

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

6th Meeting of Working Group 5 of the European Board of Digital Services Meeting

The MCA participated in the 6th meeting of Working Group 5 (Consumer Protection and Online Marketplaces) of the European Board for Digital Services, which was held in person on 28th October 2025. The Commission presented its preliminary findings in its investigation against AliExpress, and Temu and highlighted the next steps in both proceedings. Subsequently, an update on the state of play of the two WG5 workstreams was given, after which several member states shared their experiences on their national e-commerce taskforces and round tables. The Commission closed the morning session by announcing that TikTok Shop has been launched in 5 EU member states, noting that such business model may challenge the current definition of 'online marketplaces'. The Commission also encouraged the latter member states to share their experience in this regard in the next Work Group meeting. In the afternoon, the MCA participated in discussions on the WG's workplan/ priorities, the cooperation between DSCs and other authorities, and on how to improve the functioning of WG5.

BEREC Market and Economic Analysis Working Group Meeting

A representative from the MCA participated physically in a meeting, organized by the BEREC Market and Economic Analysis Working Group (MEA WG), for drafters of the BEREC Fact Finding Report on Competitive Indicators and Regulatory Highlights in different jurisdictions, on the 21st October 2025. The first draft, previously submitted to the co-chairs, was presented to the group and discussions centered around possible improvements and refinements to the content. Key insights from this first draft will be presented at Contact Network 4. In this regard, bilateral follow-up meetings are tentatively scheduled with the co-chairs in mid-November.

European Data Protection Board Webinar on the interplay between the DSA and the GDPR

The MCA participated in a webinar hosted by the European Data Protection Board on the 23rd October 2025. The guidelines on the interplay between the DSA and GDPR, as adopted on the 11th September 2025, was presented, followed by a Q&A period.

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

Representatives from the MCA participated in an ad hoc meeting of Working Group 3 (Content Moderation and Data Access) of the European Board of Digital Services, on the 21st October 2025. A draft joint statement of the Board on entry into force of the delegated act on data access was presented and Member States were given the opportunity to give feedback prior to the statement's publication.

5th Meeting of Working Group 8 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the 5th meeting of WG8, hosted in Brussels, IT issues of the European Board for Digital Services on the 21st October 2025. The meeting focused on proposed changes and enhancements to Agora, aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the DSA. It also explored ideas to boost user adoption and encourage more frequent use of Agora.

10th Meeting of Working Group 7 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the 10th meeting of the European Digital Services Board's Work Group 7 on Orders and Criminal Issues (online). The results of the mapping exercise on orders under Article 9 and 10 of the DSA were presented, after which, the Board announced that it will be issuing a guiding document based on the findings. Subsequently, the Chair presented the next steps, in relation to the implementation and proper functioning of Article 18, whereby a draft questionnaire of a targeted consultation was shared for feedback of the Member States.

11th Meeting of Working Group 2 of the European Board of Digital Services

Experts from the MCA participated in the 11th meeting (online) of WG2 - Working Together - of the European Board for Digital Services on the 16th October 2025. The meeting went through the proposed WG2 work-plan for the coming year as well as the suggested coordinated key messages to be published. It also deliberated on the latest updates regarding the complaints handling best practices with a focus on specific areas. A summary of the DSCs' responses to the questionnaire on implementation priorities was presented. Furthermore, the group considered possible topics for the next meeting taking in place in November (Brussels).

BEREC End-User Working Group Meeting

The MCA participated in BEREC's End-User Working Group end-of-year meeting, on the 15th October in Brussels. During the session, the co-chairs provided updates on the projects assigned to the group for 2024. The group also discussed the work programme planned for 2025. Following this meeting, the MCA took part in a dedicated session for the drafters coordinating the upcoming joint BEUC–BEREC workshop on end-user rights.

BEREC / BEUC Workshop on End-User Rights

Members of the MCA's End-User Affairs team attended and actively participated in the joint BEUC–BEREC workshop on the 15th October 2025, which focused on various aspects of end-user protection in the telecommunications sector. During the event, the MCA presented the findings of its 2025 report on a mystery shopping exercise, conducted between 2023 and 2024, to assess mobile providers' compliance with end-user protection rules. The MCA also moderated the fourth session of the workshop, which focused on End-User Empowerment and Awareness Raising.

31st 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 Riga, Latvia between the 14th and 16th October, 2025. 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 four months. An overview of work activities taking place within other organisations, such as ITU-T, BEREC, ETSI, MEF and GIRAF, in areas which are relevant to this working group was also provided. During the meeting, the draft ECC Recommendation 'Measures to handle alphanumeric SMS Sender IDs' and the draft ECC Report 'SMS to 112 and other national emergency numbers for roaming end-users' were approved for final adoption, whereas the Draft ECC Report 'Issues concerning the use of virtual numbers' was approved for public consultation. 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.

111th Working Group on Frequency Management

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) held its #111 meeting in Budapest, between the 13th and 17th of October 2025, bringing together experts from across Europe to discuss key spectrum management matters. The meeting approved new recommendations, endorsed CEPT Report 91 on 20 MHz ITS channels, and agreed to send three draft ECC Reports for public consultation. These outcomes will eventually contribute to the review of deliverables pertaining to spectrum management in Malta.

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

On the 13th October 2025, the MCA participated in the ninth meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board for Digital Services, which was held in-person in Brussels. The meeting focused on horizontal and legal issues under the Digital Services Act. Practical enforcement cases were explored during breakout sessions. Recent CJEU rulings and national enforcement actions were also discussed.

ERGP Regulatory Framework Working Group Meeting

A representative of the MCA participated in a meeting of the Working Group held on 8th October 2025, in Belgrade. The meeting discussed the latest developments related to the European Commission's plans for an EU Delivery Act to replace the Postal Services Directive and the Cross-Border Parcels Regulation. The reform of EU rules on postal services is intended to focus on delivery as a service in order to ensure that people and businesses can receive deliveries throughout the EU at affordable prices, while promoting fair competition on delivery markets and increasing consumer protection. Further consultation is expected to continue during 2026, before the Commission publishes its formal proposals in Q4 of 2026. The Working Group meeting also shared experiences of national approaches to safeguard the resilience and security of postal services, and it also discussed a draft internal report on the subject. The planned activities and deliverables of the Working Group for 2026 were also discussed.

10th Meeting of Working Group 6 of the European Board of Digital Services Meeting

On the 6th October 2025, the MCA participated virtually in the 10th meeting of WG6 (Protection of Minors) of the European Board for Digital Services. The meeting centred around the implementation plan for the Article 28 guidelines, whereby the DSCs agreed on a common strategy. Updates on the coordinated approach to providers of pornographic content, and the Commission's technical work for age verification solutions were shared.

64th BEREC Ordinary Meetings

The MCA participated in BEREC's Board of Regulators (BoR) and Management Board (MB) meetings held in Sofia, Bulgaria on the 2nd and 3rd October. BEREC adopted a number of documents for publication including the draft BEREC Work Programme 2026, its Opinion of the EC Review of the Delegated Regulation setting Unionwide termination rates, and the Guidelines it was mandated to develop under the Gigabit Infrastructure Act. These documents along with others adopted during the session, can be accessed on BEREC's website. BEREC also elected its Chair for 2027 - Ms Alejandra de Iturriaga Gandini from the Spanish National Commission on Markets and Competition (CNMC). As well as electing its Chair, BEREC also elected its vice-chairs for 2026. The heads of the EU Member States national regulatory authorities (NRAs) represented in the BEREC BoR and MB voted in the election.

ITU 8th Multilateral Frequency Coordination

The 8th Multilateral Frequency Coordination Meeting took place in Biel, Switzerland, from the 1st to the 2nd October 2025. Chaired by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the meeting primarily focused on cases of harmful interference caused by Italy to the broadcasting services of neighbouring countries, including Croatia, France, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Malta. Participants reviewed recent developments in the interference situation and reached agreement on the actions to be undertaken to resolve the issue.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Pink October & Movember – Session hosted by Hospice Malta



Life gives us so many reasons to remember how precious our health really is.

As part of Pink October and Movember, the management and employees at the Malta Communication Authority (MCA) welcomed Ms Lydia Zammit from Hospice Malta for an inspiring session filled with awareness, emotion, and

courage. Ms Zammit gave insights about cancer prevention, the incredible support services offered by Hospice Malta to those living with cancer as well as their relatives, and the importance of being there for one another.

MCA employees gifted a donation to Hospice Malta to show our solidarity.

BNetzA – MCA Collaboration



The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) was pleased to welcome Isabel Jimenez from BNetzA, the German Digital Services Coordinator, for the first two weeks of October.

During her time at the MCA, Ms. Jimenez had the opportunity to gain valuable insights into our regulatory functions while sharing her own perspectives and experiences in the digital regulatory sphere. Such exchanges strengthen cross-border collaboration and contribute to a deeper mutual understanding of the evolving digital landscape across Europe.

Jesmond Bugeja, MCA Chief Executive Officer, remarked, “We highly value opportunities for knowledge exchange with our European

counterparts. Welcoming budding professionals like Isabel reinforces our commitment to fostering collaboration, both across our country and internationally.”



The MCA extends its sincere appreciation to Isabel for her engagement and enthusiasm, and wishes her every success in her future endeavours.

MCA Participation in KSU Freshers' Week & Freshers' Week at MCAST



The MCA, in collaboration with the MDIA, shared a stand for the KSU Freshers' Week at the University of Malta and the Freshers' Week at MCAST Paola.



Students were invited to visit our stand to discover who we are, learn more about our role, and see the work carried out daily by the MCA to improve the communications sector in Malta.



Students had the opportunity to join our quiz for the chance to win a prize that could come in handy during their studies.

PUBLICATIONS

International News Week 25 2025

Published On 30/10/2025 News

International News Week 24 2025

Published On 24/10/2025 News

Monthly Newsletter - September 2025

Published On 24/10/2025 News

International News Week 23 2025

Published On 16/10/2025 News

Decision on the Source of Funding for the Net Cost incurred in providing Universal Service Obligations during 2020

Published On 15/10/2025 Decision MCA/D/25-5755

Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post- Q1 2021 to Q2 2025

Published On 13/10/2025 Data Report Sheet MCA/R/25-5744

Career Opportunity: Analyst (Market Modelling)

Published On 10/10/2025 Recruitment Jobsplus permit no: 761/2025

Career Opportunity: Digital Services Specialist - EUDI

Published On 10/10/2025 Recruitment Jobsplus permit no: 523/2025

International News Week 22 2025

Published On 09/10/2025 News

Consumer Perception Survey on TV services - 2025

Published On 01/09/2025 Regulatory MCA/R/25-5227

EMF Quarterly Report - Q3 2025

Published On 06/10/2025 EMF Reports

International News Week 21 2025

Published On 03/10/2025 News

LEGAL UPDATES

Legislation:

23rd October 2025

Pending appeal by MaltaPost plc, contesting a 2019 decision of the MCA, whereby MaltaPost was required to pay compensation for not having achieving the 2019 delivery targets. Case for scheduled for the 23rd October 2025 and was postponed to the 1st December 2025 for the Administrative Review Tribunal's judgement.

Legislation:

10th October 2025

224 of 2025 - Malta Communications Authority Act (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order, 2025
Government Gazette of Malta No. 21,519 – 10.10.2025

222 of 2025 - Fair Access to and Use of Data Regulations, 2025
Government Gazette of Malta No. 21,519 – 10.10.2025

MEDIA ACTIVITY



Television:

Date: 16.10.2025

Channel: TVM

Programme: TVAM

Topic: End-user half yearly report

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Radio:

Date: 29.10.2025

Channel: One Radio

Programme: One Magazine

Topic: Changes to the terms and conditions

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 20.10.2025

Channel: NET FM

Programme: Brunch ma' Marbeck

Topic: End-user half yearly report

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 14.10.2025

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Minn Jum Għal Jum

Topic: End-user half yearly report

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

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