

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Meeting with CCIA Europe

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024, the MCA participated in an online meeting with CCIA Europe to discuss the implementation of the DSA. The Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) Europe, representing major technology companies and advocating for open markets, organised the session, which included representatives from Amazon, CCIA Europe, and MCA. The meeting focused on CCIA Europe's recommendations regarding out-of-court dispute settlement bodies and age-appropriate design under the DSA framework. This discussion allowed participants to align perspectives and explore practical approaches for DSA compliance.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of WG2 DSA Board

The MCA participated in the second meeting of Working Group 7 on Orders and Criminal Issues of the European Board for Digital Services, held online on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The meeting focused on the implementation of Articles 9 and 10 of the DSA, discussing the current state of play, outreach to national authorities, and potential next steps.

## **BEREC Workshop on the Implementation of the DSA**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024, BEREC hosted a hybrid workshop on the implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA) at the IRG premises in Brussels and online. The event brought together Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) from various EU member states to discuss their initial insights and experiences with DSA implementation, focusing on internal organisation, cooperation models, and their response to specific requests. The MCA was represented by Bernard Agius who presented the MCA's approach to implementing the DSA in Malta.

## **40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN2**

Two representatives from the MCA participated virtually in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN which was held between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to number portability, switching, and trust in numbers, including ongoing Recommendation and Report drafting and discussions on future work items.

## **Study on the Regulatory Landscape of Adult Content Platforms**

On 28<sup>th</sup> October, the MCA participated in an interview led by an attorney commissioned by the European Commission for a study on the regulatory landscape of adult content platforms. Representatives from the Advocate General's Office and the Malta Police Force contributed to

the discussion. The discussion covered legal provisions applicable to adult content platforms, mechanisms for age assurance, content moderation standards, reporting processes for illegal content, and upcoming regulatory trends in Malta.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Board for Digital Services**

A representative for the MCA participated in the eighth meeting of the European Board for Digital Services, held online on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The agenda included updates from the European Commission on key developments, such as enforcement activities, advancements in age verification, and online marketplace regulations. Discussions also covered recent workshops on risk assessments, protection of minors, and the transition of codes addressing hate speech and disinformation into formal regulatory standards.

## **Online Workshop on DSA Risk Assessments**

On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the MCA participated in an online, invitation-only workshop organised to discuss experiences with risk assessments as outlined in Article 34 of the Digital Services Act (DSA). The workshop brought together providers of VLOPs, VLOSEs, and Digital Services Coordinators from EU Member States to address practical aspects of publishing risk assessment and audit reports, key elements in advancing transparency, accountability, and public scrutiny under the DSA. The discussions centered on the first and second risk assessment reports of 2023 and 2024, as well as the 2024 audit reports.

## **DSA Board WG1 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

The MCA participated in the second meeting of Working Group 1 – Horizontal and Legal Issues of the European Board for Digital Services, held online on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024. The discussion touched upon criteria for "minor and purely ancillary features" and interpretations related to media, news, and publishing services.

## **Meeting with ACM**

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2024, the MCA held a video-call with the Dutch DSC colleagues to discuss the complaint involving the Reddit platform that we transferred to them via Agora. We shared thoughts on the specific complaint and discussed the practices and processes being adopted in the way complaints are handled.

## **MCA Participation in DSA Board Work Groups**

The MCA attended the second meeting of Working Group 4 - Integrity of the Information Space of the European Board for Digital Services online on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The meeting covered recent and upcoming elections, and the transition to Code of Conduct under Art 45 DSA. The OPM also attended. The MCA participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group 6 (Protection of Minors) of the European Board for Digital Services online on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The meeting covered Age Verification and Guidelines under Article 28 of the DSA. FSWS and the Office of the Commissioner for Children participated. MCA participated in the second meeting of Working Group 2 (Working together) of the European Board for Digital Services online on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The meeting covered the Annual activity report (Art. 55 DSA) and

Complaints. The MCA attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Working Group 3 remotely on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Key findings and insights of a study on trusted flaggers were presented by the Contractor on behalf of the Commission. The complete report will be published later this year. A discussion on areas for the Commission Guidelines on Trusted Flaggers followed. Next meetings will take place in November.

## **108<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Frequency Management**

The Electronic Communications Committee's Working Group on Frequency Management (WG FM) plays a pivotal role in shaping strategies, plans, and implementation advice for radio spectrum management within the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). The most recent meeting, held in a hybrid format from October 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, took place in Montreux, Switzerland. During the sessions, the group reviewed various ECC decisions, recommendations, and reports and provided guidance on several topics to the relevant sub-working groups. These contributions are expected to support the ongoing review of spectrum management legislation in Malta

## **59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECC Working Group NaN1**

Two representatives from the MCA participated virtually in a meeting of a project team within WG NaN which was held between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The project team held discussions on multiple aspects related to future numbering issues, including ongoing drafting of Reports, reviewing of ECC Recommendations and discussions on future work items.

## European Regulators Group for Postal Services - Regulatory Framework Working Group Meeting

An MCA representative participated in a meeting of the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) Regulatory Framework Working Group that was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The meeting discussed a wide set of questions that are relevant in delineating a revised regulatory framework, and which are going to be discussed by the heads of national regulatory authorities at the end of the year. The working group also discussed projects that will be part of its deliverables for 2025.

## Meeting with Google on Article 21 of the DSA

On 7<sup>th</sup> October, the MCA held a remote meeting with representatives of Google Ireland Limited to discuss the implementation of Article 21 of the DSA. Google outlined how this provision is being implemented on their platforms. Additionally, they sought to engage with the MCA on aspects related to the ongoing certifications.

## 60<sup>th</sup> BEREC Plenary Meetings

The MCA led by its CEO, participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> BEREC Plenary Meetings held between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Budapest, Hungary. These meetings were hosted by the Hungarian national regulatory authority, NMHH.

During the meetings, the BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) adopted the draft BEREC Work Programme 2025 and launched a public consultation. Its priorities for the next year include fostering inclusion by closing the digital divide, ensuring network security, and supporting environmentally sustainable infrastructure development. BEREC also adopted a draft report on the development of private and public 5G networks across Europe, based on information collected through a questionnaire addressed to national regulatory authorities that studies the needs and drivers for, and relevant case studies of, 5G private mobile networks.

At the 60<sup>th</sup> BEREC plenary meetings, the Board of Regulators elected the BEREC Chair for 2026 – Marko Mišmaš, Director of the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of Slovenia (AKOS). It also elected the two Vice-Chairs for 2025, Alejandra de Iturriaga Gandini from CNMC (Spain) and Daniela Brönstrup from BNetzA (Germany). The BoR also elected Lillia Malon, Commissioner of NCEC (Ukraine) as the representative for participants without voting rights to complete the composition of the Mini-Board in 2025.

A comprehensive list of public documents adopted during the 60<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting is available on the BEREC website: <https://www.berec.europa.eu/en/events/60th-berec-ordinary-meetings>.

The next Plenary Meetings are scheduled to take place on 5-6 December 2024, in Ljubljana.

## **ERGP Consumers and Market Indicators WG Meeting**

A representative for the MCA participated in the ERGP Consumers and Market Indicators Working Group (WG) meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024. During this meeting, the co-chairs presented an overview of the WG projects and timeframes and discussed the three documents:

1. The report on the needs of postal services for vulnerable users.
2. The report on quality of service, consumer protection, and complaints handling.
3. The report on monitoring of the main market developments.

to be presented to the CN.

It was noted that in 2025, there will be an additional report on the monitoring of postal price market developments. This report will identify trends and evolution in recent years and will no longer form part of the Main Postal Market Development report.

BIPT presented their price comparison study on single-piece tariffs from 2020 to 2023.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECC Working Group Numbering and Networks (WG NaN) Strategy Forum Group Meeting**

An MCA representative participated in a meeting of the WG NaN Strategy Forum Group held in

Athens between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. During this meeting, participants reviewed the ECC Strategic Plan and prepared input to the 2025-2030 edition. They also discussed key industry trends and outlook, and potential implications on areas of relevance to WG NaN within the context of the review of the WG NaN work programme.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Introduction of Blocking Measures to combat Scam Calls with Maltese numbers**

Published On 25/10/2024 News

### **Monthly Newsletter - September 2024**

Published On 23/10/2024 News

### **Consultation and Proposed Decision on the Source of Funding for the Net Cost incurred in providing Universal Service Obligations for Electronic Communications Services during 2019**

Published On 18/10/2024 Consultation MCA/C/24-5441



## RSPG Call for Input - Stakeholder input on the prospects for the use of the 470-694 MHz band

Published On 16/10/2024 News

## Career Opportunity: Junior Analyst (External Relations)

Published On 14/10/2024 Recruitment

## Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post - Q1 2020 to Q2 2024

Published On 11/10/2024 Data Report Sheet  
MCA/R/24-5424

## International News Week 11-12 2024

Published On 10/10/2024 News

## ISACA Malta Chapter's Educational Event



In today's interconnected digital landscape, safeguarding technology is crucial.

At the ISACA Malta Chapter's Educational Event, MCA employees Ing. Antoine Sciberras, Chief Officer for Spectrum Management and Ing. David Scerri, Senior Manager for Market Shaping delivered a presentation titled "'Securing the Nexus: How Regulation Shapes the Future of Connected Resilience'".

Their presentation emphasised the vital role of evolving regulations in enhancing cybersecurity, managing risks, and ensuring operational resilience, all of which are essential for a secure technological future.

## MCAST Freshers' Week & TechXpo participation by the MCA



Experts from the MCA participated in the MCAST Freshers' Week and the TechXpo 2024 during the month of October.

Attendees who attended MCA's stand in both events were presented with information on MCA's role and were also provided with the opportunity to meet our experts and see firsthand the technology used in our daily operations!



## LEGAL UPDATES

### Litigation:

#### 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024: Sitting before the Administrative Review Tribunal in the case:

GO plc versus L-Awtorita' ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni, whereby GO is contesting an MCA notification issued on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024, whereby MCA informed GO of the next steps in relation to the re-assessment of the wholesale fixed access market. A first sitting was scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

This has now been adjourned for the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024: Sitting before the Administrative Review Tribunal in the case:

Maltapost plc versus L-Awtorita' ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni, where Maltapost are contesting an MCA decision requiring MaltaPost to pay compensation for not having achieved the quality of service targets for 2019.

Case was adjourned to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for conclusion of MCA's evidence.

#### 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024: Sitting before the Administrative Review Tribunal in the case:

Vodafone Malta Ltd (Now Epic Communications Ltd) versus L-Awtorita' ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni, where EPIC are contesting MCA's VULA 2016 decision.

Case was adjourned to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for the Tribunal's final decision.

# MEDIA ACTIVITY

## Television:

**Date:** 23.10.2024

**Channel:** NET TV

**Programme:** Bejnietna

**Topic:** Telecosts

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia

**Date:** 09.10.2024

**Channel:** NET TV

**Programme:** Bejnietna

**Topic:** Half Yearly Report on Complaints and Enquiries

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia

## Radio:

**Date:** 02.10.2024

**Channel:** NET.FM

**Programme:** Brunch ma' Marbeck

**Topic:** Telecosts

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia