

## 24th meeting of the Board of Regulators

Hosted by the Latvian <u>Public Utilities Commission</u> (SPRK), in cooperation with the BEREC Office

## **Conclusions**

Chair: Prof. Fátima Barros

President of the Board of Directors of

Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM)

1-2 October 2015, Riga (Latvia)

### Main Results of the 24th Meeting of the Board of Regulators

The BEREC Board of Regulators (BoR) held its 24th ordinary plenary meeting on 1 and 2 October 2015 in Riga.

During the meeting the BoR discussed and/or approved the following documents:

#### 1. Documents approved for publication

- BEREC Report on the Public Consultation on Document "Common Characteristics of Layer
   Wholesale Access Products in the European Union";
- BEREC Report on Common Characteristics of Layer 2 Wholesale Access Products in the European Union;
- International Roaming BEREC Benchmark Data Report October 2014 March 2015;
- BEREC Report on Regulatory Accounting in Practice 2015.

#### 2. Documents approved for public consultation

- from 2 October to 30 October 2015:
  - Draft BEREC Work Programme 2016;
  - Draft BEREC Report on equivalent access and choice for disabled end-users;
- from 5 October to 2 November 2015: Draft BEREC Report on OTT services;
- from 5 October to 6 November 2015: <u>Draft BEREC Report on Enabling the Internet of Things</u> (IoT).

BEREC has also decided to organise a public hearing on its draft Work Programme 2016 and on the draft Report on IoT during the forthcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the BEREC Stakeholder Forum on 15 October 2015 in Brussels.

In accordance with BEREC's policy on public consultations, the BoR will publish reports summarising how stakeholders' views have been taken into account, together with all individual contributions, taking into account stakeholders' requests for confidentiality (if any).

#### 3. Documents approved for internal use

- Project Requirements Document (PRD) on BEREC Report on the Wholesale Roaming Market Review;
- PRD on the BEREC answer to EC request on the wholesale roaming market and fair use of roaming services;
- Up-date BEREC Style Guide.

#### 4. Discussion on topics of strategic importance

The BoR discussed the strategic questions related to the forthcoming review of the Regulatory Framework for electronic communications in the context of the request from the Commission to BEREC for input and opinion on that topic.

#### 5. Documents submitted for information and/or consideration

The BoR took note of the information provided in the following Reports:

- Information on the electronic voting procedures since the 23rd plenary meetings (4-5 June 2015, Bergen);
- 2015 BEREC Work Programme (WP) status update.

#### 6. Oral up-date on important topics

The BoR was briefed in relation to several other important topics, as follows:

- the on-going final work on the proposal for Regulation on the <u>Telecom Single Market</u> (TSM)<sup>1</sup>;
- the 3<sup>rd</sup> BEREC Stakeholder Forum Meeting (15 October 2015, Brussels);
- the state of work on the key projects developed by the BEREC Office in support of BEREC's
  activity, such as: information sharing portal, training for NRAs' experts on the
  implementation of the Regulatory Framework for eCommunications in the EU, provision of
  an audio visual conference system for BEREC meetings and the development of the
  collaborative platform BERECnet;
- the recent and forthcoming BEREC International activities.

#### 7. Next meeting

The next meeting of the BoR will take place on **10 and 11 December 2015 in London (United Kingdom)** and will be hosted by the Office of Communications (Ofcom). The meeting will be preceded by a Heads Workshop on 9 December 2015, which will be dedicated to the discussion of BEREC's input and opinion on the forthcoming review of the EU Regulatory Framework for electronic communications.

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Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent, and amending Directives 2002/20/EC, 2002/21/EC and 2002/22/EC and Regulations (EC) No 1211/2009 and (EU) No 531/2012

#### Introduction and participation

The BEREC BoR held its 24<sup>th</sup> ordinary plenary meeting on 1 and 2 October 2015 in Riga (Latvia), hosted by the Latvian <u>Public Utilities Commission</u> (SPRK), in cooperation with the BEREC Office.

The meeting was attended by the Heads and/or high-level representatives of the NRAs established in each EU Member State which have primary responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the markets for electronic communications networks and services. Heads and high-level representatives of the NRAs from the EFTA States and the States that are candidates for accession to the EU, the Commission and the EFTA Surveillance Authority also took part in the meeting.

#### **List of documents**

The list of final documents approved by the meeting for publication in compliance with the BEREC Regulation and the BoR transparency rules are included in the Annex.

#### **Items discussed**

A short overview of the information presented under each agenda item, a summary record of the proceedings and a record of the conclusions reached by the BoR under each agenda item are presented below.

### 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Document(s)	BoR (15) 131 Draft BoR Agenda
Introduction by	BEREC Chair
Information presented	The BEREC Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the new Member of the BoR and MC <sup>2</sup> from the Luxembourg Regulatory Institute (ILR), Luc Tapella, Director of ILR, who presented himself briefly.
	The BEREC Chair presented the draft BoR agenda for approval by the BoR. The BoR members and observers were invited to suggest any additional issues to be raised or presented under 'Any other business' (AOB). This not being the case, the agenda was adopted as suggested by the Chair.
	Representatives of the meeting hosts presented information on the logistics of the meeting.
Conclusions	The BoR adopted the meeting agenda as suggested by the BEREC Chair.

#### 2. List of the 'A' items

To save time, the new BoR and MC Member was presented only during the BoR meeting

	BoR (15) 132 Draft BEREC Report on the public consultation on the document "Common Characteristics of Layer 2 Wholesale Access Products (WAP) in the European Union (EU)"
	BoR (15) 133 Draft BEREC Report on Common Characteristics of Layer 2 WAP in the EU
	BoR (15) 134 Draft BEREC International Roaming Benchmarking Report October 2014 - March 2015
	Approval for public consultation:
	BoR (15) 135 Updated draft BEREC Report on equivalent access and choice for disabled end-users
	Approval for internal use:
	BoR (15) 136 Draft Project Requirements Document (PRD) on BEREC Report on the Wholesale Roaming Market Review;
	BoR (15) 137 Draft PRD on the BEREC answer to EC request on the wholesale roaming market and fair use of roaming services.
Introduction by	BEREC Chair
Information presented	The Chair emphasised that to provide enough time for discussion of some questions of strategic importance in relation to the forthcoming review of the EU Regulatory Framework for electronic communications, she had tried to include as many items as possible in the 'A' list, especially in those cases in which the documents had been extensively discussed by the Contact Network (CN) or in previous plenary meetings.
	Then the Chair presented the list of "A" items as listed above and requested the consent of the BoR members for including all items in the "A" list. Afterwards the BoR was asked to approve the "A" items.
Conclusions	The BoR approved the documents included in the 'A' item list.

## 3. Information from the Chair

Document(s)	No documents
Introduction by	BEREC Chair
Information presented	The BEREC Chair updated the meeting on the following subjects:  - Recent and forthcoming events with the participation of the BEREC Chair and/or Vice-Chairs
	The BEREC Chair presented information on her recent activities as BEREC Chair and on her key meetings with EU Institutions and stakeholders, as follows:

- 18 June 2015, Riga, Digital Assembly 2015;
- 23 June 2015, Brussels, ETNO-MLex Regulatory Summit;
- 30 June 2015, Brussels, ECTA Conference 'Writing digital history: game changer policies for a connected Digital Single Market';
- 13 July 2015, Graz, 13th International Conference on Telecommunications;
- 2 September 2015, London, Barclays European Media and Telecom Forum.

The Chair reported that on 15 June 2015 she had a meeting on cross-border parcels with the European Commission Vice-President Ansip and the Chair of the European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP), as a result of which BEREC and ERGP established a joint EWG on the subject.

The BoR was also informed that on 19 June 2015 the Council Telecom Attachés visited the BEREC Office in Riga in the presence of the BEREC Vice-Chair (BNetzA).

The Chair also informed the BoR about her plans to attend the following events:

- 5 October 2015, Washington D.C., IIC International Regulators Forum;
- 6 October 2015, Washington D.C., bilateral meeting with the FCC;
- 12-14 October 2015, Budapest, ITU Telecom World and the Huawei Broader Way Forum.

The BoR was informed that, since the last plenary meeting, the BEREC Chair and Vice-Chairs had two meetings: on 10 July 2015, by videoconference, and on 17-18 September 2015, in Lisbon.

On 3 September 2015 the Chair met the EWG Co-chairs to discuss the state of play of the BEREC Work Programme 2015 and any need for midterm review of the WP. During the meeting it became clear that all deliverables are on track and there is no need for review of the 2015 WP.

#### - BEREC Annual Activity Report 2015

The BEREC Chair informed the BoR that, with a view to publishing the BEREC Annual Activity Report 2015 earlier than usual, its preparation will start at the end of 2015. In particular the Report outline will be presented for approval at the 25<sup>th</sup> BoR plenary meeting in order to enable approval of the Report at the 26<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in 2016. In the event that approval of the Report is not possible due to absence of some data, it will be submitted for approval by electronic voting procedure.

#### - Elections of Chair 2017 and Vice-Chairs 2016

The Chair recalled that the Heads had recently received an e-mail about the elections of BoR and MC Chair for 2017 and Vice-Chairs for 2016, which will take place on 10 December 2015. Due to the requirements of

	the Rules of Procedure the candidacies for Chair have to be submitted by 10 October 2015 (i.e. 2 months before the election date). The applications for the posts of Vice-Chairs can be submitted by the start of the meeting. In both cases the applications must be supported by at least 4 members.
	- Re-scheduling the Public debriefing from the 24 <sup>th</sup> plenary meetings
	The BoR was informed that the public debriefing from the 24 <sup>th</sup> plenary meetings has been rescheduled and will now take place on 8 October 2015 in Brussels from 10.30 to 12.30.
	The debriefing will be live web-streamed and online observers will have the opportunity to submit questions in real time through the social media.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 4. Information from the BEREC Office

Document(s)	BoR (15) 138 Information on electronic voting procedures since the last plenary meeting BoR (15) 139 2015 BEREC Work Programme status update
Introduction by	Representatives of the BEREC Office
Information presented	BEREC Office representatives presented information on the electronic voting procedures since the last plenary meeting, on the implementation status of the 2015 BEREC WP and on key projects run by the BEREC Office in support of BEREC.
	Special attention was paid to the support provided by the BEREC Office to the EWGs, the procurement of a BEREC audio visual conference system, the development of the information-sharing portal, the training to be provided to junior NRA experts in the field of EU regulation and the putting into operation of BERECnet and its further development envisaged as phase 2 of the project.
	The BoR was briefed in relation to the deadlines for the preparation of the BEREC Annual Activity Report 2015. The BoR was informed that the schedule for the report elaboration is very tight and will require high mobilisation of all parties concerned.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information provided.

## 5. Information from the Commission

Document(s)	BoR (15) 151 Note to the BEREC Board of Regulators
Introduction by	Commission Representative

## Information presented

A Commission Representative provided information on several subjects of interest to BEREC as follows:

#### 1. State of play on the finalisation of the TSM Regulation

The Text of the TSM Regulation is in process of finalisation by the colegislators. The Council of the EU will vote on the text on 1 October 2015 as an 'A' item. The EP will vote on the text at its plenary at the end of October 2015. The text will be published in the OJ by the end of the year.

After its entry into force the Commission and BEREC will have to start applying the new rules, to be introduced within a very tight timescale. This will be the first legislative act that will include provisions on net neutrality and therefore its implementation will have a major impact on citizens and stakeholders.

For the first time, this act also will introduce an autonomous role for BEREC. In particular BEREC will have a very important role for ensuring the effective working of the legislation in the field of NN in Europe. The Commission will have an equally important role, which will require a very good level of cooperation between the two bodies.

### 2. Review of the EU telecoms Regulatory Framework

The Commission has sent its request for BEREC input and opinion on the review, including some extensive questionnaires to BEREC. The Commission also published a public consultation on the topic.

#### 3. Directive on high-speed broadband cost reduction

The Commission would like to discuss with BEREC the implementation of the Cost Reduction Directive as far as a number of technical issues are concerned. On 14 October 2015 the Commission has planned a workshop which is oriented to local and regional players. However, BEREC's presence would be very important.

#### 4. IoT

The Commission would like to request COCOM's views on IoT in anticipation of the future regulatory developments. In the Commission's view, Europe should have a lead role in standard-setting in this area and therefore the work of BEREC on the subject is highly appreciated.

#### 5. Market analysis

The Commission called the attention of the BoR members to the delays in the market analysis by some NRAs. The Commission recalled that, 1 year ago, a letter on a similar subject was sent to the BEREC Chair. In reply, BEREC provided some additional information to the Commission. Unfortunately, the situation concerning the delays by some NRAs has not improved despite the bilateral contacts between the Commission and the NRAs concerned.

#### **Conclusions**

The BoR took note of the information provided.

## 6. BEREC Work Programme 2016

Document(s)	BoR (15) 140 Draft BEREC Work Programme (WP) for 2016
Introduction by	Incoming BEREC Chair (BNetzA)
Information presented	The Incoming BEREC Chair (BNetzA) presented the draft 2016 BEREC WP. He recalled the method of work and the approach used for the preparation of the current draft.
	He pointed out that the draft 2016 WP maintains BEREC's commitment, presented in the BEREC Strategy 2015-2017, to develop regulatory best practice amongst NRAs, leading to independent, consistent, high-quality regulation of electronic communications markets. Furthermore, the draft 2016 WP emphasises BEREC's readiness to serve as a body for reflection, debate and advice for the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the Commission in the electronic communications field.
	The draft 2016 WP seeks to address current and future regulatory challenges resulting from market and technological developments. It also takes into account to a large extent the European political priorities of the Digital Single Market Strategy, namely: providing better access to digital goods and services across Europe, creating the right conditions for enhancing digital networks and innovative services and maximising the growth potential of the digital economy.
	Therefore, according to the current draft, the 2016 WP should have a clear focus on the upcoming review of the current legal framework for electronic communications. Additionally BEREC will have to fulfil its new tasks in the field of net neutrality and roaming implementation stemming from the Telecom Single Market (TSM) Regulation (currently being finalised).
	The draft WP also envisaged some mandatory and/or multi-annual tasks to be performed by BEREC.
	The Incoming Chair listed the topics and/or deliverables proposed for inclusion in the WP 2016, and then presented the next steps in the preparations of the WP, as follows:
	- publication of the document for public consultation to run till 30 October 2015, with a public hearing at the Stakeholders' Forum in Brussels on 15 October 2015.
	- preparation of the report on the outcome of the public consultation, the final draft WP and the PRDs for 2016 and their submission for approval to the 25 <sup>th</sup> BoR meeting (London, 10-11 December 2015).
Conclusions	The BoR discussed the draft BEREC WP 2016 and approved it for public consultation to run from 2 to 30 October 2015, with a public hearing at the Stakeholders' Forum in Brussels on 15 October 2015.

## 7. Roaming – oral update on the work of the Expert Working Group (EWG)

Document(s)	No document
Introduction by	Roaming EWG Co-Chair (RTR)
Information presented	The BoR was briefed in relation to the latest and forthcoming activities of the Roaming EWG stemming from the TSM.
	The Roaming EWG Co-Chair (RTR) recalled that the roaming provisions of the TSM require the Commission 2015, after a consultation with BEREC, to adopt implementing acts setting out the weighted average of maximum mobile termination rates (MTR) by 31 December.
	The retail roaming surcharges in the EU will generally be abolished as of 15 June 2017. The compromise text defines two situations when the application of surcharges is still authorised, subject to specific criteria.
	First, roaming providers will be able to apply a 'fair use policy' to prevent abusive or anomalous usage of regulated retail roaming services. Once any parameters defined by the fair use policy are no longer satisfied, a surcharge may be applied. The surcharge cannot be higher than the maximum wholesale charges. The detailed rules on the application of the fair use policy will be defined by the Commission in an implementing act by 15 December 2016 after a consultation with BEREC.
	Second, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of its domestic charging model, if a roaming provider is not able to recover its overall actual and projected costs of providing regulated roaming services the provider may apply for authorisation to apply a surcharge. That surcharge shall be applied only to the extent necessary to recover the costs of providing regulated retail roaming services having regard to the applicable maximum wholesale charges.
	The legislator has envisaged a set of obligations in relation to the implementation of the new roaming provisions for BEREC in terms of methodology development, reporting and enforcement. Therefore, the Commission has requested BEREC's input in relation to the following:
	i) the weighted average of maximum MTRs across Member States;
	ii) The wholesale roaming market;
	iii) fair use policy and
	iv) the sustainability of domestic charging model.
	The BEREC input on the weighted average of maximum MTRs was due by 9 October 2015 and has subsequently been approved by electronic voting procedure.
	As far as the wholesale roaming market is concerned, the request to BEREC is to provide only data from operators without any analysis. However, BEREC considers it important to provide its own analysis, which can be used also for the public consultation to be launched by the

	Commission on the subject. The estimate of wholesale roaming costs is scheduled for submission to the BoR for approval at its 25 <sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (10-11 December 2015, London) and the BEREC report on wholesale roaming market will be submitted to the 1st plenary meeting in 2016.
	The input on fair use policy and sustainability of domestic charging model will be prepared for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting in 2016.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 8. Net Neutrality (NN) – oral update on the work of the EWG

Document(s)	No document
Introduction by	NN EWG Co-Chair (Nkom)
Information presented	The NN EWG Co-Chair (Nkom) briefed BoR in relation to the latest and forthcoming activities of the NN EWG, as follows:
	Feasibility study of monitoring of quality of service (QoS) in the context of net neutrality
	The NN Co-Chair recalled that BEREC had decided to assess the feasibility of establishing a common system for monitoring the QoS in the context of NN. The 2009 EU Regulatory Framework for electronic communications already requires NRAs to monitor QoS for the internet access service (IAS) as a whole and for individual applications using IAS. The monitoring of QoS will become more important under the TSM Regulation, which, as drafted presently, requires the NRAs to "closely monitor and ensure compliance" with new rules
	Consequently the NN EWG has investigated the options for developing a common system for such purposes. NN EWG is in the final stage of preparation of a feasibility study, which will be presented for consideration by the BoR at its 25 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (10-11 December 2015, London).
	The study so far finds it feasible to develop a common QoS monitoring system, focusing on measurement of IAS as a whole, and recommends running pilot tests of application-specific measurements.
	The proposed solution emphasises an evolutionary approach, opt-in for NRAs and different levels of participation, in parallel with existing, nationally-controlled systems.
	The BoR was informed that the NN EWG currently is working on the estimated range of cost for NRAs with/without their own existing system, as well as on the shared cost for development of a common system.
	Based on the study, the BoR will be requested to take a decision whether to envisage further project development in the BEREC 2016 WP.

	- Preparation of the BEREC NN Guidelines
	The TSM Regulation requires BEREC, in close cooperation with the Commission and after consulting stakeholders, to issue guidelines for the implementation of the NRAs' obligations for supervision and enforcement of the provisions for safeguarding of open internet and transparency measures for ensuring open internet access.
	Based on the expected publication time table for the TSM Regulation presented by the Commission, the NN EWG has prepared a preliminary plan for work, which envisages starting as soon as possible.
	The drafters were due to start work in the beginning of October 2015 with the involvement of Commission experts.
	The stakeholders will be consulted at an early stage by meeting EU 'umbrella groups' in November 2015.
	The NN EWG will brief the BoR about the progress achieved at the 1 <sup>st</sup> BoR plenary meeting in 2016 and will report whether there are any specific issues which may need the intervention of the Heads.
	The draft Guidelines will be submitted for approval for public consultation at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> BoR plenary meeting in 2016. The final adoption of the document may need to be done by electronic voting or at an extraordinary plenary meeting, if considered appropriate.
	The Chair thanked the NN EWG for the work done during the legislative process on the TSM and emphasised the importance of their work and the work to follow for all citizens.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information provided.

## 9. Next Generation Networks (NGN)

## 9.1. Advanced connectivity of devices, systems and services (M2M)

Document(s)	BoR (15) 141 Draft BEREC Report on Enabling Internet of Things
Introduction by	NGN EWG Co-Chair (BNetzA)
Information presented	The NGN EWG Co-Chair (BNetzA) presented the draft BEREC Report on Enabling Internet of Things ('IoT'), which, if approved, should be published for public consultation.
	The NGN EWG Co-Chair recalled the method of work and the approach used in the preparation of the current draft Report, which is the outcome of a BEREC survey on the state of play on M2M services. However, following the work done by the NGN EWG, the title of the deliverable has been changed to 'enabling the IoT'.
	This draft Report contains a list of the most common characteristics of M2M services and assesses whether they may need specific regulatory

	treatment. The draft Report contains several proposals, which aim to create a more favourable environment for enhancing competition, ensuring interoperability of electronic communications services in the future use of M2M and providing consumers with more benefits. Some of the proposals are addressed to the NRAs, but a large majority of the suggestions are for consideration by policymakers, legislators, data protection authorities, the industry and others.
	The draft Report assesses in more detail several issues regarding those M2M solutions which are based on mobile networks, since they have been primarily addressed by stakeholders. However, it has to be stressed that many M2M applications exist or may be developed by using other technologies (including fixed or wireless connectivity).
	The document was submitted to the BoR for approval for public consultation and therefore contains several questions to the public and the stakeholders.
	It was due tobe presented also at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> BEREC Stakeholder Forum Meeting on 15 October 2015 in Brussels.
Conclusions	The BoR approved the document for public consultation to run in the period from 5 October to 6 November 2015 with a public hearing at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder Forum meeting on 15 October 2015 in Brussels.

# 9.2. Oral update on the other NGN EWG activities (IP Migration of voice interconnection, challenges and drivers of NGA rollout and infrastructure competition, SDN/NFV Workshop)

Document(s)	No documents
Introduction by	NGN EWG Co-Chairs (BNetzA/RTR)
Information presented	The NGN EWG Co-Chairs briefed the BoR in relation to the recent developments of the other NGN EWG activities, in particular IP migration of voice interconnection; challenges and drivers of NGA rollout and infrastructure competition; and the Workshop on Software-Defined Networking (SDN) and Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV), indicatively scheduled for December 2015.
	The BoR was informed that the work on Layer 2 will continue in order to prepare a BEREC common position on the subject. The 1 <sup>st</sup> drafters' meeting has been scheduled for 5 November 2015 in Brussels with a view to starting early preparation for the work in 2016.
	The preparation of the draft BEREC Reports on migration towards IP-based interconnection for voice services and on challenges and drivers of NGA roll-out and infrastructure competition is on track and the documents will be submitted to the BoR for approval according to the PRD schedule.

	Special attention was paid to the forthcoming BEREC public Workshop on Regulatory Implications of SDN and NFV (1 December 2015, Brussels).
	The workshop will be opened by the BEREC Chair. After a short introduction by the NGN EWG Co-Chair (RTR) the floor will be passed for presentations to the Open Networking Foundation (ONF) and the ETSI NFV Industry Specification Group (ISG).
	Other organisations, such as: MEF, Colt, QSC, Telefonica, Alcatel-Lucent, Fujitsu and Hewlett-Packard (HP) (TBC), will also make presentations.
	The workshop will finish with a panel discussion dedicated to answering the following question: "What are the regulatory implications of SDN and NFV?"
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information

## 10. Regulatory Framework (RF)

## 10.1. BEREC Report on OTT services

Document(s)	BoR (15) 142 Draft BEREC Report on OTT services
Introduction by	Drafting Team Leader (ACM)
Information presented	The Drafting Team Leader (ACM) made a detailed presentation of the draft Report on OTT services.
	In this draft Report, BEREC defines an OTT service as "content, a service or an application that is provided to the end user over the open internet." The provision of service occurs independently of the internet access provider in control of or distribution of the service.
	BEREC distinguishes three types of OTT services. This results in a taxonomy of OTT services, as follows:
	(a) OTT-0 services, which are OTT services that qualify as electronic communication services (ECSs);
	(b) OTT-1 services, which are OTT services that do not qualify as ECS but do potentially compete with ECSs and
	(c) OTT-2 services, which are the remaining category consisting of OTT services that are not an ECS and do not potentially compete with ECSs.
	Due to the current and expected evolution of new online services, the boundary between ECSs and the content services provided over electronic communication networks (these latter outside the scope of the RF) becomes more and more blurred. Whilst the ECS definition, elaborated in a different moment of technological evolution, with internet-based services at a very early stage of development, has served its purpose in the context of traditional services, it poses challenges in the OTT environment. The extent to which the current ECS definition covers some types of OTT

	services is ambiguous, including in the context of the EU case law, and it is unclear whether specific OTT services qualify as ECS. OTT voice services that have the possibility to make incoming or outgoing calls to the publicly available telephone service (PATS) provide one example of this ambiguity. The ERG Common Position on VoIP (2007) gives an interpretative indication, although in practice rather few implementing measures have been adopted.
	The draft Report suggests revising the definition of ECS in order to ensure that it keeps pace with the current technological developments, to make it future proof and to ensure consistent application of the EU RF. According to the draft Report, the forthcoming review of the EU RF is an opportunity to examine the validity of the definition taking into consideration the evolution of the services and the markets. On the other hand, further rulings of the European Court of Justice on the implementation of the current ECS definition could also contribute to the provision of more clarity, especially in a context where no further guidance is provided and/or no legal changes to the definition are adopted by the legislator.
Conclusions	The BoR discussed the draft Report and approved it for public consultation to run in the period from 5 October to 2 November 2015.

## 10.2. Oral up-date on recent developments of the TSM legislative process

Document(s)	No document
Introduction by	RF EWG Co-Chair (NMHH)
Information presented	The RF EWG Co-Chair (NMHH) recalled that the co-legislators are working on the finalisation of the TSM Regulation, which, as mentioned previously by the Commission, will be published by the end of the year in the OJ. It envisages several obligations for BEREC, which were well presented already by the Roaming and NN EWG Co-Chairs and therefore, for time saving purposes, were not further elaborated.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 10.3. Oral up-date on the activities of Spectrum Work Stream

Document(s)	No document
Introduction by	RF EWG Co-Chair (NMHH)
Information presented	The RF EWG Co-Chair briefed the BoR in relation to the recent and forthcoming activities in the field of spectrum undertaken by the RF EWG.
	So far, the work of the Spectrum Work Stream has been focused mainly on spectrum-related issues in the forthcoming review of the EU RF for

	electronic communications.
	Recently the EWG started the preparation of an internal workshop on spectrum, which will take place at the end of January 2016. The EWG plans to invite to the workshop BEREC members, RSPG experts and external speakers.
	The workshop will try to provide answers to the following questions:
	What would characterise a well-functioning wireless communication market in the EU in the coming ten years?
	<ul> <li>What are the obstacles, related to regulatory issues and spectrum management, to obtaining a well-functioning wireless communication market in the EU?</li> </ul>
	– What solutions can the EU/NRAs/Member States provide?
	Once the workshop agenda is finalised, it will be circulated to all BoR members.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 10.4. Oral update on the RF EWG activities planned in order to provide answer to the EC questionnaire

Document(s)	No document
Introduction by	RF EWG Co-Chair (NMHH)
Information presented	The RF EWG Co-Chair (NMHH) recalled that on 22 July 2015 the Commission submitted a request to BEREC for input in evaluating the functioning of the current EU regulatory framework for electronic communications (covered by the questionnaires presented in annexes 1 and 3 to the Commission letter) and for an opinion on those provisions which may require review (covered by annex 2).
	As a first step the RF EWG circulated the questionnaires to the NRAs to collect their views and answers to the fact-finding questions.
	The deadline for providing these answers is very tight and therefore the experts in charge of compiling the information from each NRA may need some support from their Heads to be able to respect the deadlines.
	On 6 October 2015 the RF EWG was due to examine the BoR input from the 24 <sup>th</sup> BoR plenary meeting with a view to preparing stable versions of the answers to Annexes 1 and Annex 3 by mid-October 2015, to be circulated for comment by the NRAs RF EWG members.
	The finalisation of the BEREC answers is envisaged for CN4 / P4.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 11. Exchange of views in relation to the Commission request for BEREC input and opinion on the review of the RF for electronic communications

Document(s)	BoR (15) 108 Commission request for BEREC input and opinion on the review of the RF for electronic communications
Introduction by	BEREC Vice-Chairs from BNetzA and PTS RF EWG Co-Chairs (AGCOM/NMHH)
Information presented	The RF EWG Co-Chairs presented some information on the work done so far by the RF EWG in preparing the BEREC answers to the questionnaires attached to the Commission request to BEREC for input and opinion on the review of the RF for electronic communications from July 2015.
	In particular the BoR was informed that the responsibility for preparing the initial answers to each question was assigned individually to the RF EWG drafters. At the end of August 2015 the drafters provided their initial draft answers, building on previous BEREC reflections (what-if meetings; Heads' steering after the Bergen workshop; EWG's technical analyses).
	In September 2015 the RF EWG had two meetings to examine the draft answers and to identify any potential open questions. As a result of this discussion, a number of open questions were identified, related to the scope and objectives of the RF, regulated network access, scope of service regulation, institutional set-up and governance and universal service.
Conclusions	The BoR discussed some strategic questions in relation to the BEREC input and opinion on the review of the RF for electronic communications and asked the RF EWG to take the BoR views into account in the preparation of the BEREC reply.

## 12. Regulatory Accounting (RA)

Document(s)	BoR (15) 143 Draft BEREC Report on RA in practice 2016
Introduction by	RA EWG Co-Chair (BNetzA)
Information presented	The RA EWG Co-Chair (BNetzA) presented the draft BEREC Report on RA in practice. The Report provides an up-to date factual overview of the RA frameworks used in Europe and an assessment of the level of consistency achieved by NRAs. The report is prepared annually and updates the previous versions published since 2005.
	The data collected for this year's report are updated as of April 2015. They have been compared, where possible, with data collected previously.
	The data gather demonstrates a clear preference for price control methods (cost orientation alone or in combination with price cap), cost base (current cost accounting – CCA) and allocation methodologies (mainly long run

incremental costs (LR(A)IC) with fully distributed costs (FDC) preferred only in a few markets). The degree of consistent application of methodologies continues to be high and accommodates the use of elements or parameters that reflect national circumstances.

Overall the 2015 data confirms the trend towards an increasingly consistent approach to regulatory accounting approaches and stability in the application of particular methods for cost valuation or cost allocation among NRAs. The latter indicates that NRAs are providing predictable and stable regulatory environments in their countries.

Furthermore, one section of the Report deals with the actual implementation of the Termination Rates Recommendation 2009/396/EC of 7 May 2009. The overview of the costing methods applied for the purpose of determining FTRs/MTRs has been made in co-operation with the Remedies EWG, based on data collected by the Benchmarking EWG.

Taking into account the nature of the relevant market, some patterns regarding the rationale to choose a particular costing methodology can be seen, in particular the "strict cost-orientation" price control method is chosen to promote competition / stimulate investment / increase benefits for consumers.

In terms of the weighted average cost of capital (WACC), nearly all NRAs use CAP-M to determine the rate of return on equity, but different parameter values are used reflecting the different national financial market conditions.

For the next round of data gathering, the RA EWG plans to undertake the following activities:

- to collect data on costing methodologies and compare methodologies chosen in order to assess in which way the consistency of the methodologies used can be increased further;
- to investigate the motivations for choosing a certain method in order to find patterns linking them with the aim of analysing possibilities for further alignment in the use of costing methodologies;
- to collect data on the methodology and input parameters used to calculate the rate of return on capital employed and analyse the WACC further:
- to include an overview of the costing methodologies applied bearing in mind the Recommendation on Consistent Non-Discrimination Obligations and Costing Methodologies (2013/466/EU);
- to include an overview of the costing methodologies applied, bearing in mind the TR Recommendation (2009/396/EC).

**Conclusions** 

The BoR approved the Report for publication.

#### 13. BEREC Style Guide

Introduction by	BEREC Office AM
Information presented	The BEREC Office AM presented the updated BEREC Style Guide, which contains instructions about the style, formatting and editing of BEREC documents, in particular for public deliverables.
	The BoR was informed that the main reference document used for the preparation of the BEREC Style Guide is the EU Inter-institutional Style guide.
	In order to increase the effectiveness of BoR, CN and MC work, the BEREC Chair has suggested some improvements to the current BEREC Style guide, which include:
	- Requirements for the use of an executive summary for all submitted documents, except the decisions and the internal administrative instructions, which will be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum instead of an executive summary;
	- To limit the length of the documents to a maximum of 50 standard pages maximum (a limit 30 pages is recommended);
	- The rule that all document should be accompanied by a submission note is retained;
	- To introduce rules for the Power Point presentations and the length of the oral presentations (recommended: maximum 6 slides, no more than 40 words per slide or view and maximum 10 minutes for presentation).
	The AM also pointed out that some of the most frequent lapses in the preparation of BEREC documents are the misuse of BEREC colours, the use of wrong numbering, capitalisation, use of text font, size and colour not envisaged by the Style Guide.
	At the end of his presentation the AM, emphasised the importance of the use of metadata, which makes the documents machine readable, facilitates the electronic registration of documents and increases the efficiency of the search engines.
	The BoR was informed that after the approval of the Style Guide the BEREC Office will update all templates in order to allow very easy implementation of the Style Guide requirements.
Conclusions	The BoR approved the Style Guide for internal use.

## 14. Oral up-date on Ad Hoc EWG on e-Commerce and Cross-border Parcels Delivery

Document(s)
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Introduction by	Ad Hoc EWG Co-Chair (ANACOM)
Information presented	The Ad Hoc EWG Co-Chair (ANACOM) briefed the BoR in relation to the recent and forthcoming work on the joint BEREC – ERGP project on ecommerce and cross-border parcels delivery.
	He recalled that, in compliance with the PRD, the Ad Hoc EWG organised a joint BEREC-ERGP workshop, which took place on 30 September 2015 in Riga.
	Based on desk research, the EWG identified a number of issues which have a negative impact on cross-border delivery of parcels and cross-border e-commerce transactions, as follows:
	<ul> <li>higher costs of cross-border parcels delivery, in particular when compared to the costs of delivery of national parcels (which in some Member States could be explained by wide differences in geographic conditions);</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>non-integration of distribution networks (especially in value-added services);</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>lack of transparency in the distribution process, both for e-retailers and for consumers;</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>lack of guarantee for QoS (namely in terms of delivery times, damaged or lost items);</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>scarcity of information regarding aspects such as different addressing rules in the Member States, contractual procedures, consumer rights and complaints procedures;</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>problems related to taxation, security of on-line transactions and consumer confidence;</li> </ul>
	In this context the EWG suggests envisaging the following measures for improving cross-border parcels delivery:
	<ul> <li>a) As the scope of postal law in the Member States (including legal monitoring powers) varies significantly with regard to the parcels markets, a harmonised approach to the legal framework by means of guidelines could improve existing and prospective benchmarking and monitoring exercises in this field and define a common understanding on the monitoring of the cross-border parcels delivery;</li> </ul>
	b) The EC could define a clear statistical framework and, if needed, could suggest an amendment to the scope of Article 22a of the Postal Directive, to enable NRAs to collect relevant market data on domestic and cross-border parcel flows from all postal service providers and/or other providers;
	c) By analogy with the studies on broadband performance, covering at least the more relevant operators in terms of market shares, the Commission could order studies regarding the QoS indicators that are

	core to the delivery of cross-border parcels, such as: cross-border parcels delivery times, number of end-user complaints by category of cross-border parcels (both as an absolute value and as a proportion of the corresponding cross-border parcel category overall value), customer satisfaction indices or effectiveness of return policies;
	d) The EC could encourage cooperation between NRAs, competition authorities, consumer protection bodies, e-retailers and all operators involved in cross-border delivery, aiming at, if needed, identifying and periodically updating the core indicators that are more appropriate to the monitoring of the cross-border parcel delivery at EU level.
	With regard to possible <b>price transparency</b> measures, a number of actions could be considered: namely the creation of platforms for distribution services, the launch of price comparison websites, the provision of incentives for the improvement of "track and trace" systems or the creation of a scoreboard on the performance of prices and delivery quality in e-commerce.
	The Chair thanked the EWG for the excellent work done and encouraged its members to continue this important work in order to achieve the final goal defined in the PRD.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 15. BEREC International Activities

Document(s)	No documents
Introduction by	Representatives of the BEREC Chair
Information presented	A representative of the BEREC Chair presented the following information to the BoR:
	- BEREC answer to Commission letter on international activities
	The Chair has submitted BEREC's answer to the Commission letter on international activities of 2014. The BEREC answer was initially consulted with the Commission services and subsequently fine-tuned with the support of the BEREC Vice-Chairs.
	- FCC participation at the 25 <sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (10-11- December 2015, London)
	The BEREC Chair has invited FCC representatives to take part in one of BEREC's plenary meetings. FCC has provisionally expressed interest in participation at the BEREC Plenary to be held in December 2015 in London.
	BEREC and FCC will have the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest during the forthcoming visit of the BEREC Chair to the US for her participation in the IIC Regulatory Forum (5 October 2015, Washington).

The meeting with FCC has been scheduled for 6 October 2015 and will be attended by the BEREC Vice-Chairs from BNetzA and PTS, the IRG Vice-Chair (ComCom), the BoR Member from AGCOM and the RF EWG Co-Chair (AGCOM). The meeting draft agenda is under preparation in cooperation with FCC.

#### - BEREC-ITU Cooperation

Following the successful cooperation between BEREC and the ITU-T Study Group 3 on roaming issues (March 2015), BEREC was invited to present its experience and on-going work in the field of QoS at the ITU Workshop on performance, QoS and quality of experience of emerging networks and services held from 9 to 11 September 2015 in Athens.

The BEREC Chair has been invited to represent BEREC also at the <u>ITU</u> <u>Leadership Forum</u> organised on 12 October 2015 in Budapest and at the Ministerial Roundtable on accelerating innovation for social impact by mobilising global entrepreneurship to implement the connect 2020 agenda, scheduled for 13 October 2015.

## Cooperation with Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg)

The BoR was informed that the problem with the financing of EaPeReg from the budget of the EU has been resolved and now the work of the Network can continue according to the work plan.

On 7-8 October 2015 both side have planned a technical workshop on cybersecurity and another workshop on 4G prior to the next plenary assembly scheduled for 5 November 2015.

The BoR was informed that in 2016 the new Chair of EaPeReg will be from Belarus and the Vice-Chair from Latvia.

#### - EU Funded project - ICT Harmonisation Africa

The BEREC Chair has also been contacted by a consultant selected by the Commission to carry out a project, jointly with ITU and the African Union, on pan-African ICT regulatory design, which amongst other issues includes the approximation of the telecoms regulatory framework. The project will heavily rely on BEREC's cooperation. Cooperation with other regulatory networks is also foreseen. The Chair plans to discuss with the consultant the terms of BEREC's involvement and will inform the BoR on the outcome of this discussion.

**Conclusions** 

The BoR took note of the information.

### 16. Status update on the 3rd BEREC Stakeholder Forum Meeting

Document(s)	BoR (15) 128 Draft Agenda for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> BEREC Stakeholder Forum
	meeting (15 October 2015, Brussels)

Introduction by	BEREC Vice-Chair (ComReg)
Information presented	The BEREC Vice-Chair (ComReg) recalled that the 3rd meeting of the BEREC Stakeholder Forum will take place on <b>15 October 2015</b> , in Brussels, at Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel. He informed the BoR that the event agenda had just been updated and published on the BEREC website.
	The number of registered participants for participation in the event is around 180, which is above the originally envisaged 160 participants, but if some Heads are not registered yet and would like to attend the event, it will still be possible to join.
	The event will be streamed on the web, which provides the opportunity for a wider audience to watch the event.
	The meeting will be dedicated to the following 3 main topics:
	- draft BEREC 2016 Work Programme;
	- Internet of Things/M2M;
	- The digital ecosystem: challenges and opportunities for Europe.
	The speakers will represent associations of operations and users, international companies representing the digital ecosystem, the networking and telecommunications equipment and services industry, the traditional telecommunications industry, and the broader software and cloud-computing services and products industry.
	The Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Günther Oettinger, is due to attend and give a keynote address.
	The Commission informed the BoR that Commissioner Oettinger confirmed his participation in the event and would be able to join the morning session.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 17. Preparation of the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15)

### 17.1. CEPT View

Document(s)	BoR (15) 160 CEPT positions for WRC-15
Introduction by	Representative of CEPT
Information presented	The CPG-15 Chair presented the process of preparation of the European positions for the WRC-15. He recalled that CPG prepares European Common Proposal (ECP), which are accompanied by background information (briefs) for each agenda item of the WRC.

	The ECPs are prepared on the basis of a multi-country approach: they should be supported by at least 10 administrations supporting and there should be no more than 6 oppositions in order to consider the ECP approved.
	The CEPT briefs contain the CEPT position, views and additional background information.
	During the duration of the Conference, CEPT organises regular co- ordination meetings during which the Heads of Delegations discuss the general lines to take on each agenda item.
	CEPT has prepared a final set of 53 ECPs for WRC-15, which should be signed by the CEPT Administrations.
	CEPT maintains a constant coordination dialogue with other inter-regional organisations.
	The CPG Chair also presented some specific elements of the ECPs, which are presented in the document mentioned above.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

#### 17.2. ITU View

Document(s)	BoR (15) 161 Update on Preparations for RA-15 and WRC-15
Introduction by	Representative of ITU
Information presented	A Representative of ITU briefed the BEREC plenary on the preparation of the WRC-15, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 27 November 2015, immediately after the Radiocommunication Assembly 2015 (RA-15) scheduled for the period from 26 to 30 October 2015.
	The ITU representative recalled that the World Radiocommunication Conferences are held every three to four years with the objective to review, and, if necessary, revise the <u>Radio Regulations</u> , which is the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits worldwide.
	Then he presented the process of the setting-up of the agenda of the WRC-15 and the process of the preparation of the Conference and the RA-15.
	He recalled that preparation of the WRC relies strongly on regional coordination, which is led for Europe by the <u>European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)</u> <sup>3</sup>
	The BoR was informed that mobile broadband will be one of the most important topics with the object of deciding how much spectrum could be

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The other regional organisations in charge of the coordination of the regional positions of the countries outside Europe are: <u>Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)</u> <u>Arab Spectrum Management Group (ASMG)</u>, <u>African Telecommunications Union (ATU)</u>, <u>Inter-American Telecommunication Commission and Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC) (CITEL)</u>

	freed for mobile communications versus other services which operate in the same band.
	After the loss of the Malaysian aircraft, there have been some requests for the establishment of a global flight tracking system operating worldwide, which will also require some spectrum, and therefore this request has been added to the agenda.
	For some agenda items, there is only one method proposed but in other case there might be up to 6 methods, which demonstrates the controversy of these items.
	The more the regional groups agree in advance on a specific position, the more productive the discussion is.
	The speaker also presented an overview of the director's report and information about the document availability for the WRC-15 and the RA-15.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 18. AOB

## 18.1. Termination rates for calls originating from the outside the EU

Document(s)	No documents
Introduction by	Commission Representative
Information presented	Following the request of one NRA, the Commission provided some information about the regulatory treatment of the termination rates (TRs) of calls originating from the outside the EU. The Commission recalled that the TRs in the EU are regulated in order to ensure smooth functioning of the internal market.
	The Commission, in general, will not make comments if the NRAs treat differently traffic originating/terminating outside the EEA area
	However, they should respect the obligations arising from international treaties and in particular from Article 5 of the WTO Agreement.
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.

## 18.2. Calendar of Meetings for 2016

Document(s)	BoR (15) 145 Updated preliminary schedule for the ordinary BEREC ar Contact Network (CN) meetings in 2016	
Introduction by	Incoming BEREC Chair (BNetzA)	
Information	The Incoming BEREC Chair (BNetzA) presented the updated preliminary	

presented	schedule for the ordinary BEREC plenary and CN meetings in 2016.	
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.	

## 18.3. Information on the next BoR and MC plenary meetings and plenary workshop (9-11 December 2015, London)

Document(s)	No documents	
Introduction by	Representative of the meeting host (Ofcom) BEREC Chair	
Information presented	A representative of the meeting host (Ofcom) for the 25 <sup>th</sup> BoR plenary meeting presented information on the logistics of the event, which will take place on 10 and 11 December 2015 in London.	
	Ofcom will offer to meeting participants a social event at the British Library, which will be held on 10 December 2015 in the evening.	
	The meeting host sent already the formal invitation and information for the hotel booking to the BoR. The practical details will follow shortly.	
	The Chair informed the BoR that the plenary meeting will be preceded by a workshop to take place in the afternoon on 9 December 2015. The workshop will be dedicated to the discussion of BEREC's input and opinion on the forthcoming review of the EU Regulatory Framework for electronic communications. Further information about the workshop format will follow closer to the event date.	
Conclusions	The BoR took note of the information.	

Riga, 2 October 2015.

# List of documents approved at the 24th BoR plenary meeting and subject to publication in compliance with the BEREC Regulation and the BoR transparency rules

Document number	Document title/hyperlink	
Final documents	Final documents	
BoR (15) 132	BEREC Report on the Public Consultation on Document "Common Characteristics of Layer 2 Wholesale Access Products in the European Union"	
BoR (15) 133	BEREC Report on Common Characteristics of Layer 2 Wholesale Access  Products in the European Union	
BoR (15) 134	International Roaming BEREC Benchmark Data Report October 2014 – March 2015	
BoR (15) 143	BEREC Report on Regulatory Accounting in Practice 2015	
Documents published for public consultation		
BoR (15) 140	Draft BEREC Work Programme 2016	
BoR (15) 135	5) 135	
BoR (15) 142	<u>Draft BEREC Report on OTT services</u>	
BoR (15) 141	Draft BEREC Report on Enabling the Internet of Things	

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