

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Working Group 7 of the Digital Services Board**

The MCA participated in the third meeting of Working Group 7 on Orders and Criminal Issues of the European Board for Digital Services held online on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The meeting focused on Article 18 of the DSA. Europol and the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) provided presentations on the role of Europol and Member States' law enforcement authorities as recipients of Article 18 DSA notifications. The meeting also included a discussion on a draft survey related to Article 18 DSA and notifications received by Member States.

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

Two representatives from the MCA participated physically in the WG NaN Plenary meeting held in Bonn, Germany between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. During this meeting, participants were provided with updates on the work related to current and future numbering issues which was carried out by the three project teams reporting to this working group during the preceding six months. An overview of work activities taking place within other organisations, such as ETSI, EENA, ITU-T SG2, and GIRAF, in areas which are relevant to this working group was also provided. The meeting participants also discussed various themes of relevance to WG NaN, in particular those related to ongoing and future work items which will be the focus of the WG NaN project teams during the coming months. The meeting adopted two ECC Reports for publication, namely the ECC Report on 'Definition of missing, invalid or fraudulent CLI' and the ECC Report on 'Next Generation Emergency Communications - transition from circuit-switched to packet-switched networks, services and PSAPs'. Moreover, the meeting approved for public consultation the revision of draft ECC Recommendation (12) 04 'Numbering for Nomadic Voice Services'.

## Safer Internet Forum 2024

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the MCA and the Maltese Safer Internet Centre, participated in the Safer Internet Forum (SIF) 2024, held in Brussels and online. The forum, themed "Where's the harm? Protecting children and young people against inappropriate content and bullying online," focused on safeguarding youth in the digital environment. Discussions centered on implementing new Digital Services Act (DSA) rules, addressing risks from harmful online content and behaviour, and exploring tools and strategies to mitigate these risks.

## 65<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC#65)

ECC#65 appointed a new ECC Chair and a new Chair for the working group on spectrum engineering.

The meeting considered the work done by the various ECC working groups and project team 1 and approved various deliverables, either for publication or for public consultation. In particular, ECC#65 approved CEPT Report 088 on the use of the 3800-4200 MHz band for wireless broadband systems providing local-area connectivity and CEPT Report 087 concerning WAS/RLANs operating in the lower 6 GHz band. The 6G roadmap was also updated to take into account recent developments.

## Meeting of the Digital Services Coordinators and Safer Internet Centres

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the MCA attended the meeting of DSCs and Safer Internet Centres (SICs) hosted by the European Commission in Brussels. The agenda included presentations from national SICs and DSCs, followed by a Q&A session and a collaborative workshop. Participants discussed ways to enhance cooperation between DSCs and SICs, focusing on the protection of minors, leveraging SIC helplines and hotlines, and sharing relevant public information at the national level.

## DOT Europe Roundtable on the DSA

The MCA participated in the Online Services Governance Forum organized by DOT Europe on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, bringing together member companies, Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs), and DG CNECT's Platforms Directorate to discuss the state of the DSA implementation, 18 months after its entry into force. Held under Chatham House rules, the forum facilitated a collective exchange of practical experiences and insights from both regulators and regulated entities. Discussions focused on addressing current challenges and anticipating future issues to ensure the DSA remains an effective and workable regulatory framework.

## 9<sup>th</sup> DSA Board

The MCA participated in the ninth meeting of the European Board for Digital Services, held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Brussels. The agenda included discussions on updates from Board members and the Commission on enforcement activities, empowerment, and ongoing cases. A keynote address was delivered by Julie Grant, the Australian eSafety Commissioner, followed by

updates on working group activities, age verification applications, and the conversion of codes related to hate speech and disinformation. Additional discussions focused on transparency reporting, related training, and a draft regulation on calculating average monthly active recipients. The meeting concluded with closing remarks.

## **4<sup>th</sup> BEREC Contact Network Meeting**

The MCA participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> BEREC Contact Network (CN) meeting, hosted by EETT, the Greek National Regulatory Authority, in Athens on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November. During the meeting, the CN finalized the agenda for the Heads' meetings scheduled for the BEREC Plenary in December and reviewed the reports to be presented for adoption by the Heads. Key items on the agenda include the adoption of BEREC's Work Programme for 2025 and BEREC's Opinion to the European Commission on market and technological developments, as well as their implications for end-user rights.

## **DSA Board Working Group 3**

The MCA participated in the ad hoc and third meetings of Working Group 3 of the European Board for Digital Services held remotely on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 respectively. The first meeting aimed to provide guidance on the recently published transparency reporting implementing act whilst the second meeting delved on the proposed delegated act for data access (the framework for vetted researchers' access to data from VLOPs & VLOSEs) which is currently open for public consultation.

## **65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG#65)**

RSPG#65 was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 and considered the work done by the respective sub-groups. The meeting approved for public consultation, a draft report on 6G strategic vision.

## **DSA Board Working Group 2**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, the MCA also participated in the third meeting of Working Group 2 on Working together of the European Board for Digital Services held remotely. The discussions centered around the proposed structure for the Board's annual report as well as the feedback submitted for the annual activity report and the complaints handling process.

## **15<sup>th</sup> EU GNSS Interference Task Force Meeting**

The meeting considered developments and initiatives concerning interference caused to global navigation satellite systems. Initiatives being taken by certain entities in relation to this problem were also discussed.

## **DSA Board Working Group 6**

The MCA, together with FSWS and the Office of the Commissioner for Children, participated in the third meeting of Working Group 6 on the Protection of Minors of the European Board for Digital Services, held online on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. The meeting focused on the guidelines under Article 28, as well

as, the child specific impact assessment. Updates about the BIK platform, age verification rules and the online safety code were also provided.

## **7<sup>th</sup> WRC RSPG Subgroup Meeting**

The MCA participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> WRC sub-group meeting of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024. This hybrid meeting analysed the responses to the questionnaire which was submitted to member states in September 2024 and discussed which WRC27 agenda items should be considered for the interim report.

## **Seminar - Influencer Marketing and Consumer Rights**

On 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, the MCA attended an informative seminar titled 'Building Trust: Influencer Marketing and Consumer Rights' hosted by the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA). This interactive seminar was intended to inform influencers and marketing agencies about consumer protection laws and regulations relevant to their line of work and discuss challenges they face when creating or disclosing commercial content on social media. During the Q&A session, the MCA representative was invited by the host to give a quick overview of the Digital Services Act given its pertinence with the topic under discussion.

## **31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the European Communications Office Council**

The meeting discussed administrative matters which are necessary to support CEPT in undertaking the relevant tasks.

## **Working Group 4 DSA Board**

The MCA participated in the online meeting of Working Group 4 - Integrity of the Information Space of the European Board for Digital Services on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. The agenda included updates on the state of play of the Code of Practice on Disinformation, a presentation of the Code of Conduct proposal, and discussions on procedure and next steps.

## **RSPG Sub-Group Meeting on Strategic Spectrum Matters**

This sub-group is tasked to develop an RSPG opinion on direct-to-device connectivity. The general framework of the Opinion continued to be discussed.

## **45<sup>th</sup> ECASEC's Meeting**

During the month of November, the MCA attended the 45<sup>th</sup> ECASEC's meeting held in Mainz. ECASEC is the telecoms security experts' forum. Part of this meeting was jointly attended by BEREC Cybersecurity Working Group, the NIS Cooperation Group on 5G/Telecom Cybersecurity. Also, a separate meeting with representatives of OTT providers was held with the Task Force on Incident Reporting to discuss matters related to incident reporting under the NIS2 directive.

## BEREC CS EWG Stakeholder Workshop on Cybersecurity and Resilience

Published On 05/11/2024 Decision MCA/D/24-5453

During the month of November, the MCA attended the BEREC CS EWG stakeholder workshop on Cybersecurity and Resilience. This was followed by a drafter's meeting discussing various matters, mainly the drafting and publication of the report on the workshop and the work programme for 2025.

## PUBLICATIONS

### EMF Quarterly Report - Q3 2024

Published On 27/11/2024 EMF Reports

### Monthly Newsletter - October 2024

Published On 22/11/2024 News

### MCA Annual Report & Financial Statements 2023

Published On 19/11/2024 Annual Report

### Decision on the Source of Funding for the Net Cost incurred in providing Universal Service Obligations during 2019

## LEGAL UPDATES

### Litigation:

**14<sup>th</sup> November 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.

The sitting scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was not held and was adjourned for the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## MEDIA ACTIVITY

### Television:

**Date:** 25.11.2024

**Channel:** NET TV

**Programme:** Bejnietna ma' Steph

**Topic:** Postal matters related to Online Shopping

**Participant:** Matthew Farrugia