

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BEREC – Working Group on Net Neutrality – Measurement Tool Kick-off Meeting

The MCA attended a BEREC's Net Neutrality meeting held on the 26th October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. Details related to the development of BEREC's Net Neutrality tool were shared and discussed with member states during this meeting. The MCA is following this project closely with a view of evaluation the implementation of BEREC's tool locally.

Broad-Band Competence Offices Network Annual Conference

An MCA representative participated in the thematic working group as well as the annual conference organised by the BroadBand Competence Offices for Europe (BCO) on the 27th September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The thematic working group was focused primarily on the broadband mapping and EU funding possibilities. During the annual conference, the Commission presented an overview of the BCO network. A discussion on the future work to be carried out by the BCO networks followed.

72nd Communications Committee Meeting

The MCA, has represented Malta during the 72nd Communications Committee (COCOM) meeting, held by the European Commission on the 25th September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. During the meeting, a number of electronic communications related topics were discussed. Amongst the subject matters listed on the agenda, the latest DESI report, Alternative Access means to the 112 emergency services, and updates on the work being carried out in regards to 5G and Mobile Satellite Services were discussed.

92nd CEPT Working Group on Frequency Management Meeting (ECC)

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) is responsible for

developing strategies, plans and implementation advice for radio spectrum management within CEPT (European Conference for Postal and Telecommunication Administrations). The last meeting was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, between the 24th and 28th September 2018. Apart from RF monitoring and interference matters, the meeting also discussed aspects related to short range devices, mobile, satellite and maritime applications. The participation of the MCA allowed Malta to be involved in the process leading to the adoption of European spectrum management and licensing deliverables. This will feed into the review process of legal instruments pertaining spectrum management.

BEREC – Remedies Expert Working Group – PRD Update on Common Positions

The MCA attended a workshop organised by BEREC's Remedies Expert Working Group in Brussels on the 21st of September, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The discussion focused on issues concerning the forthcoming update of the BEREC Common Positions (CPs) that deal with remedies for markets 3a, 3b and 4 in view of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC).

Some of the key regulatory matters outlined during the workshop include:

- Symmetric regulation;
- Co-investment;
- Wholesale-only networks;
- Active remedies conditional on passive infrastructure;
- Vertically separated undertakings; and
- Regulatory options regarding uncompetitive oligopolies.

The CPs will have to be revised accordingly in order to ensure a more robust regulatory approach when dealing with competition shortcomings in Markets 3a/3b and 4 of the 2014 Recommendation.

Single Market Forum – A High-level Stakeholder Conference

On 14th September, a representative from the MCA attended the Single Market Forum 2017/2018 closing event, a high-

level stakeholder conference organised by the European Commission for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and EU SME Envoy, and attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economics of the Republic of Latvia, Arvils Ašeradens. The event was a full-day event with workshops and panel discussions, and took place in Riga in Latvia, at the Riga Latvian Society House. The two workshops attended by the MCA focused on digitisation and servitisation, highlighting the unlimited number of opportunities that these present, the challenges that they pose and on the means available to help SMEs achieve their ambitions and grow in the single market, while also focusing on the information and tools necessary in order to raise awareness, turn existing knowledge into business, accelerate in field labs and strengthen foundations.

Throughout the workshops, it was emphasised that due to the volatile nature of the international digital context, marketplaces need to be geared for Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, and other novelties as these affect the relationship between supply and demand and the nature of how work is being devised in the globalised world we are living in today.

Conclusively, it was highlighted that a lot of potential is foreseen yet in order to utilise this potential to its full extent, a lot of actions in a number of areas is entailed to progress - not only at EU level but even at international level. The aim is to ensure that the Single Market stays competitive and keeps empowering businesses.

5G Feasibility Study – 5G PPP ICT-19 Info Day

An MCA representative attended the 5G PPP ICT-19 Info Day which was held on the 14th September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. This event was organised by the European Commission during which the three consortia that successfully participated in the ICT-17 call, presented their 5G test beds to the attendees. Information on the currently open ICT-19 call was provided. This event served as a networking opportunity to meet key stakeholders that are actively pursuing collaboration for EU-funded research.

Next Generation Internet (NGI) Forum 2018

On 13th September 2018, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) participated in the Next Generation Internet (NGI) Forum 2018 in Porto, Portugal. The event was organised by HUB4NGI in collaboration with Porto Municipality and included a mix of specialist talks, open discussions and interactive working groups. The aim of the NGI Forum was to bring together those prominent actors that, through their work in various research and development areas, are paving the way towards the Internet of the future. With more than 150 attendees, the Forum was an opportunity to share knowledge with leading experts from all across Europe and beyond.

BEREC/IRG – 3rd Contact Network Meeting 2018

The 3rd meeting for 2018 of the BEREC Contact Network (CN) was held on 13-14 September in Dublin, Ireland.

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 which is being held in Portoroz, Slovenia in early October. NRAs from EU member states, EEA countries and EU candidate countries were represented. The European Commission also attended the meeting.

Young ICT Women Project Meeting

Officers from the MCA attended the “YOUNG ICT WOMEN - Innovative Solutions to increase the numbers of EU vulnerable girls and young women into the digital agenda” has started its activities with a kick-off meeting organized by the project Lead Partner, the Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association – LIKTA, on the 10th and 11th September, 2018 in Riga, Latvia

The objective of the YOUNG ICT WOMEN project is to develop the digital competences and thereby the employability of young women at risk of exclusion from the labour market.

The project brings together 10 insightful and experienced partners from 9 European countries: AMETIC – The Spanish ICT Association - Spain, Baltic Education Technology Institute – BETI, Lithuania, Creative Thinking Development - CRETHIDEV - Greece, DIGITALEUROPE AISBL, Belgium, ECDL Ireland Ltd. – Ireland, Educating for an Open Society – EOS, Romania, European Centre for Women and Technology – ECWT, Norway, FUNDACIÓN PLAN INTERNATIONAL, Spain, LIKTA, Latvia and Malta Communications Authority – Malta.

The initiative will pursue its goals through awareness raising campaigns, skills assessment, innovative partnerships with employers, development of a new on-line employability profiling tool, training and employment guidance into Digital Jobs. The YOUNG ICT WOMEN project benefits from a €2.714.30,4 grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment and will run between September 2018 and August 2021. For more information see also eeagrants.org and follow the project website coming in October!

RSPG 'Good Offices' Working Group Meeting

The MCA participated in the RSPG 'Good Offices' meeting held in Vilnius, Lithuania on the 6th September, 2018. The meeting considered the status of the terrestrial broadcasting harmful interference caused by Italy to its neighbouring countries. The meeting has also considered responses submitted by EU member states to a questionnaire on the availability of the 700 MHz band for wireless broadband electronic communications services.

PUBLICATIONS

MCF Business Breakfast 2018

Published On: September 27th 2018

Euro Cloud Europe

Published On: September 27th 2018

MCA International News Week 34

Published On: September 26th 2018

Career Opportunity: Systems Support Executive

Published On: September 26th 2018

The provision of call termination on individual public telephone networks at a fixed location in Malta

Published On: September 25th 2018

Corrigendum to MCA Decision No. MCA/D/17-2971

Published On: September 24th 2018

MCA International News Week 33

Published On: September 20th 2018

Career Opportunity: Clerical Officer

Published On: September 12th 2018

Monthly Newsletter - August 2018

Published On: September 10th 2018

Bilateral meeting MCA / UKE

Published On: September 6th 2018

MCA International News Week 32

Published On: September 6th 2018

The Trust in Cloud Initiative

Published On: September 4th 2018

About the Forum

Published On: September 4th 2018

EVENTS

MCF Business Breakfast 2018

The MCA organised a Business Breakfast aimed at encouraging businesses to go digital through the implementation of Cloud Computing. The event was organised in collaboration with EY and RSM, both of which members of the Malta Cloud Forum (MCF), and it was also supported by the other members of the Forum. The event took place on 12th September.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Silvio Schembri, opened the event via a recorded speech, highlighting the benefits and transformational opportunities in operations brought about by cloud computing technologies.

Following this, Michael Azzopardi, Senior Manager at EY IT Advisory, and Christopher Busuttill Delbridge, Managing Director of Evolve Ltd. took the floor as they explored the benefits and challenges posed by cloud computing from the perspective of a business that had first-hand experience with cloud migration. The session took the format of a fireside chat, engaging the audience throughout.



The third session was delivered by Mr Gordon Micallef and Ms Martina Mallia on behalf of RSM, who in turn presented the various paths available for SMEs to exploit cloud-based services that translate into business benefits. This graphical journey to the cloud is not the same for every organisation.

However it reflects the reality that every organisation can benefit from one or more cloud-based services. The journey depicted the challenges that SMEs face in dealing with different nodes on the paths, and the benefits to be considered with digital communications, data, customers, finances, and human resources.



Lastly, Caryl McKay on behalf of the MCA stressed the Authority's commitment to raise cloud awareness and the take-up of new technologies amongst businesses. A survey conducted by the MCA in 2017 found that amongst the 71% of businesses that indicated that they seek to adopt new technology in order to save money, only 51% believed that they are knowledgeable about cloud computing technologies. Moreover, the vast majority of the businesses that were interviewed (64%) do not use cloud computing and do not plan to make use of cloud computing technologies in the near future. 8

In order to address this, the MCA in collaboration with the MCF will next year be undertaking a project called 'Excelerate',

which aims to encourage businesses to go digital and invest in cloud technologies. Through various information sessions, the project will delve into a number of topics, such as: Cloud Computing; Web Design; Security and much more. The project will be launched early next year with sessions planned to kick-start in March. Different sessions are planned to be scheduled every month and participants will be able to choose the sessions they follow depending on their topic preferences and needs.



LEGAL UPDATES

Publication of Legal Notice on 28 September 2018 entitled: the 'Postal Services (General) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations' as per Legal Notice 305 of 2018