



**REPORT**  
**on**  
**25<sup>th</sup> EaPeReg Plenary Meeting**  
**June 17, 2025 (virtual event)**

The EaPeReg 25<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting was held online on 17 June 2025. Around 40 participants from 20 countries participated in the Plenary. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of DG ENEST (previously - DG NEAR), EU4Digital, ITU, BEREC and EMERG. The Plenary Meeting was hosted by the Public Utilities Commission of Latvia (SPRK) EaPeReg Vice-Chair for 2025. Cecoforma organised virtual meeting logistics. The Meeting was moderated by the representatives of EaPeReg Vice-Chair – Ms Dana Radionova and Ms Nataliia Lado.

The main goal of the Plenary Meeting was to:

- Assess EaPeReg work in the first half of 2025;
- Confirm EaPeReg activities for the second half of 2025;
- Overview the EWGs reports on the progress made in the first half of 2025 and main plan for the second half of 2025;
- Review the progress made on the joint deliverables of EU4Digital facility and EaPeReg;
- Nominate the EaPeReg Chair and vice-Chair for 2026;
- Exchange of information between EU MS and EaP NRAs on Plans, Ongoing Projects, and Priorities. This relatively new activity (introduced during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting in Bucharest, May 2024) aimed to facilitate the efficient dialogue between EU and EaP delegates thereby fostering stronger collaborative relations among EaPeReg participants.

Representative of the EaPeReg Chair (Mr Jeyhun Huseynzade, ICTA, Azerbaijan) and the Vice-Chair (Ms Alda Ozola, Chair of SPRK) for 2025, as well as the representative of DG ENEST (Mr Thibault Charlet) and Chair of BEREC for 2025 (Mr Robert Mourik, ComReg) delivered welcome speeches.

**Mr Jeyhun Huseynzade** (ICTA, Azerbaijan) delivered a brief welcoming statement in his capacity as EaPeReg Chair 2025 wishing all of the participants a fruitful meeting.

**Ms Alda Ozola** (SPRK, Latvia) welcomed participants to the 2025 EaPeReg Plenary on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission of Latvia and in her capacity as Vice Chair of EaPeReg for 2025.

She emphasized that the shared values and regulatory goals of the EaPeReg community continue to unite all of the members and partners. Ms Ozola highlighted the importance of the roundtable discussion, where participants would share national developments, enabling mutual learning and joint problem-solving, as EaPeReg remains a critical platform for Eastern Partnership NRAs for peer learning, capacity building, and reinforcing regulatory independence and effectiveness and for European NRAs, cooperation with EaPeReg provides regional insight and understanding, enriching Europe's digital strategy and contributing to a more resilient digital single market.

**Mr Robert Mourik** (Chair of BEREC for 2025, ComReg, Ireland) extended his greetings on behalf of BEREC and personally expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to join the Plenary meeting.

He noted the value the agenda, particularly its emphasis on international cooperation topics and the opportunity for his BEREC colleague, Mr Domagoj Maričić (Vice-Chair, HAKOM), to provide further insights later in the relevant session. Mr Mourik shared recent developments from the BEREC Plenary held in Iceland, where Moldova and Ukraine's advancing EU integration was praised. He highlighted that both countries are nearing the final stages of joining the Roam Like At Home (RLAH) internal market, marking a significant step in digital integration. Mr Mourik also commended Ukraine and Moldova for their active and valuable contributions within BEREC and emphasized that their efforts are well acknowledged and appreciated.

Mr Mourik warmly addressed Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, affirming BEREC's continued support for their progression towards the same digital integration goals. Apart from roaming, the importance of progress in spectrum harmonisation, which has strategic value both within the EU and for neighbouring countries was emphasized. In conclusion BEREC's readiness to support EaPeReg efforts whenever needed was reiterated.

**Mr Thibault Charlet** (European Commission, DG ENEST) emphasised EaPeReg's value in digital cooperation. He highlighted EaPeReg as the longest-standing digital cooperation framework within the Eastern Partnership, covering telecommunications, digital markets, 5G, and regulatory independence and emphasized its value as a platform not only for dialogue but for concrete action and measurable results.

Mr Charlet encouraged participants to review progress made in recent months and to identify key deliverables for the remainder of the year, focusing on concrete key performance indicators (KPIs) to ensure the network continues to deliver impact. He also pointed to a strong political momentum in favour of digital cooperation in the Eastern Partnership. This is underscored by the EU Strategic Approach to the Black Sea Region, published on 28 May 2025, which outlines three key pillars – energy, transport, and digital connectivity.

The European Commission views EaPeReg as a success story in regional cooperation and intends to leverage it as a model for extending connectivity beyond the EaP, including to Central Asia and Turkey. Mr Charlet reaffirmed that regulatory cooperation is essential for ensuring closer digital integration with the EU. The European Commission looks forward to intensified collaboration with EaPeReg in delivering on the regional digital and connectivity agenda in the nearest future.

After the opening remarks, **EU4Digital Telecom Rules Stream Leader Mr Andrejs Dombrovskis** together with **Mr Marcin Bieć**, (Telecom Rules Senior Expert, covering 5G topics) presented the progress made on the joint EU4Digital-EaPeReg deliverables, namely:

- EU toolbox for 5G security;
- Private 5G networks developments;
- Roaming;
- Broadband market analysis;
- Electronic communications legislation in Moldova
- DMA and DSA in Moldova and Ukraine;
- Monitoring and promoting broadband access.

It was emphasized that during the Plenary several topics would need to seek guidance from the EaP countries on the next steps, on how to proceed.

**Private 5G networks developments:** EU4Digital presented a comprehensive roadmap and best practices on 5G private networks. Roadmaps tailored to each EaP country were shared and validated.

- *Discussion:* No objections or comments were raised; the Plenary took a silent consensus approach.
- *Outcome:* The documents are considered final. Future updates can be incorporated upon countries' request.

**EU toolbox for 5G security:** a guidance document was shared with best practices from EU Member States. However, despite two questionnaire rounds and a regional workshop, no input was received from EaP countries.

- *Discussion:* No country commented. Mr Dombrovskis highlighted structural differences in national setups as a barrier.
- *Outcome:* The activity is deemed paused and complete from EU4Digital's side unless further engagement arises.

**Roaming and Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA):** no new updates; Ukraine's feedback is still pending for the RRA signing, considering the new comments presented.

- *Discussion:* May 2025 Roaming Expert Working Group (REWG) meeting reaffirmed countries' commitment. Ukraine representatives were not present.
- *Outcome:* EU4Digital to maintain readiness to support the process once movement occurs.

**Voice Call Termination Market Analysis:** National reports are nearly completed, except for Armenia and Ukraine.

- *Discussion:* EU4Digital is using publicly available data for Ukraine and awaits Armenia's validation. Proposal made to publish what is available now and integrate Armenia later.
- *Outcome:* National and regional reports to proceed without Armenia; to be updated when their data is available.

**Broadband Market Analysis:** data collection was challenging, especially in Armenia and Azerbaijan, due to insufficient indicator systems.

- *Discussion:* Azerbaijan raised concern on methodology suitability for varied maturity levels. Georgia is conducting its own round of analysis.

- *Outcome:* EU4Digital will complete Azerbaijan report by early July and consider methodological adjustments.

**Electronic Communications Legislation in Moldova:** Moldova passed the primary legislation and is now preparing bylaws with potential EU4Digital support.

- *Discussion:* Areas include spectrum plan, numbering plan, universal service, and SMP regulations.
- *Outcome:* Support scope to be defined jointly; drafting support to follow.

**DMA & DSA Implementation in Moldova and Ukraine:** EU4Digital is helping both countries prepare compliant legislation. Challenges include national vs. EU-level implementation responsibilities.

- *Discussion:* Moldova requested EU case studies; Ukraine’s market mapping is underway.
- *Outcome:* Stakeholder sessions will be held, and support will continue for legislative readiness.

**Broadband Access Monitoring:** this recurring activity aligns with DESI methodology. Reports are being finalised for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova.

- *Discussion:* Georgia emphasized alignment with national strategies. Moldova pointed out inconsistencies in data.
- *Outcome:* EU4Digital will finalise reports and propose DESI-aligned KPIs tailored to the EaP context.

A proposal was also made to hold a **dedicated workshop back-to-back with the next Plenary meeting in 2025** to reassess the methodology, indicators, and data collection strategies. The proposal received direct support from the EaP representatives.

### ***Agreed Follow-Up Actions***

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Confirm RRA signing status	Ukraine	July 2025
Organise thematic webinars on 5G security	EU4Digital	Q3 2025
Finalise voice termination market inputs	Armenia	June 2025
Validate broadband monitoring reports	EaP Countries	June–July 2025
Share DMA/DSA implementation case studies	EU4Digital	June 2025
Propose updated broadband KPIs	EU4Digital	July 2025

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Organise broadband monitoring methodology workshop	EU4Digital & EaPeReg	Q4 2025

**Next session was dedicated to reporting on the EaPeReg expert working groups' activities.**

**Ms Inga Popovici**, Chair of Independence of Regulators and Broadband expert working group (IRB EWG) outlined the outcomes of the activities that took place in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2025, namely on:

**Broadband Data Collection and Monitoring:** annual broadband monitoring was launched in 2020 to track VHCN coverage. It now runs as a regular activity with national expert collaboration. Data collection completed on 1 March 2025 with no major discrepancies.

*Challenge:* current indicators are insufficient for benchmarking against EU's Digital Decade framework.

*Proposal:* support voiced for expanding indicators and including new data sources. IRB EWG is willing to manage data collection if stakeholders are identified and data availability is confirmed.

**Market Analysis Progress:** market analysis completed in Armenia and Azerbaijan; input to be used for regional synthesis.

*Note:* other EaP countries' regulators to provide summaries of national efforts to supplement the regional report.

*Feedback:* Positive remarks from the technical assistance team on the quality of national analyses.

**Regulatory Independence & Broadband Developments:** IRB EWG monitors changes affecting regulatory independence and updates its guidance when needed.

**Best Practice Exchange:** a successful TAIEX workshop on transparency and open Internet rules was held in Chisinau.

*Focus Topics:* EECC Article 105, transparency requirements, contract comparison tools, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

*Innovation:* Italy's AGCOM presented an online mediation tool used across sectors.

*Outcome:* The session received positive feedback; further exchanges will be planned based on need.

**Next Steps:** awaiting feedback on broadband indicator expansion.

**Potential Action:** IRB EWG may receive a broader mandate and will continue coordination with REWG. A joint meeting in Armenia is anticipated.

Next presentation was dedicated to activities of the **Roaming Expert Working Group (REWG)** and presented by the REWG Chair, **Ms Zaruhi Stepanyan**. Key insights of the information presented:

#### ***Voice Call Termination Market Analysis***

*Status:* a comprehensive template was developed by EU4Digital. Most countries submitted required data.

*Issue:* Armenia's NRA was unable to provide data on time due to internal issues. Their input remains pending.

*Next Steps:* Armenia aims to deliver missing data before the next meeting, likely in Yerevan. The goal is to finalise and adopt the report as a REWG deliverable.

### ***Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA)***

*Status:* no updates; the group awaits confirmation from Ukraine. Other countries are prepared to proceed and consider comments from the Ukrainian side once received.

### ***Data Quality and Collection Tools***

*Challenge:* variability in data accuracy and inconsistent analysis were noted.

*Solution:* a request to the European Commission for support in developing standardised data collection tools was approved.

*Next Steps:* REWG will meet with TIPRO to discuss technical aspects and provide further updates to the group.

### ***Workplan Ahead***

*Priorities:* finalise the termination market report, explore technical solutions for data collection, and review implementation of tool-based reporting systems.

*Expectation:* further clarity and developments expected in the coming weeks after the Plenary.

Last, but not least presentation was made by the Chair of the **Spectrum Expert Working Group (SEWG)**, **Mr Roman Kurdadze**, outlining the results of recent group activities and future plans.

***Prague Meeting Summary:*** 19<sup>th</sup> SEWG meeting took place in Prague on 6-7 May 2025 with 18 countries participating.

*Focus:* Reaffirmed commitment to the Regional Spectrum Agreement (RSA) and harmonisation of bands including 700 MHz and 3.4 – 3.8 GHz.

*Discussion Topics:* Included clearance of key bands, shared use of 6 GHz, WRC planning, UK and BEREC best practices, and national 5G/6G strategies.

### ***National 5G Updates***

*Georgia:* 90% population coverage; multiple auctions completed.

*Moldova:* TSS-based deployment; multi-band auctions held; 700 MHz interference issues persist.

*Armenia:* auctions for 700 MHz and 3.6 GHz bands; targeted urban coverage mandates.

*Azerbaijan:* trials in 800 MHz and 3.4 – 3.8 GHz; auction planned for 700 MHz.

*Ukraine:* amendments made to spectrum plan; trials in Kyiv/Odesa pending; progress delayed due to war.

### ***Strategic Directions***

*Spectrum Use Cases:* shared use of upper 6 GHz band; coexistence of fixed and unlicensed systems.

*26 GHz and Millimetre Waves:* early pilot trials, auction design informed by revenue/deployment trade-offs.

*Sub-700 MHz Roadmap:* balance between DTT protection and flexible licensing for rural/IoT services.

*Beyond Traditional Bands:* candidate bands for 6G identified; preparation for WRC-27 ongoing.

*Cross-Border Coordination:* consultations underway to solve remaining RSA barriers; bilateral meetings scheduled.

### ***Private Network Progress***

*EU4Digital Contribution:* finalised country profiles and use case recommendations for 5G private networks.

*Next Steps:* collect feedback to refine national implementation roadmaps and identify further technical needs.

### ***Collaboration and Future Priorities***

*Institutional Engagements:* continued cooperation with BEREC, ITU, and RPG.

*2025–2026 Planning:* align spectrum practices with WRC-23 outcomes and Digital Decade targets.

*Emerging Focus:* Strategic interest in 6 GHz, 26 GHz, and UHF band adaptation for future services.

Following the break, the meeting resumed with a **session dedicated to sharing insights from NRAs regarding their ongoing projects, future plans, and current priorities.**

The representative from **Latvia Ms Dana Radionova (SPRK)** reported on several continuing projects from the previous year. One significant project is a geographic information system (GIS) aimed at enabling end users to check broadband availability and quality at specific addresses. Although the system is fully developed, it is currently awaiting approval by the Cabinet of Ministers. Another project under development is a tariff comparison tool, which will later be integrated into the GIS. This tool will require operators to regularly update their fixed and mobile broadband retail prices, allowing end users to compare services at specific locations. Additionally, Latvia is conducting an analysis of market number 2 - Wholesale dedicated capacity market. Although deregulated since 2019, this market remains under review in compliance with the EC's Recommendation 2020. Preliminary findings suggest there is no current need for re-regulation. Completion of the analysis is expected by the end of the year. Finally, Latvia is preparing to introduce a new quality measurement tool for mobile broadband speeds. Methodologies and implementation guidelines for this tool are currently under development.

The representative from **Armenia Ms Zaruhi Stepanyan (PSRC)** is currently monitoring the progress of implementing the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU. A thorough review of EU directives and national legislation has shown that Armenia's legislation is largely approximated to the EU framework, although some gaps remain, as identified by the EU4Digital team. The final analysis and confirmation of this approximation is expected from the Ministry of Justice and EU. Additionally, PSRC is working with the World Bank on broadband mapping and infrastructure sharing, and Armenia is awaiting further details on the consultancy scope. Furthermore, PSRC regularly reviews new EU regulations and adopts those considered appropriate for enforcement in the country.

The representative from **Georgia Ms Ekaterine Imedadze (ComCom)** provided an update on several key projects underway this year. The first major initiative is the market research project, supported by the World Bank and involving other EaPeReg countries, including Azerbaijan and Armenia. This project focuses on analysing the mobile telecom ecosystem.

ComCom is also continuing its holistic market analysis, a multi-phase project that began with aligning national regulations with EU SMP (Significant Market Power) guidelines. This alignment has led to the identification of SMPs in the mobile market, and the current focus is on implementing the associated remedies to benefit end users and operators. The next phase will examine additional markets, such as international transit with B2B segments.

In parallel, ComCom is working on enhancing regulatory tools, including developing separate accounting systems as part of the remedies applied to SMP operators following market analysis. Additionally, ComCom is involved in the EU4Digital initiative related to call termination and is in the process of updating its market data. Ongoing efforts also continue in areas such as the RLAH project.

The representative from **Moldova Mr Sergiu Gaibu (ANRCETI)** informed that since the previous EaPeReg plenary, 5G auctions have been completed. Despite some deficiencies in the 700 MHz band, the national operator acquired spectrum in this range to enable coverage in the western part of Moldova. Additionally, two other operators took spectrum in the 3.6 GHz band to enhance high-capacity broadband services. Further allocations were made in the 1.5 GHz and 900 MHz bands, significantly increasing operators' spectrum portfolios and enabling improvements in mobile service quality, coverage, and speed.

Beyond spectrum management, considerable work has been done with the EU in terms of the Moldova's candidate status. A joint screening exercise on electronic communications was completed with the EU and the national ministry, and preparations are now underway to establish the official negotiation process. In March, Moldova also signed arrangements with BEREC, gaining non-voting member status.

Progress on RLAH has also been notable. All necessary legislation has been aligned with EU requirements and submitted to the EC, with acceptance expected by July. The goal is to fully implement RLAH by the end of the current voluntary declaration period in 2025, aiming for full integration into the EU single digital market starting on January 2026.

Another important initiative involves collaboration with the World Bank on a feasibility study for broadband connectivity across EaP countries. A kick-off meeting for this project is expected soon, with the aim of achieving full broadband coverage in the region.

The representative from **Azerbaijan Mr Ravil Isgandarov (ICTA)** provided an update on current developments. The draft Electronic Communications Law, prepared last year, is currently undergoing internal procedures and is expected to be finalised by the end of this year. Additionally, a new law based on the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (BCRD) has also been drafted and is under review, with anticipated completion by mid-next year.

Azerbaijan has agreed to launch a joint project with the World Bank related to Telecommunication Regulatory Capacity Building, data collection, and broadband mapping. This one-year initiative will be supported by the World Bank and the EU4Digital Phase II.

Continued cooperation with institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is also planned, and discussions are ongoing with partner countries like Romania to learn from their regulatory experience.

During the session on plans and ongoing activities, the representative from **Croatia Ms Natasa Oliva Prgesa (HAKOM)** provided an update on several initiatives. HAKOM is currently finalising a decision on Market 2 - Wholesale dedicated capacity market, as well as developing a cost model. In parallel, work is underway on a new WACC decision, following the recent WACC parameters report by BEREC.

HAKOM is also developing a methodology for monitoring and analysing retail prices. As part of markets 3B and 1, HAKOM is reviewing the list of non-competitive areas. In addition, HAKOM is exploring data collection options for OTT services in preparation for future regulatory needs. Finally, HAKOM recently completed a new methodology for margin squeeze test and is now collecting data from the SMP operator for updates.

The representative from **Czech Republic Mr Marek Ebert (CTU)** shared several current priorities and initiatives. A key development is the recent approval of the new national spectrum management strategy, with immediate focus on preparing conditions for the 36 GHz band, which is expected to be opened by the end of this year. Another strategic goal involves planning for the continuation of terrestrial digital television broadcasting beyond 2030, ensuring sustained competition and full national coverage.

As the designated digital services coordinator under the Digital Services Act (DSA), the CTU is actively preparing tools and coordinating with national authorities to ensure correct and smooth upcoming parliamentary elections in October 2025.

Efforts are ongoing to improve mobile coverage in rural areas. Obligations imposed on all three operators to cover 500 identified white spots by 2030. Additionally, it is a priority to improve signal quality on railway corridors. As part of this, the first state aid project has been launched by modifying wagons – either by installing repeaters or modifying windows—with a target of upgrading 670 wagons by the end of this year.

The representative from **Poland Ms Anna Rogozińska (UKE)** presented a comprehensive update on recent developments and priorities. As of May 2025, UKE has acquired significant new competences, leading to the creation of two new departments. The President of UKE now acts as a temporary coordinator for digital services, cooperating with the European Commission and the European Digital Services Council. UKE actively participates in all European Digital Services Council working groups. Newly established Digital Services Department is responsible for implementation of the DSA, information activities, trainings for administration, establishing contacts with online platforms, developing supervisory procedures and IT tools, and strengthening the staff in digital and legal areas. Another newly assumed responsibility is accessibility. The Department of Market Surveillance was created in May 2025 to oversee product market compliance, cooperation with customs authorities, and conduct electronic product testing in UKE's laboratory.

On spectrum management, UKE successfully completed an auction for seven frequency reservations in bands below 1 GHz, issuing licenses on 3 June 2025 to four main mobile operators. Upcoming activities include consultations on the 26 GHz band and reshuffling the 1800 MHz band. Additionally, following the entry into force of the new Electronic Communications Law in November 2024, which transposes the European Electronic Communications Code, UKE is now focused on proper

implementation and oversight compliance by individual entities. UKE also contributes to legislative work on amendment of the National Security System Act, a law implementing the Geoservice Act and regulation governing the issue of artificial intelligence.

In April 2025, UKE published principles for setting wholesale access prices for networks built with subsidies, aligning with the General Block Exemption Regulation. Furthermore, UKE continues its work on digital awareness and consumer protection. Planned initiatives include “Virtual World for All,” aimed at people with intellectual disabilities and those on the autism spectrum, and additional workshops designed to promote empathy and digital inclusion for people with disabilities, including sessions in Polish sign language.

The representative from **Portugal Ms Patricia Nogueira (ANACOM)** informed that ANACOM keeps committed to EaPeReg Network.

The representative from **Romania Ms Inga Popovici (ANCOM)** expressed appreciation for including the session on plans and activities in the agenda, recognising its value in fostering peer learning and continuity from previous meetings. Acknowledgement was given to the importance of educational campaigns, with special interest in the initiatives presented by Poland, and an invitation was extended for further knowledge sharing in this area.

ANCOM continues to intensify its work under the Digital Services Act (DSA), particularly following its appointment as coordinator. ANCOM also finalised market analysis, although the formal notification to the European Commission is still pending due to extended consultations with operators. Additionally, the ANCOM is actively promoting digital literacy and responsible use of online services through social media campaigns.

**The session dedicated to international cooperation** focussed on the discussions about possible joint activities between EaPeReg and its partners.

**The EMERG Chair Mr Petros Galides (OCECPR, Cyprus)** provided an update on recent and upcoming activities, strategic developments, and organisational priorities. A key highlight was the confirmation of long-term sustainability through funding secured from DG ENEST under the action document supporting digital transition in the Southern Neighbourhood.

During the Plenary meeting in March 2025 in Barcelona, EMERG approved its annual work program and five-year strategic plan. The current EMERG Chair was re-elected for another term, while Head of NRA of Jordan was elected as incoming Chair.

EMERG has been actively involved in international events:

- “ITU Global Innovation Forum” in Malta (October 2024);
- “ITU Digital Regulation Network Board Appointment” of EMERG Chair (January 2025);
- “4-Lateral Summit in Barcelona” (March 2025);
- “International Regulation Conference” in Skopje (May 2025);
- “SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit” in Dubai (May 2025).

In 2025 planned activities include:

- postponed GSMA-EMERG “Cybersecurity in the Context of Mobile Telecoms” workshop in Jordan (new date pending);
- ITU - EaPeReg - EMERG Capacity-Building Workshop on “Quality of Service and Resilience of Mobile Infrastructure for Regulatory Authorities”, 14-15 October 2025, Nicosia, Cyprus;
- “World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) +20 High-Level Event 2025” and “Digital Ecosystem Builders in Action: Redefining the Role of ICT Regulators”, July 2025, Geneva, Switzerland;
- ITU “Global Symposium of Regulators GSR-25”, 31 August-3 September 2025, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Strategic priorities for the coming years include regulatory harmonisation, capacity building, digital infrastructure and connectivity, roaming, environmental sustainability, and institutional resilience. To support these goals, EMERG has formed six working groups, and two task forces focused on sustainability and cooperation with external partners.

The EMERG Chair concluded by underscoring the importance of international collaboration to address emerging challenges such as cybersecurity and digital transformation.

**The ITU representative Mr Jaroslaw Ponder** warmly greeted participants and extended congratulations on the ongoing partnership, particularly highlighting the celebration of ITU’s 160th anniversary.

A special training programs for NRAs is underway, with fellowships available for eligible countries (mainly from the EaPeReg and related networks). The training will focus on 5G and cybersecurity, and it aims to strengthen understanding of EU and global levels.

The ITU representative provided important updates on upcoming regional and global activities, specifically targeting NRAs and spectrum-related working groups:

- The Global Symposium of Regulators GSR-25, to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 31 August to 3 September. The meeting of all regulatory associations during GSR will be a key platform for sharing priorities and updates;
- The Regional Regulatory Forum will take place in Budva, Montenegro, on 28–29 September, including a session on cooperation with BEREC, EaPeReg, and EMERG;
- World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) will take place in Azerbaijan, from 17 November to 28 November, and while primarily administrative in nature, it offers a platform for regulatory cooperation and influence ITU’s strategic direction;
- European Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2026, scheduled for February 16–23, 2026, in Athens, Greece, the seminar will focus on capacity building in radiocommunications. It will include contributions from ITU radio experts and involve national administrations on key spectrum and radio issues. The seminar will also provide updates on preparations for WRC-27 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2027).

**The BEREC Chair 2024 representative Mr Domagoj Maričić (HAKOM, Croatia)** provided an overview of BEREC’s work in 2025, upcoming priorities for 2026, and the outcomes of the 4-Lateral Summit held in Barcelona on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

In 2025, BEREC adopted a new four-year strategy. The strategy consolidates all previous strategic documents and introduces a new objective focused on the digital market, while retaining other existing goals.

Two sets of guidelines related to the Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA) are currently under consultation:

- Provisions of Article 11, concerning access to in-building physical infrastructure;
- Provisions of Article 5, on the coordination of civil works.

BEREC published a draft report on economic regulation of domestic submarine cables across EU member states. A progress report on the copper-to-fiber networks transition shows significant progress compared to 2022.

Looking ahead to 2026, BEREC is preparing its annual work programme. There is broad support among members to reduce the number of work items. A key focus will be the expected Digital Networks Act (DNA), to be proposed by the European Commission by the end of 2025.

Other priorities for 2026 include continued work on end user rights, a joint workshop on fraud detection and awareness, a revision of open internet guidelines (with attention to 5G slicing), and a roaming/intra-EU communications workshop. BEREC will also conduct studies on wholesale regulation, copper switch-off incentives, investment conditions, and strengthening network resilience.

Regarding the 4-Lateral Summit, it was held on 5 March in Barcelona, hosted by CNMC, Spain, and organised back-to-back with the Mobile World Congress. It brought together BEREC, EaPeReg, EMERG, REGULATEL, TRAI (NRA of India), EC, RSPG and OECD. Discussions were structured around three main topics: New Emerging Trends in Electronic Communication Landscape, Challenges for consumers in electronic communications and digital services, Regulators Role in the Future Electronic Communications Regulation.

Main conclusion for the 4-Lateral Summit was that the transformation of the electronic communications landscape is ongoing, driven by cutting-edge technologies and major industry shifts. This evolution presents opportunities for innovation and growth, as well as complex regulatory challenges in ensuring competition and protecting end users.

Participants agreed that continued cooperation among regulatory networks is essential to share experiences and ensure that regulation remains fit for purpose in a global, borderless digital environment. The next 4-Lateral Summit is scheduled for 2027.

**Ms Mzia Gogilashvili (ComCom, Georgia)** as the EaPeReg focal point for cooperation with ITU began by congratulating ITU on its 160th anniversary, acknowledging its vital role in digital development worldwide.

Two key events were highlighted:

1. Regional Development Forum (24 February, Budapest): EaPeReg focal point for cooperation with ITU participated in a special session on infrastructure partnerships for universal connectivity. The forum provided an opportunity to present EaPeReg's regional cooperation efforts and progress in broadband development. It was stressed that trilateral cooperation between ITU, EMERG, and EaPeReg is important, with the jointly developed compendium of good practices cited as a tangible outcome of this collaboration.
2. International Regulators Conference (19–21 May, Skopje): EaPeReg contributed to the session commemorating ITU's anniversary alongside BEREC, EMERG, and ITU Office for Europe. It

was underlined that ITU remains relevant for EaP countries and continues to support digital transformation.

Finally, Mzia Gogilashvili remained that EaPeReg was invited to contribute to the GSR25 consultation. The EaPeReg intends to submit input on cross-border cooperation for building digital ecosystems, a topic that aligns with its core mission.

### **Ms Maria Claudia Pachon, representative of the World Bank presented EU4Digital Phase II Analytical Program**

The speaker provided an overview of the ongoing activities and progress achieved under the EU4Digital program over the past year, with a focus on digital connectivity in the EaP countries. The aim of the presentation was to share insights from recent analyses and update participants on the next steps.

Over the past year, the program has been working to identify and address digital connectivity gaps across the EaP countries. A comprehensive analysis, using over 175 million data points from Ookla Speedtest, was conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. This analysis mapped broadband infrastructure, broadband speeds, and white zones at a geographic level. The analysis confirmed that fixed broadband access is predominantly concentrated in densely populated areas, leaving rural and remote regions with poor or no coverage.

While coverage in terms of availability is important, the analysis also underscored issues related to quality. In Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, over 80–90% of connections are below 30 Mbps. Moldova and Ukraine show slightly better but still insufficient performance.

The analysis has informed the three workstreams of the program: Digital Connectivity Gap Assessment and Private Capital Mobilization, Consultancy on Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Data Collection and Analysis.

In conclusion, the presentation served as a comprehensive update on program achievements to date, the methodologies applied, and the next steps in implementation. The speaker emphasised the relevance of this work for improving digital inclusion across the EaP region.

**Mr Sergiu Gaibu (ANRCETI, Moldova)** expressed gratitude to the World Bank project and noted that the results are interesting and impactful, that will directly benefit end users across the EaP region.

**Ms Inga Popovici (ANCOM, Romania)** noted presentation as interesting and useful for the participants. It was clarified on data collection and analysis that detailed information does not need to present immediately. Instead, prior to that, a brief online meeting would be useful to connect experts with experience in data collection.

Representative of the World Bank explained that new data collection is not planned.

### **Nomination of EaPeReg leadership 2026**

During the meeting, traditionally, the **EaPeReg leadership for 2026** was nominated. PSRC (Armenia) was nominated for the position of EaPeReg Chair for 2026 and CTU (Czech Republic), was nominated as the EaPeReg Vice Chair for 2026.

**Ms Zaruhi Stepanyan**, representative of nominated EaPeReg Chair 2026, PSRC, Armenia and **Mr Marek Ebert**, nominated EaPeReg Vice Chair 2026, CTU, Czech Republic expressed their commitment to continue and support the work within EaPeReg.

At the end of the meeting, **Ms Dana Radionova (SPRK, Latvia)** announced the **EaPeReg Work Plan for the second half of 2025**.

EaPeReg will focus on updating and expanding its website to include information on upcoming events, alongside existing content on past activities. Additionally, efforts will be made to strengthen EaPeReg's presence on Facebook and LinkedIn.

EaPeReg leadership is currently exploring potential cooperation with the Global Informal Regulatory Anti-Fraud Forum (GIRAF).

A proposal has been developed to amend the EaPeReg Protocol of Cooperation, specifically the section addressing the incapacity of the Chair or Vice Chair to perform their duties. The proposal will be submitted to EaPeReg members for formal approval.

It is planned to maintain active participation in international events, including the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators (September, Saudi Arabia), the ITU–EaPeReg–EMERG capacity-building workshop on Quality of Service and mobile infrastructure resilience (October, Cyprus), the World Telecommunication Development Conference (November, Baku) and the Techritory Forum in Riga (October). EaPeReg Expert Working Group meetings are scheduled to take place during September and October. And the 26<sup>th</sup> EaPeReg Plenary meeting is planned for 11–12 November in Riga, held back-to-back with the BEREC Contact Network meeting.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the contributions and support of all participants and with a note of continued collaboration in upcoming activities.