

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

17th Electronic Communications Committee Working Group Numbering and Networks (WG NaN) Meeting

A representative of the MCA participated in this meeting which was held between the 27th and 29th November 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria. During the meeting, participants were provided with information on the work related to current and future numbering issues. This work was carried out by the four project teams reporting to this working group during the past six months, including work items related to Over-The-Air (OTA) provisioning of eSIMs and numbering for machine-to-machine (M2M) communications services. The meeting participants also discussed various work item proposals which will be the focus of these project teams during the coming months.

An overview of work activities being carried out within ITU-T Study Group 2 and ETSI in areas which are relevant to this working group was also provided. The current status of the European Electronic Communications Code which is expected to be formally adopted by the Council during December 2018 was discussed. Participants were informed that WG NaN and the European Communications Office (ECO) will be discussing cooperation with BEREC in relation to the numbering-related tasks which will be conferred on BEREC in the EECC.

Safer Internet Forum 2018 + EC Consultation meeting with SICs

On the 20th and 21st November, in Brussels, Belgium, representatives from the MCA attended the Safer Internet Forum (SIF) - a key annual international conference in Europe where policy makers, researchers, law enforcement bodies, youth, parents and carers, teachers, NGOs, industry representatives, experts and other relevant actors come together to discuss the latest trends, risks and solutions related to child online safety.

With a theme of “The impact of technology on children, young people and society”, the SIF agenda included sessions on the impact of technology on self-identity and personal relationships (including some real-life cases), alongside the

impact of technology on society, and how various stakeholders can address the challenges.

In a series of “deep dive” sessions featuring interactive debate, forum attendees had the opportunity to explore issues and solutions around sexting, data privacy and deep fakes, learn more about online challenges and youth-led initiatives, and understand more about the reporting mechanisms for child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

The forum also saw Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, present the winners of the #SaferInternet4EU Awards and further explore some of the outcomes of the #SaferInternet4EU initiative.

SIF 2018 is organised by European Schoolnet on behalf of the European Commission in the framework of the EC's Better Internet for Kids strategy with funding provided by the Connecting Europe Facility programme (CEF).

4th BEREC Contact Network Meeting 2018

The 4th meeting for 2018 of the BEREC Contact Network group (CN) took place in November, in Luxembourg.

The meeting was attended by senior representatives of European national regulatory authorities (NRAs) with primary responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the markets for electronic communications networks and services. The scope of the meeting was to prepare the agenda for the BEREC Plenary meeting taking place in Prague, Czech Republic, in December. NRAs from EU member states, EEA countries and EU candidate countries were represented. The European Commission also attended the meeting.

BCO Network Last Mile and Investment Model Training Session

The MCA participated in a training session organised by the European Commission's Broadband Competence Office on the subject matter “Broadband Connectivity - The Last Mile Connection” on the 19th November in Brussels, Belgium. The session addressed the various infrastructure wholesale backhaul and access network regulatory models that can be employed. The adoption of suitable regulatory measures for the respective markets will facilitate the investment in NGN

network deployment by the electronic communication industry, leading to the possibility for end users to be able to avail themselves of ultra-fast internet connections.

Mobile BEREC Expert Working Group

An MCA official attended the BEREC Expert Working Group on Mobile Systems. During the meeting, the working group finalised the consultation reports on Mobile Coverage and Infrastructure Sharing for the approval during the upcoming BEREC Plenary meeting.

Workshop on a Light Deployment Regime for Small Cells across the EU organised by the Radio Spectrum Policy Unit

A representative of the MCA participated in a workshop organised by the European Commission on a light deployment regime for small cells across the EU, on the 22nd November in Brussels, Belgium. The deployment of small cells is a key enabling factor for the deployment of 5G infrastructure and services across Europe. Specific regulatory measures on small deployment were also introduced in the new EC Telecom Code. The aim of this workshop was to inform stakeholders and experts about insights and preliminary results of the on-going study as commissioned by the CION on the subject matter.

Specialist Training: Consumer Protection in the Telecoms Sector (by Cullen)

An MCA representative attended a 2 day training organised by Cullen International on consumer protection in the telecoms sector, which was held in Brussels, Belgium on the 13th and 14th of November. This training provided a deep insight on the new telecom rules which are now approved by the Council and European Parliament and how these rules will further protect the consumers. The training delved into various regulatory aspects which the MCA deals with on a daily basis such as roaming, net neutrality, switching, transparency, and universal service obligations.

BEREC Remedies Expert Working Group on the Article 7/7A Process

An MCA official attended an internal "Rapporteurs workshop" organised by BEREC's Remedies Expert Working Group on the Article 7/7a process within the European Regulatory Framework for Telecoms. The event was held at the IRG premises in Brussels on the 6th of November.

This initiative brought together the experts that form the backup pool of rapporteurs, together with rapporteurs and experienced members of previous Article 7/7a Phase II cases and national experts, in order to discuss procedural and substantive aspects of the relevant process.

The main issues discussed during the meeting concern:

- (i) Recent Article 7/7a Phase II cases concerning draft measures notified by European National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs);
- (ii) Articles 32 and 33 in the new European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) that are to 'replace' Article 7 and 7a of the current Framework;
- (iii) The methodology applied by European NRAs to calculate the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) in the context of national regulatory measures notified to the Commission under Article 7 of the Framework Directive for Electronic Communications and
- (iv) The EU Commission's consultation on guidance on cost of capital for EU electronic communications regulators.

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018

A delegation from the MCA attended the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference 2018, on behalf of the Maltese Government, in Dubai U.A.E. Established in 1865, the ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs) which develops the technical standards that ensure that networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum and strives to improve access to connectivity and ICTs across the world. ITU's membership includes 193 countries.

The Plenipotentiary Conference is the top policy-making body of the ITU and also the key event at which ITU Member States

decide on the future role of the organization, thereby determining the organization's ability to influence and affect the development of ICTs at a global level.

PUBLICATIONS

Career Opportunity: Compliance Officer

Published On: Nov 27th 2018 Recruitment

Postal Redirection Service – Consultation on MaltaPost proposals

Published On: Nov 27th 2018 News

Mail Redirection Services: MaltaPost plc proposed changes in tariffs and service conditions

Published On: Nov 27th 2018 Consultation

Wangiri Scam Calls

Published On: Nov 26th 2018 News

Pricing updates for October

Published On: Nov 21st 2018 News

ICT 4 the Elderly project kicks off - an opportunity for a more digitally inclusive elderly society

Published On: Nov 21st 2018 News

Price Developments Presentation for October 2018

Published On: Nov 19th 2018 Monthly Pricing Developments

Postal Article Forwarding Services (PAFS) - Regulating the delivery of postal articles

Published On: Nov 16th 2018 News

Postal Article Forwarding Services (PAFS) - Regulating the delivery of postal articles

Published On: Nov 16th 2018 Consultation

Monthly Newsletter - October 2018

Published On: Nov 13th 2018 News

Budding Rockstars 2018 - youths turn tech entrepreneurs for a day

Published On: Nov 12th 2018 News

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 15.11.2018

Channel: TVM

Programme: TVAM

Topic: BeSmartOnline! – Online Dating

Participant: Mark Spiteri

LEGAL UPDATES

Pending Lawsuits:

- 12th November 2018: written response by MCA to EUIPO following contestation by ZEST TV of MCA's registration of a trade name 'ZEST'. Case is adjourned sine die for EUIPO's ruling.

●22nd November 2018: 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 22nd January 2019 for continuation of evidence.

●22nd November 2018: 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 Vodafone’s final written submissions for the 22nd January 2019.

●22nd November 2018: Vodafone vs MCA before ART - contesting an MCA decision following a dispute filed by Vodafone presented its written final submissions. Adjourned to 22nd January 2019 for the presentation of the MCA’s written responses.

●22nd November 2018: Vodafone vs MCA before Art – contesting MCA’ retail access decision “Retail Access to the Public Telephone Network at a Fixed Location: Identification and Analysis of Markets, Determination of Market Power and Setting of Remedies” issued on 8 April 2015. ART as per decision given on 22 November confirmed MCA’s decision. The MCA was not notified with any appeal contesting ART’s judgment.

The event provided students with an opportunity to interact with emerging and established tech entrepreneurs and to gain valuable insights on the key characteristics of entrepreneurship. Moreover, participants were encouraged to learn about and consider tech entrepreneurship as a career path.



The MCA firmly believes in the importance of instilling entrepreneurship in the young and the message to every young person present at the Budding Rockstars event today was clear – believe in your vision. Various inspirational speakers shared their story with the attendees.

A colourful introduction by Growth Gurus’ Josh O’ Cock was a splendid ice breaker and got the young attendees ready for a day of creativity.

Nathan Farrugia spoke about lighting one’s fire and the importance of enthusiasm, to kickstart a bright future.

Abdalla Kablan, from DELTA Summit, spoke about how belief, commitment and looking beyond the comfort zone contributes towards transforming one’s vision into tangible achievements.

Robyn Pratt drew from her wealth of experience to share a new perspective with the attendees. She told the students how everyone’s reality is different and to learn from their unique experiences.

Zach Ciappara spoke about his entrepreneurial journey with FreeHour, a MITA-backed app that helps students connect on campus during their free time, which today has 16K users.

Brian Azzopardi from Rawstream and Jonas Eneroth from Karmafy were both interviewed by MCA’s Alistair Farrugia. Brian spoke about his transition from an employee at a large software company, to a founder, and eventually a CEO of a Wi-Fi filtering startup. Jonas shared his experience in the video

EVENTS

Budding Rockstars 2018 - youths turn tech entrepreneurs for a day

The 2018 edition of Budding Rockstars was held on Thursday 8th November at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Valletta. The event was attended by 140, final year secondary school students and more than 50 educators hailing from 36 schools in Malta and Gozo. Budding Rockstars is an innovation event by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA), forming part of a wider set of activity undertaken by the Authority, aimed at exposing young persons to technology entrepreneurship. The event targeted students from across all public, church and private schools in Malta and Gozo.

gaming industry, and how this is nowadays contributing to Karmafy, a platform that leverages gaming for social good.



Other speaking contributions were made by Vioside, emphasising how they concentrate on developing robust yet simple mobile apps, and by Cecilia Mzayek from Celuna, who contributed with her experience of going through JAYE's Start-Up Programme.

In subsequent group activities, coordinated by the Edward de Bono Institute, students were exposed to creativity and innovation techniques aimed at facilitating idea generation in a business context. Students worked in groups to develop novel business concepts that applied ICTs and addressed a problem. Ideas were afterwards exhibited, voted upon and the teams with the best three ideas were invited to pitch on stage in the final phase of Budding Rockstars.

Visiting the event and meeting students working on their ideas, the Minister for Education, Hon. Evarist Bartolo, commented on how this type of event breeds adaptability, flexibility, complex problem-solving skills, and team work which is lacking in formal education. The idea to prepare young people for employability is to be encouraged, such events are critical in this pursuit.



The students with the most voted ideas were then invited to pitch on stage, with Chucky Bartolo from Lovin Malta acting as the moderator. Judging for the final 'pitch competition' was handled by Dr Leonie Baldacchino, University of Malta; Matthew Caruana, ZAAR Crowdfunding Malta; Alex Borg from MITA Innovation Hub, and Julian Azzopardi from Junior Achievement Young Enterprise. The judges noted how the business idea is very important, but it is ultimately the execution that matters the most. Whereas a strong idea could help the business to grow quickly in the early stages, it takes a strong team to sustain such growth and secure the business long-term.

Budding Rockstars formed part of Global Entrepreneurship Week Malta 2018 and was organised by the MCA in collaboration with the Edward de Bono Institute and the Directorate for Educational Services. The event was supported by the Secretariat for Catholic Education, and the BeSmartOnline campaign.

The MCA has set up a Facebook page for Budding Rockstars to serve as a platform for further engagement.

www.facebook.com/buddingrockstars