

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe

The MCA participated in the annual ITU–EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe, held in Budva, Montenegro, on the 29th and 30th September 2025. This year's theme, *"Building a Resilient and Human-Centric Digital World,"* brought together over one hundred international delegates representing European regulatory authorities, ministries, electronic communications operators, academia, and industry organisations.

Upon the invitation of the organisers, the MCA CEO addressed the Forum, providing an update on recent regulatory developments in Malta's communications sector. The MCA's Chief of Spectrum Management & Technology also delivered a presentation on *"Harnessing AI for Smarter Regulation."*

12th Meeting of Working Group 4 (European Board of Digital Services)

Representatives from the MCA participated in the twelfth meeting of Working Group 4 on *the Integrity of the Information Space*, held in Brussels, on 30th September 2025. The agenda focused on election-related systemic risks, media pluralism, and hybrid threats under the DSA. MCA contributed to discussions on the DSA Elections Toolkit and rapid response mechanisms.

9th Meeting of WG7 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA attended the 9th meeting (online) of Working Group 7 *Orders and Criminal Issues* of the European Board for Digital Services on 29th September 2025. The agenda included updates on WG7 work-streams, WG7 fiche and the Board's work plan for 2025/2026. The Belgian and Italian DSCs shared their experience with cross-border orders under Article 9 and 10 sent to providers of non-VLOPs, and the non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material on VLOPs and non-VLOPs respectively.

14th Meeting of WG3 of the European Board of Digital Services

On 29th September 2025, the MCA participated in the 14th meeting (online) of Working Group 3 *Content Moderation and Data Access* of the European Board for Digital Services. The meeting centered around the implementation of the data access delegated act and the support required in view of its coming into force. Updates were also provided on the progress of the proposed out-of-court dispute settlement and trusted flagger guidelines currently underway.

43rd Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN2

Two representatives from the MCA participated virtually, in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN, which was held between the 23rd and 24th September 2025. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to trust in

numbers, number portability, and switching, including ongoing report drafting and discussions on future work items.

WIK Conference 2025

An MCA official participated at the WIK Conference 2025 "*What direction for digital policy in the geopolitical era?*", which was held on the 16th and 17th September 2025, in Brussels. The event brought together European regulators, policymakers, and industry leaders, to discuss future challenges and opportunities in the telecom and digital infrastructure sector. Key highlights included debates on fibre deployment and investment certainty, the importance of dependable regulatory outcomes, cross-border competition, and reimagining frameworks like the Digital Networks Act (DNA), SMP, and open access to address evolving market bottlenecks. The sessions emphasized the need for dynamic regulation, fostering innovation, and balancing market structure with consumer protection to drive efficient investment and fair competition across Europe's digital ecosystem.

62nd Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN1

Two representatives from the MCA participated virtually, in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN which was held between the 16th and 17th September, 2025. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to future numbering issues, including ongoing drafting of Reports, reviewing of ECC Recommendations and discussions on future work items.

3rd BEREC Contact Network (CN) Meeting

The MCA participated in the 3rd BEREC Contact Network meeting held in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the 11th and 12th September 2025. Delegates discussed papers proposed for submission to the upcoming Board of Regulators Plenary meeting, including one of the key items on the agenda, the draft BEREC Work Programme 2026. The MCA also held a series of bilateral discussions with the Chair's team and the BEREC Office in preparation for hosting the BEREC Plenary in Malta this December.

13th Meeting of Working Group 3 of the European Board of Digital Services

On 16th July 2025, the MCA participated online in the 13th meeting of WG3 *Content Moderation and Data Access* under the EBDS. The agenda included updates on out-of-court dispute settlement, a discussion on future priorities for the group, and a demo of the Data Access Portal. The meeting also covered the proposed cooperation framework among DSCs and provided a timeline update on the Trusted Flagger Guidelines.

10th Meeting of WG2 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA attended the 10th meeting (online) of Working Group 2 *Working Together* of the European Board for Digital Services on 10th September 2025. The meeting deliberated on the draft board work plan for the coming year and the coordination of key messages and press

statements. An update on the drafting progress of the complaints handling best practices was presented followed by a discussion by the group on key areas. A summary of the responses received for the questionnaires on information and evidence and DSA implementation priorities were also reported.

Workshop – Online Advertising Study

On the 10th September 2025, the MCA participated in a workshop led by Agency for the Web Observatories (AWO) for the European Commission, as part of the online advertising study. The session explored the impact of data practices and advertising models on the DSA/DMA, the use of AI in online advertising, and gaps in the current EU regulatory framework.

8th Meeting of WG1 of the European Board of Digital Services

The MCA participated in the 8th meeting of Working Group 1 of the European Board of Digital Services on horizontal and legal issues, on the 9th September, 2025. Discussions focused on investigatory powers of DSCs (Art. 51), registration and categorisation of services (Arts. 16 & 23), and designation of legal representatives (Art. 13) under the DSA. MCA contributed to exchanges on practical implementation challenges of Art. 13. The meeting also addressed future deliverables and potential new work-streams.

28th Universal Postal Congress

Three representatives from the Malta Communications Authority represented Malta in the 28th Universal Postal Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), held in Dubai from 8th to 19th September 2025.

The Maltese delegation was led by H.E. Ms Maria Camilleri Calleja, Ambassador of Malta to the United Arab Emirates and Permanent Representative to IRENA. An official from MaltaPost, Malta's designated postal operator, also formed part of the delegation.

The UPU, a specialised agency of the United Nations, is dedicated to fostering the development and coordination of international postal services. It operates on the principle of a single postal territory encompassing its 192 member countries, promoting global cooperation and continuous improvement in the postal sector. MaltaPost is the designated postal operator appointed by the Government of Malta to fulfil the postal service obligations arising from the Acts of the UPU.

During the Congress, the member states engaged in discussions and reached consensus on a wide range of issues related to the agency's governance and the future of global postal operations. The Congress also adopted a strategic mandate and related allocation of resources to support the transformation of the international postal network over the next four years.

In preparation for the Congress, the MCA representatives reviewed the various Congress' documents and proposals, coordinating national and common positions with government, the designated postal operator, and counterparts within the European Union (EU) and the European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP).

Throughout the Congress, the delegation actively contributed to the negotiations, ensuring that both national and European common positions were reflected in the final decisions.

Ad hoc WG 4 of the European Board of Digital Services Meeting

On the 4th September 2025, the MCA participated in an ad hoc meeting of Working Group 4 *Integrity of the Information Space* of the European Board for Digital Services. Discussions covered the European Democracy Shield, transparency in political advertising, and updates on national elections and the DSA Elections Toolkit.

WG 5 of the European Board of Digital Services Work-Stream 1

The MCA participated in the 2nd meeting of WG 5's work-stream 1 *Mapping of National Authorities in E-Commerce* on Monday 1st September 2025. The meeting mainly discussed the handbook draft, the distribution of tasks and timelines

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MCA and MCCAА sign MoU



On the 22nd September 2025, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) and the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAА) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation between the two Authorities and ensure that consumers receive the highest quality service, particularly in telecommunications, postal, and digital services.

Mr Jesmond Bugeja, CEO of MCA highlighted "The signing of this MoU formalises a strategic partnership between the MCA and the MCCAА, reinforcing our shared commitment to high standards of consumer protection and regulatory excellence. This collaboration will enable both Authorities to work more effectively together, ensuring that consumers benefit from efficient, reliable, and transparent services across the telecommunications, postal, and digital sectors."

This partnership underscores a joint dedication to consumer welfare, regulatory transparency, and innovation in Malta's communications and digital services.

MCA EMPLOYEES SEMINAR

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) organised a seminar that was slightly different from the usual for its employees. The Authority strongly believes in communication and thus gives employees the opportunity, to meet informally with colleagues in a different environment, away from the workplace, learn while sharing their thoughts and discuss the future of fast evolving sectors. During this seminar, three fireside chats were held focusing on various essential aspects of communication and technology.



In his closing remarks, MCA's Chief Executive Officer Mr Jesmond Bugeja expressed his gratitude, thanking all employees for their valuable contributions. Mr Bugeja emphasized that events like these, not only allows each unit within the MCA to better appreciate the work being carried out across the Authority, but also reinforce the MCA's mission to continue driving innovation, trust, and resilience in Malta's digital and communications sectors.

PUBLICATIONS

End-User Affairs: Half Yearly Report (January - June 2025)

Published On 30/09/2025 End User Half Yearly Report MCA/R/25-5734

International News Week 20 2025

Published On 25/09/2025 News

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

Published On 25/09/2025 Consultation MCA/C/25-5730

Monthly Newsletter - August 2025

Published On 23/09/2025 News

MCA and MCCAA Sign MoU to Strengthen Consumer Protection in the Communications Sector

Published On 22/09/2025 News

International News Week 19 2025

Published On 19/09/2025 News

International News Week 18 2025

Published On 11/09/2025 News

Consumer Perceptions Survey on Fixed Telephony - 2025

Published On 10/09/2025 Fixed Telephony MCA/S/25-5721

International News Week 17 2025

Published On 04/09/2025 News

Report of the Malta Communications Authority on its Monitoring and Findings in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 concerning the European Net Neutrality Rules

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

Decision Notice on the Review of GO plc's Application for Funding of the Net Cost claimed to have been incurred to provide Universal Service Obligations during 2020

Published On 01/09/2025 Decision MCA/D/25-5703

LEGAL UPDATES

Legislation:

Act No. XVII of 2025, amending the Postal Services Act, was brought into force on the 1st September 2025 following the publication of L.N. 194 of 2025.

MEDIA ACTIVITY



Television:

Date: 19.09.2025

Channel: NET TV

Programme: Bejnietna ma' Steph

Topic: Internet

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 18.09.2025

Channel: FLiving

Programme: FLiving Show

Topic: Internet

Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 09.09.2025

Channel: FLiving

Programme: FLiving Show

Topic: Scams

Participant: Yanika Buġeja & Alistair Farrugia

Radio:

Date: 03.09.2025

Channel: NET FM

Programme: Brunch ma' Marbeck

Topic: Internet

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 01.09.2025

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Minn Jum Għal Jum

Topic: Roaming (2nd Part)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

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