**4-Lateral Summit of 4 Networks of Independent Regulators – BEREC, EaPeRg, EMERG, REGULATEL**

**Bilateral Meetings between EaPeReg and BEREC Mini Board and EaPeReg and EMERG**

4 October, 2023

Funchal, Madeira

**REPORT**

4-lateral Summit of Regulators was organised by the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), supported by the European Commission – DG CNECT, DG NEAR - and hosted by the ANACOM - Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações on 4 October, in Funchal, Madeira.

The Summit, which is organised once in 2 years, brings together four Networks of regulators for electronic communications: BEREC (Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications), EaPeReg (Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network), EMERG (Euro-Mediterranean Regulators Group), and Regulatel (Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulators) to discuss the most important regulatory topics of telecom sector.

This year, the Summit was focused on one of the most prevailing topics - International Connectivity, that is a critical segment of the Internet service provision value chain and links each country’s networks to the global Internet. International Connectivity, bringing the EaP region closer to the EU, is one of the highest importance for EaPeReg. Thus, participation of EaPeReg in this event was active

The Summit was opened by Mr. João Cadete de Matos, Chairman of ANACOM, Portuguese regulator, the host of the Summit. Then Mr. Konstantinos Masselos (BEREC Chair 2023) and Mr. Rafael Eduardo Muente Schwarz (REGULATEL Chair 2023) greeted the Summit participants with short welcome speeches.

The working sessions of the Summit were focused on the extended and significant role of the regulatory authorities towards facilitation and ensuring achieving a sustainable and inclusive digital future benefiting end-users worldwide. The presenters covered the edges of international connectivity, exploring the current and future roles of satellite and submarine links.

Representatives of BEREC (Ukraine), REGULATEL (Brazil), EMERG (Portugal) and EaPeReg (Georgia) presented the case studies during the first session related to the achievement of connectivity by satellite and submarine cables. The session was moderated by Mr Robert Mourik, EaPeReg Vice-Chair 2023.

Ms. Ekaterine Imedadze, chairing EaPeReg in 2023, presented the case of regional connectivity corridors - how Georgia can leverage the regional opportunities of the Europe-Asia Digital Corridors and facilitate resilient international connectivity corridors in the region, from which all the EaP countries will benefit. During her presentation Ms. Imedadze outlined the flagship initiatives supported by the European Union and stressed that the flagships are fully reflected in the programmes for 2021-2024 of the Government of Georgia. Black Sea Connectivity is a priority within the framework of the EU-Georgia cooperation. This is also highlighted in the joint Staff Working Document “ Recovery, resilience and reform: post 2020 Eastern Partnership priorities” outlining Flagship 1: Black Sea connectivity – improving data and energy connections with the EU. This Action is in line with the priority on resilient digital transformation of the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 (MIP), which acknowledges that development of digital infrastructure and eGovernance are priorities for both the EU and Georgia given their potential for growth and sustainable development. Ms. Imedadze highlighted that investment attraction for international connectivity (including the digital hub and regional data centre in Georgia) is ongoing. As a conclusion, Ms. Imedadze emphasized that by sharing a border with the EU via the Black Sea, Georgia is well-positioned to participate more actively in this market by creating opportunities to develop digital connectivity corridors in the short term (between Europe and the Middle East and South Asia) as well as in the medium-to-long term (between Europe and Central and East Asia).

Another important topic of the future of international connectivity - the upcoming trends and challenges - was elaborated on by the high-level representatives from the DG CNECT (Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology) and the International Telecommunication Union (Sofie Maddens, Head of the Regulatory and Market Environment Division of the ITU/BDT)

The Summit was concluded with closing remarks by Ms Ekaterine Imedadze, EaPeReg Chair 2023 and Mr Petros Galides, EMERG Co-Chair 2023.

Before the Summit, during the first half of 4 October, bilateral meeting between BEREC Mini Board and BEREC Office from one side and EaPeReg Leadership from another side was held. The parties discussed the present and future cooperation of 2 Networks. EaPeReg has expressed its gratitude towards BEREC and BEREC Office for the support to the development of EaPeReg and has presented the scope and the topics of their cooperation in 2024. The scope of cooperation will include common workshops, information exchange, participation in the events organized by these Networks, etc. As for the themes, the Chairs of the EaPeReg EWGs identified the following relevant topics for future cooperation:

* BB Mapping;
* QoS – end users;
* BCRD implementation;
* Modern radiocommunication technologies during emergency and force-major situations;
* SmallCells &Small-Area Wireless Access Implementation;
* Investment mapping for 5G;
* Researching the implementation of DAB;
* Licensed shared access (spectrum sharing);
* Developing coverage modeling approach for service quality prediction and coverage compliance
* [Regulation (EU) 2022/612 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the EU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=celex:32022R0612) and its implementation in the EaP countries; and
* Delegated regulation on EU-wide voice-call termination rates and the possibilities to include third countries in the Annex of the mentioned regulation.

The parties agreed that one workshop will be organized by BEREC and BEREC Office in Riga in 2024 and two technical workshops on key regulatory issues will be organized by EaPeReg back to back with the EaPeReg Plenary meetings next year. The topics of the workshops will be agreed with the Networks at the beginning of 2024. BEREC experts will participate in EaPeReg workshops sharing their experience with Eastern partner colleagues. EaPeReg Members will be invited to participate in the BEREC relevant workshops in 2024. At the end of the meeting the participants took family photo.

Bilateral meeting between EaPeReg and EMERG was scheduled after the meeting between BEREC and EaPeReg. Regretfully, representatives of EMERG were unable to participate in Summit onsite. Thus, this meeting was cancelled. EaPeReg and EMERG leadership agreed that instead of this meeting, 3-lateral meeting between EaPeReg, EMERG and ITU will be organized in virtual format in the nearest future to discuss 3-lateral cooperation between these 3 bodies.