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**EaPeReg 21st Plenary Meeting**

23 May, 2023, Dublin, Ireland

**MINUTES**

The EaPeReg 21st Plenary Meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland, on 23 May 2023 in hybrid format. 55 participants from 20 countries (5 EaP and 15 EU), among them the representatives of DG CNECT and DG Near, EU4Digital, ITU, BEREC and BEREC Office, RSPG and EMERG were participating in the Plenary onsite and online. The list of participants is attached. Plenary meeting was hosted by the Communications Regulatory Commission of Ireland (ComReg), the EaPeReg Vice-Chair for 2023. Cecoforma, in cooperation with ComReg and ComCom – Communications Commission of Georgia, EaPeReg Chair for 2023 organised all the logistics. The event was sponsored by the European Commission.mThe Meeting was moderated by the representatives of EaPeReg Chair (Mzia Gogilashvili) and Vice-Chair (Tom Boyce) for 2023.

Main goal of the Plenary Meeting was to:

* Assess EaPeReg work in the first half of 2023;
* Confirm EaPeReg activities for the second half of 2023;
* Overview the EWGs reports on the progress made in the first half of 2023 and main plan for the second half of 2023;
* Review the presentation of the EU4Digital project experts on project activities;
* Nominate the EaPeReg Chair for 2024;
* Discuss other operational activities related to the Network development.

The EaPeReg Chair (Ekaterine Imedadze) and Vice-Chair (Robert Mourik) for 2023, as well as the representative of DG CNECT (Vassilis Kopanas) made welcome speeches. After Welcome speeches, the expert of EU4Digital-Telecom Rules (Andrejs Dombrovskis) presented the work done during the first half of 2023 and introduced the topics planned to be realized during the second half of the year. EU4Digital-Telecom Rules experts support EaPeReg in fulfilling several main tasks, namely:

* finalizing Regional Roaming Agreement;
* 5G private Networks development;
* preparation of roadmaps/guidelines towards implementation of 5G security development in EaP;
* monitoring and promoting broadband access; and
* broadband market analysis.

Programme manager for Digital and Economic Development Manager in DG Near, in particular in charge of EU4Digital initiative (SHARLET Thibault), provided the information on updates on EC policies towards EaPeReg. He stressed that the work done by EaPeReg is very important. The EC has the agenda for the EaP region of which the main priority is the digital connectivity, and the EC will continue supporting this important task for becoming the EaP region closer to the European Union.

Mr. SHRLET informed the Plenary participants on the new Easter Partnership workplan for 2023 with several targets in the field of digital communications, namely:

1. Broadband developments – 80% of citizens shall be connected to high-speed internet in the next year.
2. Reduction of roaming prices in the region; RRA is expected to be signed in 2023.
3. Security of communication networks
4. Investment priorities - massive economic investment plan which has already deployed; it has the potential to mobilise up to 17 billion Euro of public and private investment; the economic investment plan is the EC financial aim to support the new agenda for the EaP.

EaPeReg EWGs’ Chairs (Liliia Malon, Inga Popovici and Roman Kurdadze) presented Groups’ activities reports on progress made in the first half of 2023 and the main plan for the second half of 2023. The reports will be published on EaPeReg website <https://eapereg.org/>. REWG Chair during her presentation informed the Plenary participants that due to her position – Commissioner of NCEC – as well as the difficult political situation in Ukraine she has decided to leave her position of the Chair of REWG. During the last REWG meeting REWG members were asked to nominate a new Chair at the beginning of June.

Vice-Chair of BEREC (Annemarie SIPKES) made a presentation on forthcoming 4-lateral Summit of regulators for electronic communications. The main topic of the Summit will be international connectivity. Tom Boyce let Plenary Members know the background of the planned 4-lateral Summit. Plenary participants fully supported the proposed topic of 4-lateral Summit as well as the organization of the Summit itself stressing importance of such cooperation.

Mzia Gogilashvili informed Plenary participants on some initiatives supporting further development of the Network, development of visibility of the Network among them, as well as the working language of the Network and event sponsorship new rules of the EC.

During the Plenary meeting, traditionally, the EaPeReg Chair for 2024 was nominated. Silvia Bojoga, Deputy Director of ANRCETI, National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Moldovawas nominated as the Chair of the Network for 2024. The Plenary participants supported nomination of this candidate.

At the end of the meeting, the Ekaterine Imedadze and Robert Mourik expressed their continuous support of abovementioned activity and gratitude towards the EaPeReg experts, EC, Cecoforma, ComReg, as well as participants, organisers, interpreters, and all supporters of the event and with this, closed the 21st Plenary meeting of EaPeReg.

Next, 22nd Plenary meeting will be held on 28/29 (The date will be defined soon) November in Tbilisi, Georgia.