

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### BEREC Extraordinary Plenary

The MCA participated in a virtual extraordinary plenary meeting of BEREC held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020. The Board of Regulators (BoR) met to discuss the input that BEREC is expected to provide in response to the public consultations issued by the European Commission on the Digital Services Act package and the New Competition Tool (NCT) to support its work in analysing and collecting evidence for scoping the specific issues that may require an EU-intervention level. The deadline for submission is 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The new Digital Services Act package aims at modernising the current legal framework for digital services by means of two main pillars. First, the Commission would propose clear rules framing the responsibilities of digital services to address the risks faced by their users and to protect their rights. The legal obligations would ensure a modern system of cooperation for the supervision of platforms and guarantee effective enforcement. Second, the Digital Services Act package would propose ex ante rules covering large online platforms acting as gatekeepers, which now set the rules of the game for their users and their competitors. The initiative should ensure that those platforms behave fairly and can be challenged by new entrants and existing competitors, so that consumers have the widest choice and the Single Market remains competitive and open to innovations.

The NCT is one of the three pillars through which the Commission seeks more effective competition across the economy and a fairer digital ecosystem with a view to strengthening the Single Market for the ultimate benefit of European consumers. While the NCT is embedded in the aforementioned Digital Services Act package, it will not necessarily be limited to digital and digitally enabled markets, and the Commission's inception impact assessment mentions policy options that would cover all sectors of the economy, or at least, sectors where structural problems are prevalent.

The BEREC BoR decided to provide a comprehensive response focusing on ex-ante regulation for digital platforms

in the context of the Digital Service Act and to submit a position paper on the NCT. BEREC aims to continue contributing to the regulatory debate on digital platforms and economy. This has already been the subject of some recent BEREC reports, for example on the impact of premium content on ECS markets and the effect of devices on the open use of the Internet or on the Data Economy. Currently, BEREC is also working on a digital platforms report, due in December 2020.

### ITU Regional Seminar on Spectrum Management and Broadcasting for Europe

The ITU Regional Seminar on Spectrum Management and Broadcasting for Europe and CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) was held remotely from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020, in collaboration with the National Media and Info Communications Authority of Hungary (NMHH). This seminar was organised within two main ITU Regional initiatives and considered the future challenges in the spectrum management and broadcasting domains. The seminar mainly discussed topics related wireless innovation, 5G and digital broadcasting including the following:

- World Radiocommunication Conference 19 (WRC-19) and preparation for WRC-23
- Strategic planning and policies for wireless innovation in Europe and CIS
- Spectrum management and the future of 5G
- Economics of spectrum in the context of 5G
- Tendering of 5G frequencies
- Electromagnetic fields and 5G implementation
- Measurement methods and tools
- Digital broadcasting
- International frequency coordination

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### **BEREC Summary Reports on the Status of Internet Capacity, Regulatory and other Measures in Light of the Covid-19 Crisis**

In a joint statement with the European Commission, on 19 March 2020, on how network operators can cope with the increased demand of network capacity, BEREC committed to a special reporting mechanism to ensure regular monitoring of the Internet traffic situation in each Member State, in order to be able to respond swiftly to capacity issues.

Reports focus on, and summarise, the main updates of an ongoing monthly information gathering exercise as per the most recent data provided to BEREC by its constituent National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). In general, data illustrates that traffic on fixed and mobile networks had increased during the Covid-19 crisis, but no major congestion issues have occurred. The situation remains stable as confirmed by the latest report published at the end of July.

MCA has been contributing to this information gathering exercise by also noting the several beneficial measures introduced by the local telecommunications service providers which include:

- Providing people in key frontline professions with free mobile services.
- Providing consumers with free access to TV Premium channels or entertainment applications.
- Assisting customers stranded abroad by upgrading mobile services for free.
- Providing online guidance for customers to manage their services in an electronic way.

Summary reports will continue to be updated based on regular input from NRAs with the next report expected to be

released at the end of August 2020. specific issues that may require an EU-intervention level. The deadline for submission is 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## NOTICE

The European Commission has published notices to stakeholders regarding withdrawal of the United Kingdom and related EU rules which can be accessed from the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership/future-partnership/getting-ready-end-transition-period\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership/future-partnership/getting-ready-end-transition-period_en)

Some of these notices relate to aspects where MCA is designated as the competent national regulatory body, including:

- Electronic Commerce and Net Neutrality
- Electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions (E-signature)
- Electronic communications including roaming
- Geo-blocking

Online sales (B2C) of goods with subsequent delivery (including aspects of 'online pharmacies')

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Notice**

*Published On: Jul 21st 2020 **News***

### **Monthly Newsletter – June 2020**

*Published On: Jul 15th 2020 **News***