

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Preparatory meeting for Digital Markets Working Group

On the 27th September, 2024, the MCA took part in a remote preparatory meeting with BEREC ahead of the BEREC Digital Markets Working Group (DM WG) Internal Workshop on the Implementation of the Digital Services Act. The workshop will be held on 30th October 2024, with the MCA speaking on one of the panels.

The 62nd Meeting of Project Team FM22

The FM22 project team focuses on spectrum monitoring and enforcement-related activities. The latest meeting, held in a hybrid format from the 24th to 27th September 2024, addressed several key topics. These included discussions on field strength measurements for MFCN at border areas, ongoing monitoring campaigns, EMF measurements, issues related to GNSS jamming, and the use of drones and direction-finding apparatus for radio frequency measurements. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2025.

7th Meeting of the European Board for Digital Services

The MCA participated in the seventh meeting of the European Board for Digital Services, held in Brussels. The Board, established under the Digital Services Act, is an independent advisory group composed of Digital Services Coordinators from the Member States and chaired by the European Commission. It plays a key role in ensuring the consistent application of the Digital Services Act across the European Union.

WIK Consult Conference

An MCA official attended the WIK Consult Conference titled "*Beyond the Digital Decade: New Rules, New Challenges for Digital Platforms and Telecoms.*" The conference covered a variety of new legislation aimed at promoting fairness and responsible governance on digital platforms, current regulatory initiatives in this space, and the future outlook for implementation. Another key topic discussed was the ongoing debate on revising Europe's telecom regulations to encourage investment and establish a unified market for electronic communications. The conference was held on the 24th and 25th September in Brussels.

Celebrating the Web Accessibility Directive – Fourth Anniversary

This hybrid conference, held on the 24th September, 2024 and organised by the IAAP, was held to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the Web Accessibility Directive. Moderated by Susanna Laurin, the event featured numerous

speakers from various member states. Discussions focused on sharing best practices and addressing ongoing challenges impacting the implementation of the WAD.

First on the agenda was a brief overview and recap of the WAD by Ms. Laurin, followed by a series of presentations and panel discussions covering various topics. A key issue that received significant attention was the importance of involving people with disabilities at every stage of the WAD process. This involvement is essential for the directive's effectiveness and should extend from the selection of the annual monitoring sample to active participation in testing, regular feedback collection, and ongoing interaction between users with diverse abilities and experts. Only through such engagement can the WAD's implementation fully reach its potential.

The conference highlighted the outcomes of several workshops conducted the previous day in Brussels as part of the event. One key recommendation stressed the importance of drafting comprehensive documentation on public sector websites about their accessibility features. This information could be located within the Accessibility Statement, or in another dedicated section of the site. Additionally, the workshops highlighted the need for clear and accessible support channels to help users address any issues they may encounter, in a timely manner.

The agenda also featured testimonies from individuals with disabilities, who shared their experiences related to navigating public sector websites. These included contributions from an autistic person, a visually impaired individual, and someone with cerebral palsy. Their insights provided first-hand accounts, highlighting their various needs, some of which unfortunately remain still unresolved, or very difficult to address in terms of accessibility, to date.

The conference touched on various other topics and

also included presentations from Industry players showcasing new and innovative tools that can facilitate the WAD monitoring processes such as the Abra.ai which is a tool for assessing the accessibility levels of mobile apps.

WRC RSPG Subgroup Meeting

The MCA participated in a sub-group meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group on the 23rd September 2024. This online meeting focused on the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27), discussing the initial structure and potential content for an interim Opinion on WRC-27. The group also developed a questionnaire to gather input from member states.

1st Meeting of WG 6 – Protection of Minors

The MCA was present in the first meeting of Working Group 6, on the 19th September 2024, which addressed the protection of minors. This session was held remotely as part of the initial work group meetings set up by the European Board for Digital Services

1st Meeting of WG 3 – Content Moderation and Data Access

On the 19th September, 2024, the MCA also participated in the first meeting of Working Group 3, which covered content moderation and data access. The session was held remotely.

BEREC Market and Economic Analysis Working Group Meeting

An MCA official attended a meeting, organized by the BEREC Market and Economic Analysis Working Group, for drafters to discuss the key outcomes and findings from a questionnaire circulated among NRAs, regarding physical infrastructure, in the context of the implementation of symmetric and asymmetric regulation. These findings will be incorporated into the "BEREC Report on the Regulation of Physical Infrastructure Access," which is currently being drafted. The meeting was held on the 19th September, 2024 in Brussels.

1st Meeting of WG 2 – "Working Together"

The MCA participated in the first meeting of Working Group 2, on the 18th September 2024, titled "Working Together," as part of the first round of meetings held remotely by the European Board for Digital Services.

1st Meeting of WG 8 – IT Issues

The MCA took part in the 1st meeting of Working Group 8 – IT Issues, of the European Board for Digital Services, held in Brussels on the 17th September, 2024. The participatory workshop focused on how AGORA could be further improved for the better functioning of the DSA.

Meeting with Irish Digital Services Coordinator

The MCA held a remote meeting with Coimisiún na Meán, the Irish DSC, on the 17th September, 2024, to discuss the processing of complaints under Article 53. Many VLOPs, including Facebook, TikTok, and Google, are established in Ireland, so any alleged breach of the DSA reported by a Maltese person to the MCA would need to be transmitted to the Irish DSC as the country of establishment. This meeting follows the first complaint submitted to the MCA and transmitted to the Irish DSC via Agora, the DSA dedicated IT system.

1st Meeting of WG 1 – Horizontal and Legal Issues

The MCA attended the first meeting of Working Group 1, on the 16th September, 2024, which focused on horizontal and legal issues. This meeting was part of the first round of meetings for new work groups set up by the European Board for Digital Services, and was held remotely.

1st Meeting of WG 7 of the DSA Board

The MCA participated in the first meeting (held remotely, on the 13th September, 2024) of WG 7 of the DSA Board, focused on criminal issues and on improving cross-border execution of orders. The MCA aims to involve the police and the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, and Employment in future meetings.

3rd BEREC Contact Network

MCA representatives attended the Contact Network (CN) meeting hosted by RATEL, the Serbian national regulatory authority, on 12-13th September 2024. During this meeting, the CN prepared the agenda for the upcoming BEREC Plenary, where Heads of regulatory authorities will discuss, among other matters, BEREC's Work Programme for 2025. Additionally, on 11th September, MCA participated in a BEREC internal workshop focused on the role of telecom regulators in developing and implementing sustainability indicators in the ICT sector. This workshop was held in conjunction with the Contact Network meeting.

1st Meeting of WG 5 – Consumer Protection and Online Marketplaces

The MCA, joined by the MCCA as observers, took part in the first meeting of Working Group 5 – Consumer protection and online marketplaces of the European Board for Digital Services, on the 12th September 2024. The meeting focused on discussing enforcement actions being taken and investigations that are currently underway against a number of VLOPs. A questionnaire will be sent by the Commission via Agora to gather any evidence that DSCs may want to share in support of the current investigations.

1st Meeting of WG 4 of DSA Board

The MCA participated in the first meeting of WG 4 of the DSA Board (held remotely on the 10th September 2024), focused on the integrity of the information space. An update was provided on the

conversion of the Code of Practice on Disinformation into a code of conduct under Article 45 DSA.

PUBLICATIONS

Monthly Newsletter - August 2024

Published On 27/09/2024 News

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

Published On 25/09/2024 News

Update to the Register of Authorised Undertakings providing Electronic Communications Networks and/or Services in Malta

Published On 24/09/2024 News

Career Opportunity: Market Analyst

Published On 23/09/2024 Recruitment Jobsplus permit number 652/2022

Decision Notice on the Review of GO plc's Application for Funding of the Net Cost claimed to have been incurred to provide Universal Service Obligations during 2019

Published On 23/09/2024 Decision MCA/D/24-5417

End-User Affairs: Half Yearly Report (January - June 2024)

Published On 12/09/2024 End User Half Yearly Report

International News Week 10 2024

Published On 03/09/2024 News

MCA Participates in UoM's Freshers' Week



The MCA has joined KSU to be present throughout Freshers' Week at the University of Malta.



Students met with MCA officials at our stand, where they were provided with insights into our role as a regulatory authority and how the MCA operates.

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Radio:

Date: 18.09.2024

Channel: NET.FM

Programme: Brunch ma' Marbeck

Topic: Complaints & Enquiries Half Yearly Report

Participant: Matthew Farrugia