

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

64th ECC Plenary Meeting

A representative for the MCA attended this meeting, which was held between the 25th and 28th June in Kristiansand, Norway. The plenary meeting considered the work done by its subordinate groups. A number of ECC deliverables were approved and other deliverables were adopted for public consultation. The latter concern the use of the 3.8-4.2 GHz band by wireless broadband low/medium power (WBB LMP) systems.

The documents published for consultation are accessible from <https://cept.org/ecc/tools-and-services/ecc-consultation>.

Task Force on Age Verification Meeting

On 27th June 2024, the MCA participated in the third meeting of the Task Force on Age Verification, which was held virtually. During the meeting, the Commission presented two approaches to support platforms serving adult content in complying with their obligations under the DSA. A short-term solution based on the eIDAS framework was discussed, alongside a long-term solution involving the European eWallet. These solutions are designed to ensure robust age verification mechanisms, facilitating the platforms' adherence to the DSA requirements effectively.

Ad-hoc Working Group on Elections of the European Board for Digital Services 5th Meeting

The MCA participated in the 5th meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Elections of the European Board for Digital Services on 26th June 2024, which was held remotely. The primary focus of this session was to review the EP2024 elections, where observations presented indicate that no major incidents were reported. Additionally, the meeting addressed planning for the upcoming national elections scheduled between Q3 2024 and Q1 2025 and discussed the Board Working Group 4, which is dedicated to the integrity of the information space.

ERGP Plenary

Representatives from the MCA attended the first ERGP (European Regulators Group for Postal Services) Plenary meeting of this year, which was held in Vienna on the 21st June, 2024. It was preceded by a public workshop on 'Vulnerable users in the postal world' spearheaded by an MCA official and his Belgian colleague who co-chair the Consumers and Market Indicators Working Group. During the Plenary meeting, Dan Sjoblom was confirmed as the group's chair for 2025. Apart from various updates related to projects that are currently being developed by the working groups for adoption during the second Plenary meeting, the meeting adopted its draft Work Programme for 2025 for public consultation and its Report on Access to the Infrastructure for the Delivery of Parcels.

ERGP is composed of the 27 national regulatory authorities for postal services of the EU, as well as national regulatory authorities from countries of the European Economic Area and countries with candidate status to join the EU. The ERGP advises and assists the Commission on the development

of the internal market for postal services and on the consistent application in all Member States of the regulatory framework for postal services.

5th Meeting of the European Board for Digital Services

On 20th June, the MCA participated in the fifth meeting of the European Board for Digital Services in Brussels. The meeting covered several key topics, including a review of the recent European elections and adoption of procedural rules. Updates were shared on empowerment, ongoing cases, and strategic priorities from board members and the European Commission. Discussions also focused on revising disinformation and hate speech codes of conduct, the Article 28 Guidelines, and the Board Working Groups. The session ended with a review of the Draft Annual Work Plan.

19th European Spectrum Management Conference

An MCA official participated in the 19th European Spectrum Conference. This conference took place on 19th and 20th June in Brussels, and various spectrum management related topics were discussed. Further information is available at: <https://spectrummanagement.eu/>.

64th Plenary Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group

The plenary meeting was held on 18th June and a general update on the work done within the various sub-groups was provided by the co-chairs. The RSPG agreed to adopt an Opinion, which includes the RSPG's response to the EC white paper on "How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?". The plenary also adopted a Report on the

results of the ITU-R World Radiocommunication Conference in 2023. In addition, the RSPG accepted a request made by the EC for an Opinion on the EU-level policy approach to the use of satellite Direct-to-Device connectivity and related Single Market issues.

Seminar for National Judges and National Regulatory Authorities

A member of MCA's legal team attended the annual Seminar for National Judges and National Regulatory Authorities, organized by the Centre for a Digital Society for the European Commission in Brussels on the 12th and 13th June, 2024. This event provided an excellent forum for discussion among national judges, regulators, European Institutions, and academia.

One of the issues discussed related to the challenges of regulating Artificial Intelligence under the new AI Act (AIA). An interesting point was made regarding the historical context of EU regulation, noting the shift from detailed legislation to a framework of basic rules and harmonized standards, a successful model now applied to AI regulation. Key issues include defining what constitutes an AI system and assessing the risks associated with different AI applications, which range from high to low risk and include both material and immaterial harms.

The seminar also covered various topics such as consumer protection and compliance with national laws. Cases were discussed involving failure to inform consumers about contract terminations, underscoring the importance of transparency and adherence to regulatory decisions. Reviews from rulings of national courts around Europe were tackled particularly on the topics of misleading information and its significant impact on consumer

decision-making. Additionally, discussions addressed open internet access and enforcement of regulatory decisions, highlighting the ongoing need for effective compliance mechanisms and balanced enforcement.

The conference highlighted the evolving regulatory landscape, including new enforcement powers at EU level and the potential for a centralized regulatory authority to enhance coherence across member states. These developments signal a significant shift towards a more unified approach in managing digital and AI regulations.

This enriching experience served to significantly enhance understanding of contemporary regulatory challenges in the digital sector and provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of EU regulations.

28th Meeting of the ECC Working Group Numbering and Networks

Two representatives from the MCA participated physically in the Working Group Numbering and Networks (WG NaN) Plenary meeting held in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg between the 11th and 13th June, 2024. During this meeting, participants were provided with updates on the work related to current and future numbering issues which was carried out by the three project teams reporting to this working group during the preceding six months. An overview of work activities taking place within ITU-T SG2, ETSI and GIRAF in areas which are relevant to this working group was also provided.

The meeting participants also discussed various themes of relevance to WG NaN, in particular those related to ongoing and future work items which will

be the focus of the WG NaN project teams during the coming months. The meeting approved two draft ECC Reports for public consultation, namely a Draft ECC Report on 'Definition of missing, invalid or fraudulent CLI' and a Draft ECC Report on 'Emergency Communications - transition from circuit-switched to packet-switched networks, services and PSAP'.

EU Postal Directive Committee Meeting

On the 10th June 2024, a member of the MCA participated in the first Postal Directive Committee (PDC) meeting for 2024. During the meeting the European Commission provided an update on the 'Prospective Study on the Future of the Postal Sector'. Participants also provided an update on recent legislative and regulatory changes relating to the regulation of the postal sector. The PDC serves as a scrutiny body for the application of postal legislation and for the improvement of quality of service, notably the establishment of quality standards for intra-EU cross-border services.

59th BEREC Plenary Meetings

The MCA, led by its CEO, participated in the 59th BEREC Plenary Meetings held on 6th and 7th June 2024, in Jurmala, Latvia. These meetings were hosted by the Latvian national regulatory authority, SPRK, and the BEREC Office, headquartered in Riga.

During the meetings, the BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) discussed expert contributions being prepared in response to the European Commission's White Paper on 'How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs'. Several draft documents were adopted, and public consultations

were launched on the assessment of the general authorisation regime, IP interconnection, and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) roaming. The public consultation for the first two topics will remain open until 26th July, while the consultation on M2M will conclude on 23rd August.

Additionally, BEREC initiated a social media campaign aimed at educating end-users on achieving more sustainable and environmentally friendly use of digital devices. The MCA is actively supporting BEREC in this initiative.

A comprehensive list of public documents adopted during the 59th Plenary Meeting is available on the BEREC website: [BEREC Events 2024 - 59th BEREC Ordinary Meetings](#).

The next Plenary Meetings are scheduled to take place from 2nd to 4th October 2024.

The 107th Working Group on Frequency Management

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) plays a pivotal role in formulating strategies, plans, and implementation guidance for radio spectrum management within the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). The most recent meeting, held in a hybrid format from June 3rd to 7th, 2024, took place in Stockholm, Sweden. During the sessions, the group reviewed several ECC decisions, recommendations, and reports, which deliverables are expected to contribute to the ongoing review of legislation pertaining to spectrum management in Malta.

BEREC Digital Markets Working Group meeting on ‘Large CAPs investments in ECS and ECN’

An MCA official attended a meeting held by the BEREC Digital Markets Working Group on ‘Large CAPs investments in ECS and ECN,’ in relation to the BEREC report titled ‘The Entry of Large Content and Application Providers into the Markets for Electronic Communications Networks and Services. The BEREC report was published for consultation last March. An overview of consultation submissions was presented during the meeting, followed by a discussion on adapting the BEREC report based on stakeholder feedback. There was also a discussion about the upcoming workshop on potential restrictions that operating systems providers may impose on ECN/ECS operators and relevant topics for that workshop. The BEREC report on large CAPs will be finalized in August and submitted to the CN by the end of the month.

PUBLICATIONS

International News Week 4 2024

Published On: Jun 26th 2024 [News](#)

International News Week 3 2024

Published On: Jun 20th 2024 [News](#)

Monthly Newsletter - May 2024

Published On: Jun 19th 2024 [News](#)

International News Week 1-2 2024

Published On: Jun 13th 2024 [News](#)

Training

Extensive Regulatory Training provided by Cullen International

Staff members at the Malta Communications Authority have completed extensive regulatory training provided by Cullen International. This sector specific training covered key concepts in electronic communications, postal services, and the digital economy.

The MCA strongly believes in investing in its employees and encourages continuous learning to stay ahead in this ever-changing industry.

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 26.06.2024

Channel: OneTV

Programme: One Breakfast

Topic: Information on EMF

Participant: David Scerri

Date: 18.06.2024

Channel: OneTV

Programme: Indigo

Topic: Postal Services

Participant: Matthew Farrugia

Date: 24.06.2024

Channel: OneTV

Programme: One Breakfast

Topic: Information on EMF

Participant: David Scerri

Date: 20.06.2024

Channel: FLiving

Programme: FLiving Show

Topic: Roaming

Participant: Matthew Farrugia