

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

5G Authorisation Process Workshop

On the 24th April 2019, the European Commission (DG CNECT) met with high-level representatives from 26 EU Member States to discuss the authorisation processes underway in relation to 5G spectrum bands and their relevance for timely and widespread 5G deployment. Participants came from national ministries responsible for spectrum policy and national regulatory bodies for electronic communications.

Participants confirmed the strategic importance of efficient and predictable authorisation procedures for spectrum bands for 5G, in particular 700 MHz, 3.4-3.8 GHz and 26 GHz ('the pioneer bands') and shared information on their plans to make such spectrum available for use in the EU by the agreed deadline of the end of 2020.

The discussion on the objectives for such award procedures focused on issues such as how to define and achieve territorial coverage objectives, timely and sufficient spectrum to meet demand, the best means to ensure availability of advanced services for local or industrial users, the scope for network sharing to lower deployment costs, quality of service and the maintenance of competition. No national authority present indicated that revenue maximisation from spectrum fees is among its objectives, which the Commission welcomed. Many authorities also mentioned their efforts to reduce costs of deployment or to facilitate access to sites for antennae; while the recent Commission recommendation on a coordinated approach to 5G security was welcomed.

Several Member States stated that they would voluntarily submit their planned spectrum assignments to an informal peer review by the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG), which the Commission actively encourages.

The Commission and the Member States will continue to monitor the ongoing award procedures and to facilitate the exchange of best practices through both the RSPG and BEREC, with a view to a further discussion of progress in the second half of 2019.

BEREC Ad Hoc Communications Meeting

The corporate communications coordinator at MCA was invited to participate in a 2 day brainstorming workshop at the BEREC office in Riga, Latvia on the 9th and 10th April 2019. Topics covered included the results of the communications survey undertaken with NRA heads, in Budapest during March 2019, the KPIs for strategic communications, evaluation of the current communications strategy, plus discussions on a survey aimed at stakeholders. The group further discussed the promotion strategies of upcoming BEREC events and received an update on the ongoing BEREC communications projects.

BEREC Regulatory Framework Expert Working Group Meeting on Numbering

A representative of the MCA participated in the BEREC Regulatory Framework Expert Working Group (EWG) on Numbering which was held on the 4th April 2019 in Dublin, Ireland. This meeting focused on two numbering-related BEREC deliverables emanating from the European Electronic Communications Code. A BEREC guidelines document which is expected to be published for public consultation in June 2019 was discussed. Participants also reviewed the outcomes of the questionnaire on the BEREC database on numbering resources with a right of extraterritorial use within the European Union which was circulated in January 2019 and discussed the requirements for the technical specifications of this database.

ESTP Course – Time Series Econometrics

An MCA official attended the ESTP Course on Time Series econometrics between the 3rd and 5th April 2019 in Valencia, Spain. A basic overview of modern time series econometrics both for univariate and multivariate time series was provided during the course. The topics covered included moving-average models, auto-regressive models, ARIMA and SARIMA models. These were introduced through several exercises developed in the R Environment.

ERGP Sub-group Future of Postal Regulation Implementation and Evolution of the Universal Service Obligation

On the 3rd April 2019, an official of the MCA participated in the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) working group on the 'Review of the regulatory framework for postal services'.

In line with the ERGP Work Programme 2019, this year the ERGP will draft an Opinion on the review of the regulatory framework for postal services. The Opinion will address all relevant regulatory aspects, present recommendations in the perspective of reviewing or reforming the Postal Services Directive, identify the characteristics of a fit-for-purpose and future-proof regulation that adapts to the changes that are taking place or will take place in the foreseeable future in the postal sector. In this sense, it will address a broad set of issues relevant to regulatory activity, such as the scope of the sector, definitions, the concept of universal service, access to the postal networks, tariff regulation, quality of service, consumer protection and governance.

Published On: Apr 18th 2019 News

Price Developments Presentation for March 2019

Published On: Apr 18th 2019 Monthly Pricing Developments

Review of GO plc's Application for Funding of the Net Cost Claimed to have been incurred to Provide Universal Service Obligations during 2015

Published On: Apr 17th 2019 Decision

Monthly Newsletter - March 2019

Published On: Apr 15th 2019 News

PUBLICATIONS

Public Stakeholder Workshop on the Postal Sector

Published On: Apr 24th 2019 News

Weighted Average Cost of Capital

Published On: Apr 23rd 2019 Consultation

Domestic Single-Piece and Bulk Mail Services - MaltaPost Proposal

Published On: Apr 23rd 2019 News

Domestic Single-Piece and Bulk Mail Services

Published On: Apr 23rd 2019 Consultation

MCA Publishes Pricing Developments for March 2019

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 22.04.2019

Channel: TVM

Programme: Waranofsinhar

Topic: Monthly Pricing Updates

Participant: Andrew Zammit

Radio:

Date: 29.04.2019

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: BonġuBus

Topic: Wangiri Calls

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 25.04.2019

Channel: Radju Malta

Programme: Familja Waħda

Topic: End User report

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

LEGAL UPDATES

Litigation:

- Response to appeal by Aspider Solutions Malta Ltd (notified on 21st March 2019) filed before the Administrative Review Tribunal. Aspider are contesting a regulatory decision of the MCA imposing an administrative fine for non-compliance with number porting requirements. A first sitting has been scheduled before the Tribunal for the 14th May 2019.

- 1st April 2019: Vodafone vs MCA before ART – contesting MCA’s decision entitled ‘Virtual Unbundled Access to Fibre-To-The-Home: Implementing the VULA Remedy’ – adjourned to the 14th May 2019 for continuation of evidence by VFM.

- 1st April 2019: Vodafone vs MCA before ART – contesting MCA’s decision entitled ‘Wholesale Call Origination on the Public Telephone Network provided at a Fixed Location in Malta – MCA Decision on Market Definition and the Assessment of Competition’. MCA presented its final written submissions. Case adjourned for any oral submissions before ART.

- 1st April 2019: Vodafone vs MCA before ART – contesting an MCA decision following a dispute filed by Vodafone presented its written final submissions. Adjourned to 14th May for the presentation of the MCA’s written responses.

- 16th April 2019: Sitting in arbitration case concerning collision involving MCA’s van with Elmo Insurance. Adjourned for continuation of evidence.

Publication of Legislation:

- Publication of Act XIII amending Chapter 418 of the Laws of Malta.