

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administrative Board of the European GNSS Agency (GSA)

An MCA official attended the 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administrative Board of the European GNSS Agency (GSA) held at the European GNSS Agency Headquarters in Prague, Czech Republic. The present stakeholders included all Member States, the GSA, the ESA (European Space Agency) and the EC (European Commission). The event consisted of two sessions held across two consecutive dates:

- **Administrative Board Meeting**

The Administrative Board Meeting was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Several agenda items were discussed including those of an administrative matter and plans of the GSA for the forthcoming years including the Draft Budget for 2020. Member States were asked to vote on several decisions of this nature. In the afternoon session, several speakers from GSA and ESA reported on on-going activities related to space services including Galileo and EGNOS amongst others.

- **Market Development Workshop**

The Market Development Workshop was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019. In the first part of the workshop the GSA and EC discussed matters related to Horizon 2020 and the evolution to Horizon Europe. Member states were presented with an overview of the results obtained since the inception of the Horizon 2020 program and the potential tools to accelerate market uptake for services utilising Galileo/EGNOS. In the second part, Member States were consulted on the higher level priorities of EGNSS downstream applications, receivers and uptake for Horizon Europe program.

### 48<sup>th</sup> Radio Spectrum Policy Group Plenary Meeting

The MCA, on behalf of Government attended for the 48<sup>th</sup> Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) Plenary meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January in Brussels, Belgium. The RSPG is a high-level advisory group that assists the European Commission in the development of radio spectrum policy. The RSPG, established under Commission Decision 2002/622/EC as part of the regulatory framework for electronic communications, advises

the Commission at a strategic level on specific radio spectrum policy issues relating to electronic communications. The deliverables of this group are Opinions, position papers and reports, as well as issuing of statements.

### European Commission Workshop on the Developments in the Postal Sector

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 an official of the MCA participated in a one-day workshop hosted by the European Commission on the Developments in the Postal Sector, in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop presented the outcome of the study on cross-border parcel delivery. The Commission also launched a new study that will examine user needs in the postal sector and in particular whether the universal service, as currently defined in the Postal Services Directive needs to be amended. The study is to be completed by September 2019 with public workshops planned for June and September. The results of the study will form one of the inputs into the Commission's consideration of the postal regulatory framework, in particular relating to the prospective review of the PSD.

### ERGP 2019 Kick-Off Meeting on the Future of Postal Regulation

The MCA participated in a kick-off meeting on the Future of Postal Regulation on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. The contributions to the public consultation to the Report on the development in the postal sector and implications for regulation which closed on the 24<sup>th</sup> January were discussed during this meeting. The group also discussed the 2019 output on the preparation of an Opinion for the Commission on the Future of Regulation.

### European 5G Conference 2019

Two MCA representatives attended the European 5G Conference 2019 organised by the Forum Europe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. During this conference, elements related to technical developments, applications of 5G for its verticals, business models and regulatory elements were discussed in panel formats.

## Radio Spectrum Policy Group 'Good Offices' Working Group Meeting

Representatives of the MCA attended the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) 'Good Offices' Working Group meeting, hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development in Rome, Italy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. The first part of the meeting focused on the cases of harmful interference caused by Italy to its neighbouring countries. The affected services included analogue and digital sound as well as digital television services. During the second part of the meeting the working group considered developments associated with the availability of radio spectrum in the 700 MHz band for wireless broadband electronic communications services.

## Bilateral Meeting

The MCA met with representatives of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development on the 21<sup>st</sup> January in Rome, Italy, where matters relating to the use of radio spectrum for digital terrestrial broadcasting services were discussed.

## The BEREC Planning and Future Trends Expert Working Group Meeting

An MCA representative attended the BEREC Planning and Future Trends Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. During this event the delegations discussed elements to consider for a Report on the impact of 5G on regulation and the role of regulation in enabling the 5G ecosystem.

## BEREC Mobile Network Evolution Expert Working Group Meeting

An official of the MCA participated in the BEREC Mobile Network Evolution (MNE) Expert Working Group (EWG) Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. The EWG treats subject matters relating to the regulation of mobile services, focusing particularly on the existing mobile technologies as well as upcoming technologies such as 5G. The principal subject topics that were discussed during the meeting treated Mobile Coverage (continuation of last year

BEREC project) as well as PPDR Alert Mechanisms via cellular networks.

## Digital Invasions (DIGINV) – First Learning, Teaching and Training Activity

The First Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA) for cultural operators, held by Digital Invasions (DIGINV) – a project for the promotion of cultural heritage, was held in Bevagna, Italy between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019. During this activity, five Maltese cultural operators received training by the Digital Invasions partner with the collaboration of the Municipality of Bevagna. The training included web and social media marketing, how to use social networks to promote a travel destination, advertising on social media, audience engagement and trips to local cultural destinations.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Monthly Newsletter - December 2018

Published On: Jan 31st 2019 News

### MCA publishes service providers' price comparisons for November 2018

Published On: Jan 17th 2019 News

## MEDIA ACTIVITY

### Television:

Date: 19.01.2019

Channel: TVM

Programme: GADGETS

Topic: Consumer Awareness Campaign

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 18.01.2019

Channel: TVM

Programme: Niskata

Topic: Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

**Date:** 17.01.2019

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** Waranofsinhar

**Topic:** Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

**Date:** 15.01.2019

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** Niskata

**Topic:** Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

**Date:** 12.01.2019

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** Dot EU

**Topic:** Roam Like At Home

**Participant:** Tiziana Pace

**Date:** 11.01.2019

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** Niskata

**Topic:** Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

**Date:** 08.01.2019

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** Waranofsinhar

**Topic:** Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

## Radio:

**Date:** 16.01.2019

**Channel:** Radju Malta

**Programme:** Familja Wahda

**Topic:** Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

**Date:** 10.01.2019

**Channel:** Radju Malta

**Programme:** Familja Wahda

**Topic:** Consumer Awareness Campaign

**Participant:** Yanika Bugeja

## LEGAL UPDATES

### Pending Lawsuits:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for continuation of evidence.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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”. VFM presented their final submissions. Case adjourned for MCA’s final written submissions for the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019: Vodafone vs MCA before ART - contesting an MCA decision following a dispute filed by Vodafone presented its written final submissions. Adjourned to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for the presentation of the MCA’s written responses.
- 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019: Sitting in the arbitration case between Elmo Insurance & MCA re vehicle accident involving MCA Van (examination and cross-examination of MCA witnesses). Adjourned to March 2019 for continuation.

## EVENTS

**eBiznify eCommerce Training programme launched in Gozo**

The eBiznify training programme focused on enabling Malta's micros and small and medium-sized enterprises to use eCommerce to become globally competitive, has been launched in Gozo by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA).



eBiznify is offered completely free of charge to micros and SMEs to help them become proficient in eCommerce, and enhance their competence on the development of eCommerce related services. Fully accredited by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE), the course is delivered online via a dedicated eLearning platform. The course is financed through EU funding with a total investment of €321,000.

The eBiznify eCommerce Training Programme is yet another piece of the puzzle, planned during the drafting of the MCA's National eCommerce Strategy. The Strategy covers Government's effort, specifically in eCommerce, from 2014 to 2020 and is driven forward by the Malta Communications Authority. Government considers eCommerce as a key enabler

in transforming micros' and SMEs' operations to embrace business in the digital age and take the next steps to equip them to compete effectively in today's global marketplace.

Mr Joseph Seychell, IT Manager at MCA highlighted the benefits as well as the risks involved in a business' digital transformation process, whilst providing those present with a map, as guidance to move parts of the business operation to the cloud. Ms Denise Borda, eCommerce Analyst at the MCA, stressed the value one can expect to gain from the eBiznify programme. Mr Stephen D'Alessandro, Director at Advenio Academy, the MCA's partners in the project, provided the audience with a taster of an eBiznify lecture and with a demo of the project's dedicated eLearning platform's media and knowledge sharing capabilities.



'eBiznify' is supported by Jobsplus, Malta Enterprise and the Directorate for Lifelong Learning, in collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Malta Employers' Association, and GRTU – Malta Chamber of SMEs.

Interested applicants are kindly requested to visit [www.ebiznify.com](http://www.ebiznify.com) for more information and registration.