

# GSR-2020 Regional Regulatory Roundtable Discussion for Europe and CIS:

## Regulation for Digital Transformation

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# Euro-Mediterranean Regulatory Group - EMERG

- Established 1 June 2008 in Malta and includes the Electronic-communications regulators of the Mediterranean countries.
- Currently - 23 members, EU Members, MENA Countries and Non-EU countries

## **Objectives:**

- Acting as a forum for regulatory discussions and exchanges of information;
- Promoting approximation to the European regulatory framework and best practices;
- Monitoring the development of the electronic communications in the Mediterranean area;
- Facilitating cooperation and exchange of ideas and expertise with international organizations, other regulatory networks and sector experts;

## Structure

- 2012 – new Charter adopted, introducing a formal membership
- Plenary Assembly and the Contact Network meeting (yearly)
- EMERG Chairman, Vice-Chairman (rotation).
- Permanent Secretariat - current, former and future EMERG Chairs, heads of 2 working groups and two volunteering NRAs.
- Communications Officer (AGCOM)

### Approximation with the EU

Two working groups: Net Neutrality & International Roaming.

**International Roaming:** major strategy - to promoting a regional agreement, to allowing affordable cross -border communications in the IoT era.

High importance and focus, strongly supported by the commission.

## Collaboration During the COVID-19 pandemic

- Sharing information and best practices among EMERG member countries in order to improve the crisis management ( initiated by ANACOM, Portugal).
- Exchanging information with additional regional platforms as BEREC, EaPeReg, REGULATEL and individual NRAS.
- **Common practices among EMERG Members** (taken by regulators and/or voluntarily by operators, changes from one country to another):
  - Promoting multi-sectoral collaboration
  - Ensuring access to e-education platforms
  - Increasing internet speed/volumes
  - Changing the operators' licenses terms and provisions
  - Monitoring the level and quality of service
  - Improving the coverage in underserved areas

# COVID-19 Management in Israel

- Establishing a control center dedicated to monitoring the effects of the pandemic
- Granting providers additional spectrum to support increased broadband usage
- Extending the 5G tender deadlines
- Suspending number portability
- Supporting underserved populations and establishing new mobile sites
- “Covid-19 Crisis Management” webinar was virtually hosted by the MoC and saw the participation of several head of NRAs, mostly from EU countries (Italy, Ireland, Greece, Latvia, Slovakia) and Brazil
- Functional continuity and resilience of telecom networks and services – considering the challenges Israel is facing - it has value added experience

## Conclusions - The Day After the Covid-19 Crisis

- The telecommunications sector will be “benefited” with greater opportunities due to the growth in demand, accelerated deployment of infrastructure, the vast use of digital platforms, etc.
- National investment in telecommunications infrastructure – additional incentives for “fiber to the periphery” plan, and the 5G tender.
- Increased multi-sectoral coordination.
- Improving the regulatory systems for better management of future national crises.
- Creating better inter-governmental and regional collaboration during crisis management
- Using AI tools and solutions to coping with the challenges regarding the data.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

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