

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Commission Workshop on Cost Modelling Results for Wholesale Roaming and Mobile Voice-Call Termination Services

The MCA attended a workshop organised by the European Commission on the 28th May 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, to present the results of the Commission's cost-modelling project for Wholesale Roaming and Mobile Voice-Call Termination Services. The Commission presented information on the outcome of the consultations it had carried out and on the modelling results. The Commission announced it is on track to publish further consultation on a delegated act for pan-European termination rates, while by December 2019 also issue its report on roaming services.

IRG-BEREC 2nd Contact Network Meeting

An MCA official participated in the second BEREC Contact Network meeting that was held on the 23rd and 24th May 2019 in Rome, Italy. The Contact Network Group reviews the work carried out by the Expert Groups and prepares the agenda for the BEREC Plenary meeting. During this meeting, the discussion focused mainly on the Regulatory Framework, Market and Economic Analysis and Open Internet.

European 5G Observatory Workshop

During the month of May, the MCA participated in the stakeholder workshop "European 5G Observatory – Is Europe ready for 5G?" organised by the European 5G Observatory. The European 5G Observatory was launched in 2018 to monitor market developments and preparatory actions taken by industry stakeholders and Member States in the context of 5G roll-out in Europe and beyond. The 5G Observatory enables the Commission to assess the progress of Europe's 5G Action Plan and take action to fully implement it. The stakeholder workshop provided the opportunity to review the main findings of the first phase of the 5G Observatory and

discuss the next steps to ensure the implementation of the 5G Action Plan.

BEREC's 1st Technical Workshop on the Discussion of Geographical Surveys Methodologies

A representative for the MCA participated in the 1st Technical Workshop on the Discussion of Geographical Surveys Methodologies organised by the Statistics and Indicators Expert Working Group within BEREC on the 21st May 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. Article 22(1) of the Electronic Communications Code (EECC) establishes that NRAs and/or other competent Authorities shall conduct a geographical survey of the reach of electronic communications networks capable of delivering broadband (Broadband Networks) by 21st December 2023. The workshop provided the opportunity to kick-start the discussions amongst Member States on the key features which the geographical survey should address in terms of scope and harmonisation levels throughout the EU.

Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group (WADEX) Meeting

On the 21st May 2019, an MCA official attended the 5th Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group (WADEX) meeting in Brussels, Belgium. This was the first time the MCA has attended this meeting since it was entrusted by the Government to implement the Web Accessibility Directive in Malta. This meeting gave the MCA the opportunity to start establishing contact with other directive experts from the Member States and also understand the challenges other Member States are facing in implementing and enforcing the Directive. Possible solutions to these challenges were also presented. Amongst others, a presentation on the current state of play of the Directive across the EU was presented by CapGemini. A number of authorities from the various Member States also presented their approach to the implementation of the Directive in the respective Member State. In the afternoon, a number of discussion groups were established and the 3 main facets of the Directive namely Monitoring, Enforcement and Reporting were discussed in these groups.

Conference Preparatory Group Meeting for WRC-19 (CPG19-8)

Two MCA officials attended the 8th Meeting of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG19-8) for the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19), which was held between the 20th and 24th May 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting considered contributions relating to the agenda of the WRC-19, while a number of European Common Proposals (ECPs) were approved and will be submitted to the ITU for the work of the WRC on behalf of the supporting administrations.

ERASMUS+ Mobility Project – Women in ICT Meeting

Project Coordinators from the MCA participated in the ERASMUS+ Mobility Project – Women in ICT Meeting between the 14th and 16th May 2019 in Dublin, Ireland. The aim of this project is to equip staff members with the necessary skills to lead successful projects to help encourage more women graduates to take up a career in the ICT industry and to stimulate an interest in ICT among those taking their first career decisions while at school. This will create a larger, more diverse and creative workforce. Dissemination used will show women that ICT careers can be challenging, rewarding and fun, and to overcome negative images and stereotypes. For this visit, MCA staff members had the opportunity to visit the Irish Computer Society (ICS) to exchange ideas, network and establish different ways of collaboration. They also had the opportunity to visit the University of Limerick where the final rounds of the TechWeek competition was held. Participants had the opportunity to interact with the children and see the projects they were showcasing. This project is financed by ERASMUS+.

BEREC Expert Review Team to assess EU Commission Phase II Serious Doubts re Case PL/2019/2156

The MCA nominated an official as an expert on BEREC's Expert Review Team (ERT) tasked to prepare a Preliminary Draft BEREC Opinion in the Phase II case PL/2019/2156 –

concerning the Wholesale Call Termination on Individual Public Telephone Networks provided at a fixed location in Poland (corresponding to Market 1 in Commission Recommendation 2014/710/EU of 9th October 2014). This meeting was held on the 13th and 14th May 2019 in Riga, Latvia. BEREC Office will submit the preliminary draft Opinion to the Board of Regulators (BoR) for comments. The Rapporteur for this case is Iulia Zaim-Grigore from the BEREC Office. Following the receipt of BoR comments, the Rapporteur of the Expert Working Group will prepare the final proposal, which will be sent to the BoR for a vote on 7th June 2019.

Radio Spectrum Policy Group 'Good Offices' Working Group Meeting

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) Working Group (WG) meeting, with the participation of the MCA, met in Dublin, Ireland on the 10th May 2019 to discuss cross-border frequency related matters. In particular, the meeting discussed issues of harmful interference affecting the provision of broadcasting services between Member States as well as developments to UHF national roadmaps.

Full International Roaming European Working Group Meeting

On the 8th May 2019, the MCA participated in the Full International Roaming European Working Group (IR-EWG) meeting which was organised by the Body of the European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC) and took place in Vienna, Austria. BEREC is required to provide its opinion on the functioning of the roaming market to the European Commission (EC) and has based its input from information collected from National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) and operators (MNOs and MVNOs). Mainly the data is based on responses to a survey jointly launched by BEREC and the EC earlier this year. BEREC also took into account data published in its BEREC International Roaming Benchmark Reports and the BEREC Transparency and Comparability of Retail Roaming Tariffs Report.

Forum of European Supervisory Authorities Meeting

An official from the MCA attended the scheduled Forum of European Supervisory Authorities (FESA) meeting which was held in Tirana, Albania between the 6th and 8th May 2019. FESA comprises most of the eIDAS Supervisory Bodies and meets twice a year to discuss issues, challenges, solutions and concerns in regards to the implementation of the eIDAS regulation. Amongst others, the forum discussed the initiation of a conformity assessment scheme, rules regarding video identification, accepted cryptographic algorithms in signature validation and a proposal to start sharing the QSCD models in use in the Member States. The meeting was followed by the ENISA Article 19 meeting which relates to security incident reporting in relation to eIDAS QTSPs.

CEPT Workshop on New Spectrum Solutions for Industry Sectors

The MCA participated in the CEPT Workshop on New Spectrum Solutions for Industry Sectors in Copenhagen, Denmark between the 2nd and 3rd May 2019. Its objective was to identify spectrum requirements to fulfil upcoming communication needs of various industry sectors.

PUBLICATIONS

5G Demand and Future Business Models towards a Feasible 5G Deployment

Published On: May 31st 2019 Consultation

Domestic Single-Piece and Bulk Mail Services

Published On: May 29th 2019 News

Domestic Single-Piece and Bulk Mail Services

Published On: May 29th 2019 Decision

MaltaPost's Access Point Finder

Published On: May 21st 2019 News

Career Opportunity: Procurement & Administrative Officer

Published On: May 17th 2019 Recruitment

Career Opportunity: Market Analyst

Published On: May 17th 2019 Recruitment

Monthly Newsletter - April 2019

Published On: May 16th 2019 News

Intra-EU Communications

Published On: May 14th 2019 News

Career Opportunity: External Relations Officer

Published On: May 10th 2019 Recruitment

Career Opportunity: External Relations Analyst

Published On: May 10th 2019 Recruitment

On The Job Learning Programme

Published On: May 7th 2019 Recruitment

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 29.05.2019

Channel: TVM
Programme: Niskata
Topic: Roaming
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 20.05.2019
Channel: NET
Programme: Life & Style
Topic: Intra-EU Communications
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 16.05.2019
Channel: TVM
Programme: Waranofsinhar
Topic: Intra-EU Communications
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 15.05.2019
Channel: TVM
Programme: Niskata
Topic: Intra-EU Communications
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 15.05.2019
Channel: TVM
Programme: TVAM
Topic: Intra-EU Communications
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 12.05.2019
Channel: TVM
Programme: TVM News Feature
Topic: Intra-EU Communications
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Radio:

Date: 21.05.2019

Channel: Radju Malta
Programme: Familja Waħda
Topic: Intra-EU Communications
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

Date: 06.05.2019
Channel: Radju Malta
Programme: Familja Waħda
Topic: Wangiri Calls
Participant: Yanika Buġeja

LEGAL UPDATES

Litigation:

- 14th May 2019: First sitting before ART in the appeal by Aspider Solutions Malta Ltd. Aspider are contesting a regulatory decision of the MCA imposing an administrative fine for non-compliance with number porting requirements. Adjourned for the 25th June for Aspider's evidence.
- 14th May 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 25th June 2019 for continuation of evidence by VFM.
- 14th May 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'. Case adjourned for 11th November 2019 for ART's judgement.
- 14th May 2019: Vodafone vs MCA before ART – contesting an MCA decision following a dispute filed by Vodafone presented its written final submissions. Adjourned to 25th June for final oral submissions.

Legislation:

- LN90 of 2019 – Administrative Review Tribunal (Establishment of Panels) (Amendment No.2) Regulations, 2019 – Government Gazette of Malta No.20, 183-07.05.2019

•LN89 of 2019 – Accessibility of the Websites and Mobile Applications of Public Sector Bodies Regulations, 2019 - Government Gazette of Malta No.20, 183-07.05.2019

•LN88 of 2019 – Malta Communications Authority (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Act No. XIII of 2019) – Government Gazette of Malta No.20, 183-07.05.2019