



EMERG – EAPeREG - REGULATEL MEETING

CONNECTING REGIONS

ELEMENTS TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY OF REGIONAL PLATFORMS

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL | JUNE 1, 2017

COMMON STATEMENT

The Euro-Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG), the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg) and the Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulators (REGULATEL) held a joint high level meeting in Cascais, on June 1st, 2017, organized by the Spanish National Authority for Markets and Competition (CNMC) and hosted by the Portuguese National Communications Authority (ANACOM).

This meeting aimed at discussing the elements to improve the sustainability of regional platforms. In this context, the representatives from the different regulators networks recalled that:

1. We are living in a world which is increasingly becoming complex and global, where the major challenges are more and more similar in several countries and in the different fields, such as in the electronic communications sector, where Regulators cooperate both regionally and globally to address the challenges posed by the cross-border nature of the digital ecosystem.
2. The cooperation amongst Regulators, active in different regions of the world, EMERG in Southern Europe, North Africa and Middle East, EaPeReg in the Eastern Europe and REGULATEL in Latin America, answers to the need to tackle these challenges in a synergic way, showing the value of sharing expertise and solutions to common and global challenges.
3. The creation and the activities of EMERG, REGULATEL and EaPeReg do not stem from a formal and mandatory legislation but depend mainly on the voluntary

membership and participation of the national Regulators in the different regions. The European Commission has supported in several ways the creation and the operation of these networks of Regulators, providing with a privileged platform for cooperation amongst regulators within the Mediterranean, Latin American and European Eastern regions and between these and their counterparts in the European Union.

4. However, as the funding support by the European Commission is, in some cases, due to expire (EMERG and EaPeReg) or has already expired (REGULATEL), these platforms will seek to identify proper means for their self- sustainability.
5. Against this backdrop, the participants discussed some of the topics in common to the relevant platforms, such as:
 - Scope and governance of the platforms;
 - Legal, institutional and financial issues;
 - Working plans and working topics;
 - Mid-term strategies;
 - International representation and cooperation;
 - Communication activities and visibility.
6. The participants recognized that all the platforms produced clear benefits, including:
 - Promoting the approximation of the regulatory frameworks, which foster an investment friendly environment in the electronic communications sector in all the regions;
 - Fostering the independence of regulators;
 - Improving the exchange of knowledge and networking between peer experts;
 - Sharing best practices and contributing to benchmarks, which may result in the improvement of regulatory frameworks or methodologies, by means of tailored recommendations;
 - Contributing to projects, which may be accomplished further by means of bilateral cooperation;
 - Developing cooperation activities and adding to Regulators visibility.
7. All delegates showed commitment to support the platforms of Regulators in their respective regions. An open and constructive discussion took place with the aim to identify the most appropriate tools to create stable structures that will ensure long-term governance as well as allow delivering continued and relevant results,

- with or without the financial support of the European Commission, as EMERG has already done in the past and REGULATEL is doing at present.
8. It was therefore confirmed that all three platforms see benefits in their respective operation, this constituting the key driver to ensure their sustainability. All delegates nonetheless showed appreciation for the European Commission's continued role as a facilitator and supporter of the ongoing cooperation process, and recognized that such a role has been supportive to lay the foundations of the different platforms, to ensure their running over the last years and to provide the basis for an open dialogue on regulatory issues, thus facilitating the dissemination of best practices and fostering the coherence between the regulatory frameworks of the EU and the three regions concerned.
 9. EMERG and EaPeReg delegates, in particular, clearly affirmed that, without the current support of the EU Commission, the achievements attained since their establishment would have been impossible.
 10. While showing a strong commitment to find innovative solutions to keep up the synergic cooperation in an autonomous and sustainable way, the delegates expressed their desire to continue the privileged and fruitful dialogue with the European Commission, aiming at exchanging views with the European institutions, and in particular with BEREC, on regulatory issues of common interest.
 11. Finally, it was recognized the benefit of having this meeting, which contributed to promote the needed regulatory dialogue, enabling the three platforms to meet and to identify common features and challenges. Based on this particular experience, other or similar initiatives may be developed in the future, with a view to maintaining cooperation among the three platforms, such as sharing basic information as their annual work plans and / or medium-term strategies.

Cascais, June 1st, 2017.


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