COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting of 27 September 2022 (10.00-12.00)
via videoconference

Summary report

(1) Opening of the meeting. Introductory remarks and adoption of the agenda

The second meeting of the Communication Committee for 2022 is taking place online in line with the new Commission guidelines for Comitology meetings organisation. However, in the future whenever there is a specific need (i.e. voting or discussion on important matters), the possibility to organise a meeting in presence will be guaranteed on an ad-hoc basis.

The Chair proposed the adoption of the agenda (COCOM22-07) and open the floor for remarks on the new guidelines for Comitology meetings organisation.

(2) Update on ongoing initiatives

Update on the Connectivity Toolbox (10.10-10.20)

As regards the Connectivity Toolbox, a final meeting of the Connectivity Special took place on 29 June, which allowed for wrapping up the Connectivity Toolbox exercise. An overview of the implementation reports was discussed based on the notified national reports on the implementation of the Toolbox. The presentation is available in the Commission website together with the reports on the implementation of the Connectivity Toolbox.

Overall, while a significant number of Toolbox measures are still on-going, we have noticed incremental value to some specific areas though not homogeneous across the EU: notably in the cost reduction area, regarding the provision of electronic information via the SIP, including georeferenced information, as well as guidelines for dispute settlement; and as regards 5G radio
Updates on the Digital Decade Policy Programme

One year ago, at the COCOM Meeting of September 2021, the Commission presented the Digital Compass and the proposal on the Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade” that sets out a 10-years-long roadmap for Europe's digital transition. Several milestones have been achieved in the past year and we would take the occasion of this COCOM Meeting to provide an update to the delegates.

(3) Commission Implementing Decision on a harmonised Europe-wide helpline number (116 016) for victims of violence against women

The German Presidency launched in 2020 an initiative to reserve a harmonised Europe-wide helpline number (116 016) to victims of violence against women. This builds on a 2007 Spanish initiative on the same issue¹.

In line with the procedural guidelines for requesting, reserving and assigning harmonised numbers, Member States have been asked to provide a signed declaration of commitment as well as a declaration of a helpline service provider to show that the provision of the service in the Member State under a harmonised EU-wide number would be feasible.

In January 2021, the initiative was discussed at a meeting of the High Level Group on gender mainstreaming and Member States’ questions on technical and practical aspects of establishing such a helpline were addressed.

The initiative was presented at the meeting of the Communications Committee on 16 February 2021. No objections or comments were made by the members of the Committee.

In September 2021 the initiative has been presented at a meeting of the ad hoc expert group to discuss the initiative. The conclusion that an amendment to the Annex of the Decision 2007/116/EC may be drafted to include the new harmonised number was not contested by Member States’ representatives.

The Communications Committee has been informed about the outcome of the ad hoc experts group meeting on 16 November 16. It has been concluded that the Commission services will proceed with the drafting of the amendment of Commission decision 2007/116/EC.

The amendment has been drafted and inter-service consultations were carried out with all Commission services concerned during the summer of 2022. According to Article 93(8) of

¹ Both the ‘116 016’ number and the service named back then “information and advice service for women victims of gender-based violence” were considered in principle eligible to be included in the list already in 2007, subject to providing missing information elements (mainly evidence on readiness and capability of potential service providers), see COCOM07-61.
Directive (EU) 2018/1972 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code an opinion of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (‘BEREC’) is needed in order to proceed with the adoption of an amendment to the Decision 2007/116/EC. Such an opinion has been requested in August 2022 and it is expected to be issued in October 2022.

(4) Any other business

Short update on the outcome of the written voting procedure on the Commission Implementing Regulation on the list of blocked and reserved .eu second level domain names

The Commission services recalled that the voting took place during summer with deadline August 26th. The Implementing regulation has been translated into all languages and we expect a smooth adoption before the October deadline. Few edit requests were received by the Commission services, out of which all requests for corrections were accepted, but not requests that would alter the results and hence require new vote.

CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

- Before closing the meeting the Chair reminded the COCOM Members about the obligation to send their reports on the status of the implementation of Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1070 of 20 July 2020 on small cells as soon as possible.

- The Chair informed the delegates that the next COCOM meeting is scheduled to take place on 15 November 2022. Further details will be provided closer to the date.