MEETING OF THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
OF 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

SUMMARY REPORT

A – MEMBERS ONLY SESSION

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

The Chair informed the participants that the next COCOM Meeting should take place in person in Brussels, in the attempt to return to normal conditions.

The Chair proposed the adoption of the agenda which was deemed adopted without any change.

The Chair then proceeded with informing the delegates on the change in the agenda items. In fact, initially the Commission had planned to have a presentation on two harmonised helpline numbers (116-016 harmonised EU number for violence against women and victims of domestic violence; and 116-100 harmonised EU number for support to elderly citizens). However, it was then decided to discuss these two points in an ad-hoc expert group meeting. The change was made to meet the requirements set in the procedure for reservation of 116 numbers, and to enable the numbering experts to discuss both initiatives in more detail.

(2) The European Electronic Communications Code, state of play on the transposition and implementation

The Chair reminded that infringement proceedings against 24 Member States for not having transposed the European Electronic Communications Code within the set deadline of 21 December 2021 were launched in February 2020. All Member States except three received a Letter of formal notice.

Since then, three more have notified complete transposition, while other Member States notified measures transposing the Directive only partially.

The Chair then warned the Member States that Reasoned Opinions would be the
Another Commission representative continued by reminding the Member States on the need to have notifications of transposition measures that are accurate and fulfil the conditions of the case-law:

1) notifications should clearly and correctly state whether they are complete or partial;

2) the Member States should aim at avoiding proliferation of notifications in batches with only few weeks between them, rather aim at sending the minimum number of notifications as possible with the maximum number of measures transposed;

3) the notification should be accompanied by a transposition table, for instance following the template which has been duly communicated by the Commission and is available on CircABC.

The Member States were then asked to raise their flags and take the floor, when they fell in one of the two categories:

- Transposition measures are expected to be notified still in 2021 (majority of Member States were in this category)
- Transposition measures are expected to be notified in 2022

(3) Article 110 EECC on Public Warning Systems, state of implementation

The Chair opened the point by recalling the victims of the recent natural disasters. These tragic events brought again to the forefront of the public debate the civil protection preparedness, including the public warning systems.

The Chair reminded the Member States that a well-designed public warning system could inform timely and in a targeted way end-users and possibly save lives.

She proceeded to ask the state of play of the implementation of Article 110 on Public warning systems, as well as Member States’ feedback on the actual effectiveness of public warning systems that are deployed.

The Chair stressed how cooperation at national level between NRAs and civil protection authorities is a must for identifying the most effective electronic communication technologies that meet the operational needs of civil protection, as at the Commission level cooperation has been built between DG CNECT and DG ECHO since the adoption of the Code.

Then the Chair opened the floor for the Member States and tabled the discussion around few questions:

1) Whether the Member States cooperate with the civil protection authorities in their respective Member States;
2) Whether the Member States have identified the technologies that could effectively address the challenges of natural or man-made disasters and if they consider upgrading them with other technologies or mix of technologies;
3) Lastly whether Member States are on track with the implementation of the
Code provisions regarding public warning systems

(4) Any other business

The closed session was ended to allow external participants to access the virtual room of the meeting.
B – OPEN SESSION

(1) Digital Policy Programme- The Path to the Digital Decade

The Chair presented the Digital Policy Programme- The Path to the Digital Decade, as it was announced by President Urusla Von der Leyen on 15 September in the State of the Union speech and presented as Commission proposal to Parliament and Council on the same day.

The Chair then opened the floor for questions or remarks from the participants.

(2) Study on National Broadband Plan (NBP) – Presentation from the contractor

After a short introduction by the Commission, a presentation on the Study on National Broadband Plan was made by the contractor that was awarded the study.

The floor was then opened for interventions from the participants.

(3) Any other business

Without any remark coming from the participants, the meeting was closed.