Bridging the Regulatory Gap in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

GSR14

Regulatory Associations Meeting

Bahrain 2nd June 2014
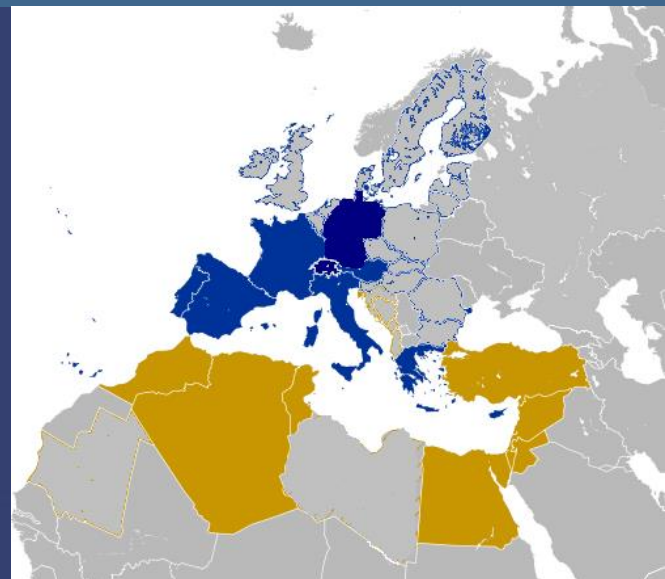
Mohammad Al Taani

Chairman of the board of commissioners/ CEO
TRC - Jordan
2014 EMERG Chair

ESTABLISHMENT

- Authorities for Electronic Communications Networks and Services in Euro-Mediterranean region have joined forces to set up a network with the aim to facilitate and strengthen cooperation in the field of electronic communications.

- In July 2008 / Malta and following the principles of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation set out in the Barcelona Process, the Euro-Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG) was officially established.

ESTABLISHMENT

- EMERG Members:
  Algeria, Austria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, The Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.

- Membership is open for more countries. Recently, EMERG received a membership request from the Croatian Post and Electronic Communications Agency (HAKOM) which is expected to be the 21st member of EMERG.

ESTABLISHMENT

- EMERG was funded by the European Commission during the past 5 years, the yearly allocated budget was around €200.000, this budget was managed through an external consultant who was selected through a tending process.

- EMERG is planned to be funded by the European Commission with a 1 million Euros budget for 4 years 2015- 2019 (an annual budget of around €250.000, for a four years period).

- European Commission will bridge the gap between 2014 and 2015 by funding EMERG activities with financial support directly.

ESTABLISHMENT

- **EMERG Chairmanships:**
  - ❖ 2009 - Malta
  - ❖ 2010 - Morocco
  - ❖ 2011 - Italy
  - ❖ 2012 - Egypt
  - ❖ 2013 - Portugal
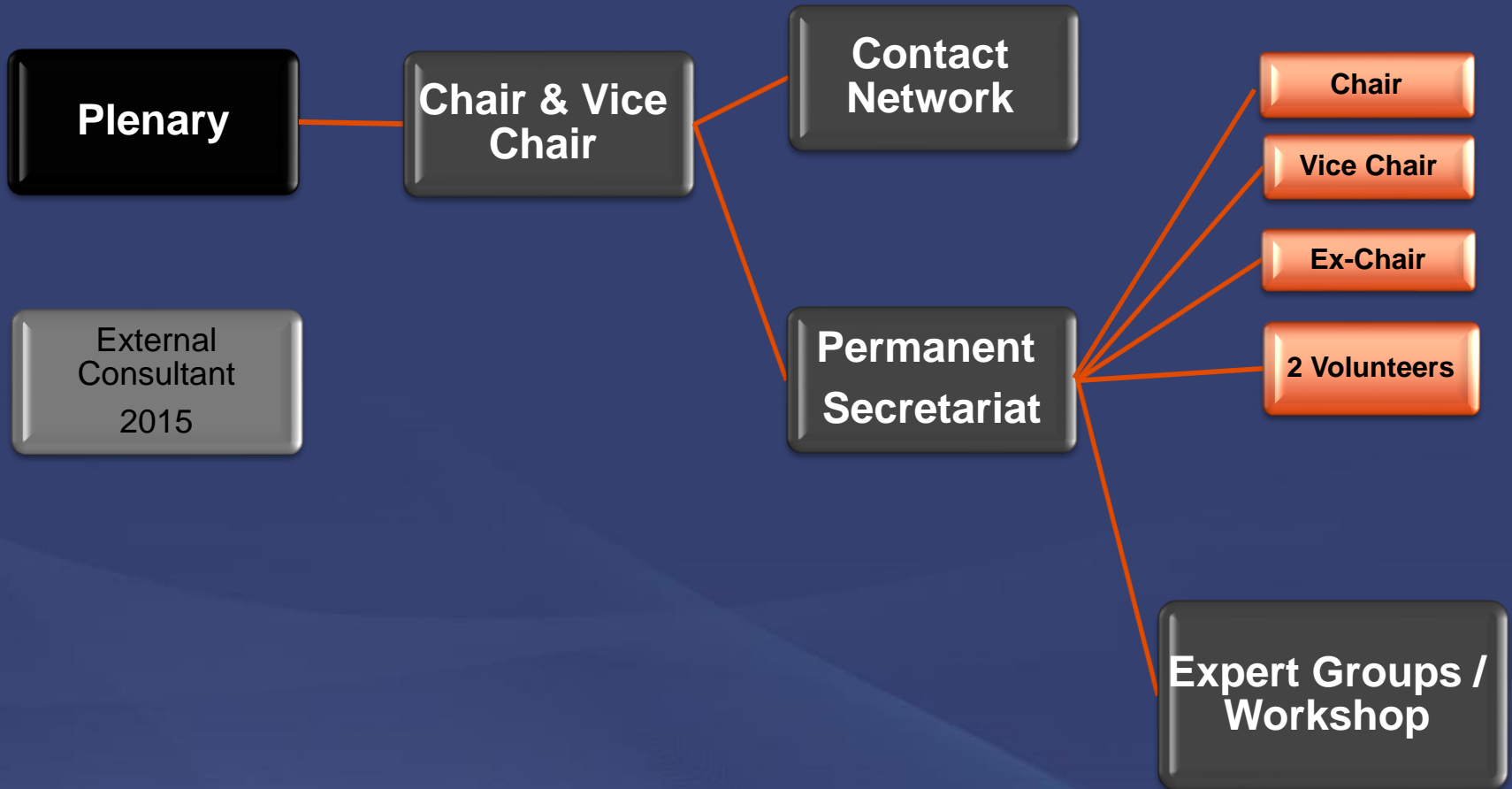 - ❖ 2014 - Jordan
  - ❖ Next 2015 - Spain

OBJECTIVES

- The members of EMERG commit themselves to improving relations and fostering cooperation amongst them by:

- **Regulatory platform** to share expertise, know-how and best practices, discussing up-to-date challenges facing both European and Southern countries;

- Establish stronger ties between member countries to further **bridge the gap between European and non-European members**, and create an **environment of trust** within the region;

OBJECTIVES

- **Promote sound regulatory practices** and pave the way for a healthy electronic communications investment environment among members;

- Attempt to **approximate the regulatory framework of both regions;**

- Facilitate the **cooperation with international organizations**, other regulatory groups and sector experts.

STRUCTURE

2013 ACTIVITIES

EMERG 2013 activities included 8 events

MEETING		SUBJECT	WHERE AND WHEN
Annual Plenary Meeting			Jordan, January/ February'14
Contact Network/ Benchmarking and Planning meeting (BPC)			Jordan, December'13
6 Workshops / WG			
	Enhanced approximation	Universal Service Obligations	Cairo, May'13
		Cost Orientation Methodologies	Vienna, July'13
		Enforcement Powers and Impact of Judicial Review Systems (Joint workshop with BEREC)	Brussels, November'13
	Regulatory Cooperation	New Generation Access Regulations	Nicosia, April'13
		Number Portability	Istanbul, September'13
		Mobile Virtual Network Operators	Barcelona, October'13

2013 ACTIVITIES…….

Main Results:

- EMERG 2013 Benchmark report

- EMERG 2013 Annual Report

- Report on the 2013 workshops

- Memorandum of Understanding between EMERG & BEREC

- Access to Bilateral Assistance Report 2013

2014 WORK PROGRAMME

Based on the Plenary Assembly meeting in Amman:

1.Enhancing approximation, One way of bringing about this approximation is to organize Expert Groups/workshops where members address a specific subject, presenting their perspectives and difficulties and, where possible, prepare agreements and/or decisions to amend the legal or regulatory frameworks of the participating members as necessary.

Priority areas: Broadband service regulation, and Regulatory, decision making processes and transparency.

2014 WORK PROGRAMME

2. Increasing regulatory cooperation, achieved through the circulation of questionnaires at CN level and by organizing thematic workshops, as a way to explore new developments in electronic communications markets and their impact on the implementation of regulation.

Priority areas: Investigative powers and methods, and FTTH regulatory policies update.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

EMERG 2014 activities include planning 6 events

MEETING		SUBJECT	WHERE AND WHEN
Annual Plenary Meeting			Spain, January/ February'15
Contact Network/ Benchmarking and Planning meeting (BPC)			Spain, November/ December'14
4 Workshops / WG			
	Enhanced approximation	Broadband service regulation	**Amman**, June'14
		Regulatory and decision making process and transparency	TBD,'14
	Regulatory Cooperation	Investigative powers and methods	TBD, '14
		FTTH regulatory policies update	**Cairo**, September, '14

STRENGTHENING EMERG

EMERG will remain fully committed to reinforcing its internal structure by focusing on its structural consolidation and external visibility, through:

- **An improved communication strategy**
  Aimed at internal and external users, EMERG will ensure that the website will be kept updated and objective, and will keep on maintaining and publishing EMERG online newsletter.

- **An active cooperation policy with other entities**
  Efforts will be focused on the development of cooperation policy with other entities, specifically other groups of regulators such as :

      - cooperation between BEREC and EMERG which were
       formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in
       2014.

STRENGTHENING EMERG

- Participation at the 2014 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR'14) and on other sector events were found important to EMERG, establishment of contacts with other Regulator Groups, such as REGULATEL (Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulators), ARCTEL-CPLP (Association of Communications and Telecommunications Regulators of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries), EaP (Eastern European Countries Partnership), AREGNET (Arab Regulators Network).

- Assure selective institutional contacts with the European Commission and with other sector entities, operators networks such as SAMENA Telecommunications Council

CONTACTS

- For any further information about any of EMERG document or activities, visit EMERG website at:
  www.emergonline.org

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Thank You!