This was followed by a Q&A session, which provided an opportunity for discussion and knowledge sharing.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board of Digital Services**

The MCA attended the eleventh meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board for Digital Services, on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. The meeting focused on updates regarding the designation of VLOPs and VLOSEs and related court cases, recent enforcement actions by DSCs across Member States, the status of the WG1 workplan and ongoing workstreams—including preparations for the Commission’s upcoming Article 91 report—and concluded with discussions under AOB on short term rental regulation, the interplay with Article 31 DSA, and the qualification of audio streaming services under the DSA.

## **16<sup>th</sup> WADEX Meeting**

Representatives from the MCA participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> WADEX Meeting. This meeting took place after a considerable gap since the previous WADEX session and focused primarily on updates from the European Commission. In particular, it addressed progress on the European Accessibility Act, including enforcement, standards, and its alignment with the Web Accessibility Directive.

An update was also provided on the ongoing revision of the EN 301 549 standard. Moreover, the meeting featured some presentations from Member States, with Slovenia and the Netherlands sharing practical experiences and insights based on their web accessibility monitoring efforts to date.

## **Webinar: Protecting Children Online: From Policy to Practice**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026, the MCA attended the Protecting Children Online: From Policy to Practice event, which centred on a series of discussions exploring AI related risks and opportunities for children; emerging litigation and regulatory enforcement trends; assessing the best interests of the child from practitioner and youth perspectives; and implementation challenges around age assurance system.

## **Working Group 3 of the European Board of Digital Services - Ad hoc Meeting on Trusted Flaggers Guidelines**

Experts from the MCA participated in the WG3 ad hoc meeting on Trusted Flaggers (Content moderation and data access) of the EBDS held online, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. The meeting discussed the proposed key revisions within the various sections of the draft Guidelines on Trusted Flaggers.

## **Ad hoc Meeting of Working Group 3 of the European Board of Digital Services**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 the MCA attended the WG3 Ad hoc Meeting on the Trusted Flaggers Guidelines. The meeting focused on presentations by CNECT on the draft Trusted Flagger Guidelines, a tour de table discussion on DSC contributions, continued exchanges on key elements of the guidelines, and planning for upcoming WG3 meetings.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Consumer Seminar: Safeguarding Consumers' Confidence in Digital Communications

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) organised a half day seminar entitled 'Safeguarding Consumers' Confidence in Digital Communications' on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026, which brought together regulators, policymakers, consumer bodies, industry representatives and public authorities to examine key consumer protection challenges in today's digital communications environment.



The seminar addressed consumer protection issues at both national and EU level, with a focus on transparency, quality of service, digitalisation, AI driven services and the growing threat of scams. As part of the programme, the MCA presented findings from its latest Quality of Experience survey, offering insights into how consumers in Malta perceive service quality, fairness and transparency, including billing practices, customer support, bundled services, overall satisfaction and scam awareness, while highlighting key trends and

areas requiring further attention.

Through keynote addresses, fireside chats and panel discussions, the seminar aimed to foster informed dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders. By encouraging shared responsibility and forward-looking regulatory thinking, the event sought to contribute to strengthening consumer protection, enforcement, awareness raising and support for vulnerable users in a rapidly evolving digital communications landscape.



### KSU Careers Expo

Students had the opportunity to stop by the Malta Communications Authority's stand and discover how their future in tech, regulation and innovation can start within the Authority. Students had the chance to meet our team, explore potential careers, and learn how they can grow their skills while contributing to Malta's digital future.



## NSTF Mini European Assembly

The MCA was represented by Ing. David Scerri, Chief Officer, Cybersecurity within the Malta Communications Authority, who was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the NSTF Mini European Assembly, addressing sixth form and university students.



His session highlighted:

- Why critical infrastructure matters
- NIS2 and its national implementation in Malta
- The Digital Networks Act and its role in ensuring secure electronic communications systems
- The strategic importance of submarine cable security



He concluded his speech by highlighting the responsibility of younger generations to safeguard the systems that keep our country and communities running.

## PUBLICATIONS

### End-User Affairs: Half Yearly Report (July - December 2025)

Published On 30/03/2026 End User Half Yearly Report MCA/R/26-5900

### Monthly Newsletter - February 2026

Published On 24/03/2026 News

### Draft Bill entitled 'Communications Laws (Amendment) Act'

Published On 24/03/2026 Consultation MCA/C/26-5901

## **Consultation and Proposed Decision on the Review of GO plc's Application for Funding for the Provision of Universal Service Obligations on Electronic Communications Services during 2021**

Published On 20/03/2026 Consultation  
MCA/C/26-5894

## **International News Week 43 2025**

Published On 18/03/2026 News

## **Career Opportunity: Analyst (In Review)**

Published On 18/03/2026 Recruitment Jobsplus  
permit no: 761/2025

## **Strategic approach to managing Spectrum Bands for Expiring Rights of Use**

Published On 17/03/2026 Consultation  
MCA/C/26-5892

## **International News Week 42 2025**

Published On 13/03/2026 News

## **International News Week 41 2025**

Published On 09/03/2026 News

## **Update to the Register of Authorised Undertakings providing Postal Services in Malta**

Published On 06/03/2026 News

## **Strategy Update 2026 - 2028**

Published On 02/03/2026 Strategic Plan  
MCA/O/25-5787

## **Annual Plan 2026**

Published On 02/03/2026 Annual Plan MCA/O/26-5854

**\*\*\*End of Newsletter\*\*\***