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The MCA and RATEL sign a Memorandum of Understanding

During April, a delegation from the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) was hosted by the Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of the Republic of Serbia (RATEL) for a study visit in Serbia. Director of RATEL, Dragan Pejović with his team, received the MCA delegation headed by the MCA CEO Jesmond Bugeja and comprising of various experts in the field of spectrum management and technology.

Throughout the three-day programme, the Maltese delegation was shown around various technical sites operated by RATEL focusing on the radiofrequency spectrum monitoring systems deployed in Serbia. In recent years, considerable investments have been made in such solutions by both national regulatory authorities, with the aim of upgrading their equipment and tools for monitoring the efficient and safe use of radiofrequency spectrum. This spectrum is a scarce resource and essential for a vast number of everyday services ranging from mobile phone communications, tv and sound broadcasting, and radio communications used for emergency services, aeronautical, land and maritime communications and navigation services.

During the visit in Serbia, the delegation also had the opportunity to visit RATEL's headquarters in Belgrade for talks between the parties. These culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed to promote further cooperation and knowledge sharing between MCA and RATEL in the field of electronic communications and postal services regulation. This cooperation is expected to be carried out through bilateral consultations, exchange of experts, joint organisation of technical workshops and seminars, joint working groups, training sessions, and other forms of cooperation that may be mutually beneficial to both entities.

The MCA's CEO Mr Jesmond Bugeja noted that, "this agreement reflects the authority's commitment to foster international cooperation and to promote best practices in the regulation of electronic communications and postal services."

Apart from this bilateral collaboration, MCA and RATEL also work together along with other European national regulatory authorities in various EU fora, particularly in BEREC, the Body of European

Regulators for Electronic Communications. This body assists the European Commission and national regulators in implementing EU rules for electronic communications through its opinions, recommendations, guidelines, and advice on regulatory best practice with the objective of fostering independent, consistent, and high-quality regulation of digital markets for the benefit of Europe and its citizens.

Background info about the MCA

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) was established in 2001 as the regulatory body responsible for electronic communications, postal services, and e-commerce in Malta. Its mission is to promote sustainable competition and customer choice while facilitating investment, innovation, social inclusion, and economic growth. The MCA supports innovation and entrepreneurship by promoting local innovation and attracting international businesses. It enables competition by providing a framework for new services and regulating network access.

Background info about RATEL

The Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of the Republic of Serbia (RATEL) is an autonomous regulatory agency established to implement electronic communications policy, promote competition, enhance quality, and protect user interests in Serbia. It also operates the National Centre for Prevention of Security Risks in ICT systems, conducting coordination, prevention, and protection from security risks.