

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ERPG Working Group – Market Outcomes/End User

An MCA official attended the ERGP Market Outcomes/End User Working Group meeting held in Rome, Italy on the 28th February 2019. The meeting intended to discuss the outcome of 2018 results and the way forward regards the 2019 data collection process. During the meeting, various aspects were discussed such as enhancing data analysis, automation exercises and also further collaboration with the European Commission in relation to the Data Collection Process.

ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC - 19)

MCA representatives attended for the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC – 19). This meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland between the 18th and 28th February 2019 with the purpose of considering proposals to modify a draft report prepared by the ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau to WRC-19. The report has the purpose of assisting the ITU member states and the other stakeholders involved in the preparation of the conference, and represents the best information on the technical, operational and regulatory/procedural issues relevant to the WRC-19 agenda items available at the time of its preparation.

BEREC Fixed Network Evolution Working Group – Guidelines on the Criteria for a Consistent Application of Article 61 (3)

A representative of the MCA participated in BEREC's Fixed Network Evolution (FNE) Working Group on the 18th February in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting focused on the PRD concerning 'BEREC Guidelines on the Criteria for a Consistent Application of Article 61(3) of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC). It is noted that Article 61 of the EECC includes a clear power on NRAs, irrespective of any market review and SMP designation on operators, to impose an obligation to grant access to wiring and cables from the first concentration or distribution point. This kind of access is

intended to apply, for example, to connection points in multi-storey, multi-tenant buildings and significantly, could apply to the owners of the wires or cables even if they are not themselves providing electronic communication services. This meeting has therefore to be seen in the context of BEREC being tasked to ensure consistent implementation of new rules particularly those on symmetric regulation and co-investments. Specifically, on Article 61, BEREC is required to set the relevant criteria for NRAs to determine:

- i. the first concentration or distribution point
- ii. the point, beyond the first concentration or distribution point, capable of hosting a sufficient number of end-user connections to enable an efficient undertaking to overcome the significant replicability barriers identified
- iii. which network deployments can be considered new
- iv. which projects can be considered small
- v. which economic or physical barriers to replication are high and non-transitory

European GNSS Programmes Committee Meeting

An MCA official attended the European GNSS Programmes Committee Meeting which was held on the 19th and 20th February 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. During this meeting a review of the state of play of the European GNSS Programmes was provided. The delegations present were also briefed on Future Developments for both Galileo and EGNOS.

73rd COCOM Meeting

The MCA on behalf of the Government, represented Malta during the 73rd COCOM meeting. The Communications Committee (COCOM) is a committee composed of representatives of EU Member States. Its main role is to provide an opinion on the draft measures that the Commission intends to adopt as while also assisting the Commission in carrying out its executive powers. The COCOM deals with the current issues which form the Digital Single Market. During the 73rd COCOM meeting, subject matters relating to the implementation of the new European Electronic Communications Code, Mobile Satellite Services, the implementation of the 112 Single European Emergency

Numbers, and amongst others the European 5G Observatory were discussed.

High Level Internet Governance Group Meeting

The High Level internet Governance (HLIG) group meeting took place at the Centre Albert Borschette on the 19th February in Brussels, Belgium. It was chaired by Pearse O'Donahue, who is the head of Unit Software, Services & Cloud, DG CONNECT, and European Commission.

The meeting started with an update by the European Commission on the ongoing .eu TLD regulation. The .eu TLD legal regulation aims to ascertain that it is kept updated to cater for new requirements as they emerge over time, ensuring the relevance and suitability of existing rules and adapt them to guarantee the continued viability of the .eu TLD.

An update on the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018 and 2019 was also given. IGF 2018 took place in Paris, in November, whilst IGF 2019 will take place also during November, in Berlin. The French delegation presented a lessons learnt session from their experience of the Paris IGF whilst the German delegation gave an overview of the current status of their preparations for the upcoming IGF.

The coming EuroDIG 2019 event was also presented by the Dutch delegation. EuroDIG will be held at The Hague on the 19th and 20th June 2019. The theme for this upcoming event will be "Cooperating in the Digital Age". The Dutch delegation extended their invite to anyone who has an interest in Internet Governance at a European level and beyond.

This HLIG meeting also focused quite extensively on an ongoing discussion on the future of Internet Governance. The feedback will be used by the European Commission to better adapt its approach to Internet Governance at an EU and international level.

EU Commission Workshop on Contract Simplification

An MCA representative attended a workshop organised by the DG Connect European Commission on the 14th February 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. The European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) requires that the European

Commission (EC) adopts an implementing act in 2019 specifying a contract summary to be used by providers of electronic communications services. In consideration of this, the EC held this workshop with the intent of gathering different views from stakeholders, including end users, service providers and Member States on the contract summary. During the workshop, some Member States also presented existing contract summary templates applicable in their countries.

93rd WG FM Meeting (ECC)

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) is responsible for developing strategies, plans and implementation advice for radio spectrum management within CEPT (European Conference for Postal and Telecommunication Administrations). The last meeting was held in Rome, Italy, between the 4th and 8th February 2019. Apart from Rf monitoring and interference matters, the meeting also discussed aspects related to short range devices, mobile, satellite and maritime services. Several ECC deliverables pertaining to these services were also revised. The participation of the MCA allowed Malta to be involved in the process leading to the adoption of European spectrum management and licensing deliverables. This will feed into the review process of legal instruments pertaining to spectrum management.

PUBLICATIONS

MCA publishes market trends for the period January to June 2018

Published On: Feb 27th 2019 News

Communications Market Review: January to June 2018

Published On: Feb 27th 2019 Market Review

MCA Publishes Postal Household Perceptions Survey

Published On: Feb 26th 2019 News

MCA Consumer Perception Survey - Postal Services

Published On: Feb 26th 2019 Household

Calls Open For New Funding Opportunities in Next Generation Internet

Published On: Feb 26th 2019 News

Shopping Online - Processing Fees

Published On: Feb 21st 2019 News

Monthly Newsletter - January 2019

Published On: Feb 19th 2019 News

The MCA monitors levels of EMF

Published On: Feb 13th 2019 News

Postal Article Forwarding Services (PAFS)

Published On: Feb 7th 2019 Decision

MCA Publishes Service Providers' Price Comparisons for December 2018 & January 2019

Published On: Feb 7th 2019 News

Price Developments Presentation for December 2018 & January 2019

Published On: Feb 7th 2019 Monthly Pricing Developments

Proposed Decision 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 2015

Published On: Feb 7th 2019 Consultation

The MCA is inviting Experts to Form Part of a Think Tank

Published On: Feb 5th 2019 News

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 27.02.2019

Channel: TVM

Programme: Niskata

Topic: Mobile Data

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 26.02.2019

Channel: TVM

Programme: WaraNofsinhar

Topic: Mobile Data

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

LEGAL UPDATES

Publication of Legislation:

- Legal Notice 28 of 2019 entitled 'Electronic Communications Networks and Services (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019.

- Bill No. 77 entitled an Act to Amend the Malta Communications Authority Act, Cap. 418.