

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **BEREC Market and Economic Analysis Working Group**

An MCA representative attended the BEREC Market and Economic Analysis Working Group's (WG) kick-off online meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The meeting focused on outlining the WG's work programme for 2025, which includes ongoing projects from the previous year, and discussed the potential resource requirements needed to support these initiatives.

### **Ad-hoc Meeting of Working Group 4 of the European Board for Digital Services**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the MCA participated in an ad-hoc meeting of Working Group 4 (WG4) of the European Board for Digital Services. The main focus of the meeting was the conversion of the Code of Practice on Disinformation and related draft board conclusion.

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

The MCA participated in the eleventh meeting of the European Board for Digital Services, held online on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The meeting included updates from the Commission on recent developments and enforcement activities, discussions on the role of platforms in elections, and Meta's recent announcements on fact-checking. Additionally, the conversion of the Code of Conduct on Hate Speech and the Code of Practice on Disinformation was addressed, along with the common baseline for the DSCs' annual activity reports and preparations for the first anniversary Board meeting. Updates were also provided on the development of an age verification application and the activities of various Working Groups.

## **European Board for Digital Services Working Group 3 Meeting**

MCA representatives participated in the first meeting of Working Group 3 (WG3) for 2025 which was held remotely on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The meeting focused mainly, on the exchange of views on the first experiences and challenges of the implementation of Article 21 of the DSA, on out-of-court dispute settlement. Mention was made of the functionality being developed on Agora for DSCs to notify certified ODS bodies. In addition, updates were provided by the Commission on the status of the trusted flagger guidelines and the streamlining of the Transparency database with the requirements in the implementation regulation on transparency reporting. Going forward, it was suggested to share complex cases and decisions taken during future WG3 meetings.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 6 of the European Board for Digital Services**

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the MCA participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Working Group 6 (WG6) (Protection of Minors) of the European Board for Digital Services online. Key discussions included a Q&A on the technical document concerning age verification, followed by a detailed discussion on the guidelines under Article 28 of the DSA, focusing on measures like parental control tools. Updates were provided by DSCs, including an ES expert report on a safe digital environment for youth and children, and national enforcement updates.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group 2 of the European Board for Digital Services**

The MCA participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Working Group 2 (WG2) of the European Board for Digital Services online on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Key discussions included the annual activity report (Art. 55 DSA), where the draft template and communications material were presented and finalised. The meeting also covered complaint handling, outlining next steps and drafting organisation. Additionally, WG2 workstreams for 2025 were discussed, followed by updates on the Board's annual report (Art. 35(2) DSA) and recent incident reporting developments.

## **ODS Meeting with Irish and German Digital Services Coordinators**

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the MCA held an informal

online meeting with the Irish and German Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs). The primary focus of the discussion was the certification of Out-of-court Dispute Settlement under Article 21 of the DSA. During the meeting, participants shared their experiences with the first certifications, discussed interpretations of the law, and addressed various issues encountered in the process.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Apprentice Onboarding Event at MCAST



During the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2025, the Malta Communications Authority's Spectrum Management Team (SMT) participated in the Apprentice Onboarding Event at MCAST.

As part of the MCA's ongoing commitment to fostering talent and building connections within the industry, this event provided a platform for the Authority to engage directly with prospective apprentices. Students had the opportunity to learn about MCA's role in shaping the communications sector, gain insights into work involved, and

explore potential career paths within the Authority.



## PUBLICATIONS

### Key Market Indicators for Electronic Communications and Post - Q1 2020 to Q3 2024

Published On 20/01/2025 Data Report Sheet MCA/R/25-5512

### Publication of the Revised National Frequency Plan

Published On 17/01/2025 News

### Update to the Register of Authorised Undertakings providing Postal Services in Malta

Published On 17/01/2025 News

## Monthly Newsletter - December 2024

Published On 16/01/2025 News

## EMF Quarterly Report - Q4 2024

Published On 16/01/2025 EMF Reports

## LEGAL UPDATES

### Litigation:

#### 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Sitting before the Administrative Review Tribunal in the case: GO plc versus L-Awtoritá ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni, whereby GO is contesting a 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. During this sitting GO presented a document re Commission ruling, relating to market analysis in relation to Estonian market. An MCA expert continued to give evidence (cross-examination by GO), in relation to MCA's preliminary plea contending that GO's appeal is null. Case adjourned to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, re submissions on MCA's preliminary plea.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Sitting before the Administrative Review Tribunal in the case Vodafone Malta Ltd (Now Epic Communications

Ltd) versus L-Awtoritá ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni, where EPIC are contesting MCA's VULA 2016 decision. Case was adjourned to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025, for the Tribunal's final decision.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Sitting before the Administrative Review Tribunal, in the case Maltapost plc versus L-Awtoritá ta' Malta dwar il-Komunikazzjoni, where Maltapost are contesting a MCA decision requiring MaltaPost to pay compensation for not having achieved the Quality of Service targets for 2019. During the sitting MCA presented a series of documents whereby it concluded its evidence in the case. Case was adjourned to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 for any outstanding cross-examinations by the parties.

## MEDIA ACTIVITY

### Television:

**Date:** 09.01.2025

**Channel:** TVM

**Programme:** TVAM

**Topic:** Scam Calls

**Participant:** Alistair Farrugia