

BEREC calendar of international activities and events in 2022

10 March 2022

Introduction

The [BEREC Strategy 2021-25](#)¹ recognises the growing convergence of issues in the field of electronic communications faced worldwide as well as the increasing global nature of electronic communications networks and services. Such trends imply that policies, legislation and regulation must be seen from a more global perspective.

As acknowledged by this Strategy, BEREC has benefited since its establishment from the cooperation with NRAs and with other international regulatory networks, policymakers and institutions involved in communications matters based beyond the EU.

This cooperation has been systematized and strengthened in 2021 by means of BEREC [medium-term strategy for international cooperation](#)² (hereinafter, IC MTS). The IC MTS addresses the need to establish and maintain relationships with external parties related to the execution of BEREC's tasks and evaluates BEREC's international commitments explaining in a detailed and transparent manner what type of cooperation and engagement could be envisaged with each of its international partners. In line with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1971, the IC MTS is considered when drafting BEREC international activities in the multi-annual Working Programmes.

In 2022 BEREC will gradually implement the IC MTS, in line with Union policy and priorities. A team has been set up to support the chair and outgoing chair in maintaining an active relation with the external bodies mentioned in the MTS and is developing a calendar of international events in 2022 relevant for BEREC's work. This calendar should be a tool to proactively plan and assign the necessary resources for the year 2022. By the end of the year, an indicative calendar of events for 2023 will be presented at CN and the BoR

Calendar of international activities and events

The public deliverable of the work program 2022 is a calendar of international activities and events relevant for BEREC. The calendar gives a general overview (here below) containing short description of each BEREC partner organization in a grey box and major activities relevant for BEREC. **A calendar of events 2022 relevant for BEREC is in the Annex.**

At the time of publication of this calendar, there are still many meetings and activities TBC/TBD. Therefore it is an indicative calendar. Most of the events in the calendar are based on the work programmes of the international partners, on items covered by signed MoUs, or agreed at previous bilateral meetings. In some cases the information stems from BEREC members who are also members of EaPeReg or EMERG .

Since the finalization of this document, BEREC has increased its engagement with Ukraine's telecom regulator, the National Commission of Electronic Communications, NCEC, through bi-lateral cooperation

In order to facilitate contacts with other organisations and to increase transparency, **1 general e-mail address has been established (international@berec.europa.eu).**

¹ BEREC Strategy 2021 – 2025, BoR (20) 108, 16.06.2020

² BEREC's Medium-Term Strategy for international cooperation for the period 2022-2025 BoR (21) 135, 05.10.2021

Background EU international activities

BEREC's international activities are undertaken in the broader context of, and in line with, EU international activities. BEREC may or may not be involved in these activities. In early 2021, the Commission has proposed, in a Communication welcomed by the European Council, to set up a **Digital Compass** to translate the EU's digital ambitions for 2030 into concrete targets based on four cardinal points: digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and of public services. This document also addressed external actions on digital matters. On secure and performant sustainable digital infrastructures in particular, Europe's digital leadership and global competitiveness depend on strong internal and external connectivity and should also inform international engagement. Corresponding partnerships and other engagements, which inform BEREC international activities, notably include:

- Broadband rollout with partners in the **Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership**.
- Europe will be linked to its partners in the **Neighbourhood and Africa**, including via terrestrial and submarine cables and a secure constellation of satellites.
- Implementation of the **EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy** via new Connectivity Partnerships with **India and ASEAN**.
- **Digital Partnership with Latin America & the Caribbean**; launch of connectivity component of the Digital Alliance with Latin America & the Caribbean, building on the BELLA Cable.
- The **EU-US Trade and Technology Council**, set up to develop compatible standards, deepen research collaboration, promote fair competition and ensure the security of critical supply chains.
- The EU will contribute to common solutions such as the ongoing work at the **G20 and the OECD**.
- The Commission will design and propose digital economy packages that draw on the toolbox and will be financed through **Team Europe Initiatives**, to address the **digital gap** in partner countries, with **particular attention to Africa**.
- The **Global Gateway**, the new EU strategy for Connectivity launched in December 2021, will promote sustainable, secure, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity based on extensive engagement with partners.
- **Connectivity partnerships** with **Japan** (Sep 2019) and **India** (May 2021) and potential digital partnerships to come with likeminded countries, starting with **Singapore** and the **Republic of Korea** this year.
- A **partnership for digital transformation**, with **Africa**, focussing on **skills** through education and training opportunities, investment in key enabling sustainable **infrastructure, regulatory cooperation** and convergence, including strengthening personal data protection, as well as increasing secure data flows and cooperation on artificial intelligence and the **digitalisation of public administration**.

The **French Presidency of the Council** of the EU is taking action in articulation with this strategy in 2022, including the Trade & technology Council (TTC) next summit in spring, the African Union – EU Summit on 17-18 February 2022 (including connectivity topics), the next International Telecommunication Union plenipotentiary conference which will take place in Bucharest in October, and continued cooperation within G7 and G20 year, in particular on Green IT & ICT for Green initiatives.

EaPeReg

[EaPeReg](#), - the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network is the network of NRAs of the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).

Regular contacts have been established between EaPeReg and BEREC both at the expert level (mainly between the roaming working groups) and at high level.

An MoU has been signed with EaPeReg in 2014 ([BoR\(14\)125](#)) and a new one in October 2019 ([BoR\(19\)196](#)).([BoR\(19\)196](#)).

2022 EaPeReg Activities

2022 is a very important year for EaPeReg. Not only are they going to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the network, but two crucial regional agreements will most probably be signed among the countries – the Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA), enabling the establishment of common roaming space in EaP, and the Regional Spectrum Agreement (RSA), facilitating the clearance of 5G pioneer bands.

2022 BEREC-EaPeReg cooperation

BEREC will acknowledge these important moments and participate at the relevant high-level events, represented by the chair and vice-chairs.

At expert level, collaboration between BEREC Roaming WG co-chairs and the EaPeReg REWG chair is foreseen. The cooperation will touch above all the BEREC benchmarking practices related to roaming. Meetings of the Roaming WG were planned to be organized at the same time as two important BEREC events – one in Dublin coinciding with the BEREC CN2 and one in Salzburg coinciding with the BEREC PL3.

A joint public event of BEREC and EaPeReg is planned to be held in Riga to take place in Q3 2022 (probably in November). Prior to this event, the BEREC Office will organize a more technical workshop to share working experiences and support mechanism best practices.

BEREC PL4 will be held in Prague just after the plenary meeting of EaPeReg. BEREC will also be represented at the EaPeReg event. The chairs from BEREC members traditionally involved in EaPeReg will take part. A short intervention by the BEREC chair is envisaged.

EMERG

The European Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG) established in 2008, lays in the ideals and principles of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation set out in the Barcelona Declaration of November 28, 1995. Currently, EMERG is integrated by the NRAs of 23 countries³ from the Mediterranean region and from EU. EMERG is an open platform, with the possibility to give the full Membership to countries upon request.

The Plenary is the decision-making body assisted by the Contact Network. On an annual basis, the Plenary appoints its Chair and vice-chairs. For 2022, the Israeli Ministry for Communications (MOC) has

³ Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tunisia and Turkey.

been appointed as the EMERG Chair. EMERG executes its activities through several Expert Working Groups that work on specific topics outlined in the EMERG Work Plan.

Cooperation was formally established in 2012, with the first contacts that aimed at establishing an institutional framework targeting the organization of activities that contributed to the expert information sharing on subjects of common interest. In December 2020, BEREC adopted a Decision (BoR/2020/05) to extend the MoU between the two parties which had been originally signed in 2014.

2022 EMERG Activities

The EMERG 2021-2022 Work Programme considers BEREC as a key-driver element for EMERG, and the plan for cooperation throughout 2022 is expected to include workshops, thematic webinars and further information sharing via participation in surveys and sharing of reports between the two bodies. EMERG is expected to hold its annual Contact Network and Plenary Meetings around March and April respectively.

2022 BEREC-EMERG Cooperation

The current MoU encourages a cooperative relationship between the parties that supports the parties' respective efforts to address current and future regulatory challenges in both the Southern Mediterranean region and Europe.

As per the current MoU, cooperative activities, may include, but not limited to; EMERG-BEREC annual meetings, joint working groups and workshops; participation in meetings of BEREC and EMERG and the exchange of information.

REGULATEL

[Regulatel](#) - the Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulators. Established in 1998, Regulatel has provided support to the NRA for the development of the telecommunications markets within the region and the EU for over 20 years. Its main objectives are to exchange information on the regulatory framework of each administration and to harmonize the rules and activities of regulatory authorities in order to contribute to greater identification and defence of regional interests and the adoption of positions at international level.

The forum is currently composed by the NRAs of 23 countries⁴, including three EU Member States (Spain, Portugal and Italy).

The cooperation of BEREC with REGULATEL is currently based on a [MoU](#)⁵ signed in November 2019.

This agreement formalizes a long history of cooperation between the European and Latin-American regulators from the first IRG-Regulatel Summit, held in Madrid in 2002, that was inherited by BEREC after its establishment. In 2022, we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of this interrupted dialogue.

⁴ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

⁵ https://bereg.europa.eu/eng/document_register/subject_matter/bereg/download/0/8952-memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-0.pdf

2022 Regulatel Activities

The main activities foreseen in the MoU are, at technical level, the joint BEREC-Regulatel working group annual meetings and, at the Heads level, the annual BEREC-Regulatel Summit. The BEREC Chair and Vicechairs are also invited to participate in Regulatel's Plenaries. In addition to the annual physical meetings other activities are organised on a case-by-case basis.

The 2022 work programme⁶ foresees the establishment of working groups⁷ with different deliverables. These working groups convene an annual physical meeting in Cartagena de Indias. These meetings have counted with the participation of BEREC members during the last ten years.

Regulatel serves equally as a platform to circulate **questionnaires** to gather information on regulatory issues from all members. It also delivers and **annual report**⁸ of its activities.

2022 BEREC- Regulatel Cooperation

Collaboration with Regulatel will be consolidated following the finalisation of Regulatel's calendar of events for 2022. However, in view of the MoU, BEREC already foresees participation in the following events:

- Joint working group meeting foreseen for March
- BEREC-Regulatel Summit which most probably will be organised in June
- Regulatel Plenary which is foreseen for November
- Celebrations of the 20th anniversary of cooperation Regulatel/European Regulators

MWC and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)'s Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) (possibly also other ITU events) might be good opportunities for meeting with Regulatel high level representatives.

⁶ 2022 work programme: <https://regulatel.org/w/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Plan-anual-de-trabajo-2022-Regulatel-Vf.pdf>

⁷ Working groups of End Users, on Indicators, on Institutional strengthening, Internet matters, innovative regulation and of gender Parity

⁸ The 2019 annual report is available here: http://regulatel.org/w/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/INFORME_DE_GESTION_REGULATEL_2019%20VF.pdf

ITU

[ITU](#) is the UN Specialized Agency for telecommunications/ICT, aiming to facilitate global international connectivity in communications networks.

ITU has three main areas of activity organized in 'Sectors': Radiocommunications - dealing primarily with allocation of global radio spectrum and satellite orbits; Standardization - developing the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect; Development - striving to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

'Policy and Regulation' is one of the thematic priorities/areas of work within the Development sector. It is the framework for the ITU activities that are most relevant for BEREC, namely the Global Symposium of Regulators ([GSR](#)) that has been organized annually since 2000.

A Regulatory Associations (RA) meeting has been organized since 2003 as a side event to GSR, with the aim of providing the opportunity to discuss, to exchange information and to build bridges towards better and more active cooperation between the RA in the various regions. BEREC leadership has participated in these RA meetings since 2018.

2022 ITU Activities

GSR22 main session is scheduled to take place in November, but exact dates, theme and venue/format are not publicly known yet.

A GSR preparatory regional meeting for Europe may take place in late June or early July.

2022 will be a very busy year in terms of high-level events in ITU, as two of its major conferences were postponed from previous years, due to the Covid19 pandemic. The following events will take place:

- World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), 1-9 March (Geneva)
- World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), 6-16 June 2022 (Kigali, Rwanda)
- Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), 26 September-14 October (Bucharest).

However, BEREC is not directly represented as a party in these meetings. During WTDC, there will be high-level roundtables, involving multiple stakeholders, aiming to adopt outputs on specific themes (TBD). BEREC will investigate the possibility of participating in the roundtables focusing on regulatory matters.

While BEREC is not directly involved in the Plenipotentiary, the PP might also be a good opportunity for BEREC's involvement, e. g. in possible side events or policy sessions, given that the host country is an EU member.

Direct involvement by BEREC in WTSA is not expected.

The ITU events in general may provide good opportunities for scheduling meetings with BEREC's international partners.

CEPT

[CEPT](#) - European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations was established in 1959 and today 48 countries are members. CEPT has 3 Committees: ECC (Electronic Communications Committee) – dealing with spectrum engineering (SE), radio frequencies management (FM), numbering (NaN) and preparation for ITU World Radiocommunications Conference (CPG); Com-ITU – managing the preparation of Europe region for high level ITU conferences other than WRC (WTSA, WTDC and PP); and CERP - Committee for Postal Regulation – managing the preparation of Europe region for UPU events.

BEREC has most recently cooperated with the Numbering and networks (NaN) WG with regards to the task envisaged by Article 109 of the EECC – maintaining the database of E.164 numbers of Member State emergency services.

Some BEREC members are actively involved in CEPT activities. Mostly, relevant ministries are also involved or play even a major role.

2022 CEPT Activities

CEPT has a wide range of activities which are tightly connected with the ITU calendar of high-level events mentioned above. BEREC members have diverging level of participation in the CEPT activities and events.

Direct involvement of BEREC in these meetings is not expected so far.

PRIDA

The Africa-EU Partnership is the formal political channel through which the European Union (EU) and the African continent work together, engage in political and policy dialogues and define their cooperative relationship. This partnership strives to bring Africa and Europe closer together through strengthening economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development. Against this backdrop, the two partners are determined to work together on a strategic, long-term footing to develop a shared vision for EU-Africa relations in a globalised world.

The Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) programme is a project under the broader umbrella of The Africa-EU Partnership, which aims to foster universally accessible and affordable broadband across the continent, in order to unlock future benefits of internet-based services. Its specific objective is to create a more harmonised and enabling legal and regulatory framework for the use of ICT for social and economic development, with an emphasis on boosting the spectrum market across Africa.

In 2020 and 2021, in support of PRIDA, BEREC held workshops with representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC), the EU Commission and the four African Regional Associations of Regulators ([ARTAC](#), [CRASA](#), [EACO](#), [WATRA](#)). At the initial workshop the parties exchanged information on the structure and working modalities of each organization, with additional input from representatives from EaPeReg, Regulatel and EMERG. At the follow up workshops, the four RARs identified topics of interest, drawn from previous BEREC work programmes, which would be the topics for future joint working group discussions (workshops) between BEREC and representatives from the African **NRAs**, which would be recruited through their RARs.

2022 BEREC-PRIDA Activities

BEREC is committed to supporting PRIDA by participating in four workshops/working groups on the following topics:

- Pricing Regulation
- Quality of Services
- Consumer Protection with Focus on New Services
- Market analysis / Competition policies

BEREC is awaiting information from the AUC, which is co-ordinating inputs from the African RARs about potential dates for the workshops and the number of attendees from the African NRAs. There has been a long delay in receiving feedback about the next steps and, therefore, it is difficult to estimate the timing for these events.

Bilateral cooperation

Potential engagements for the respective organisations in 2022:

- **FCC**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable in the United States of America (in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories). As an independent U.S. government agency overseen by US Congress, the Commission is the United States' primary authority for communications law, regulation and technological innovation.

An MoU between the FCC and BEREC was signed in July 2018 and automatically renews each year.

Exchanges between the BIPT Vice-Chair's team and FCC staff are ongoing to arrange a meeting between members of the Miniboard/Troika and the recently confirmed FCC Chair, Jessica Rosenworcel, in the margins of the MWC on 1 March 2022.

- **CRTC**

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is an administrative tribunal that regulates and supervises broadcasting and telecommunications in the public interest. The CRTC is mandated by the Parliament of Canada, to focus on achieving the policy objectives established in Canada's Broadcasting Act, Telecommunications Act and anti-spam legislation (CASL)

An MoU between the CRTC & BEREC was first signed in 2018 and an update has been agreed, approved by EU Commission and is ready to be signed, once an in-person meeting between the Chairs of both organisations is possible

Chairman Scott was scheduled to travel to Plenary in Stockholm in December 2021 to have an "in-person" signing of the MoU with the BEREC Chair but ultimately had to cancel. While a virtual signing is possible, the sentiment last December was that Chairman Scott intended to reschedule his visit to Europe in 2022.

There is a possibility that Chairman Scott may travel to Europe for the IIC's Brussels Telecommunications & Media Forum (TMF) 2022, which is scheduled for Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 March 2022. Attendance at this event would afford the opportunity for Chairman Scott to meet with members of the Troika/Miniboard/BoR and allow for the signing of the MoU. However, current Canadian government travel restrictions preclude non-essential international travel so it cannot be certain that Chairman Scott will attend.

If Chairman Scott does not attend the Brussels TMF, the next option to have an MoU signing ceremony is on the margins of the BEREC Plenary meeting in Cyprus from 9-10 June 2022.

- **TRAI**

BEREC and TRAI renewed an existing MoU (last signed in June 2018 which expired in June 2020) on 4 December 2020. This MoU represents an extension to the existing arrangements with limited updates.

The goal of this MoU is to encourage exchange of views between BEREC and TRAI on current and future regulatory challenges in both India and Europe, as well as to develop collegial working relationships between experts. In practice it means that bilateral meetings can be set up during international events like MWC, GSR, ITU PP-22 etc.

International activities planned by the BEREC Working Groups

The expert working groups have also included exchanges with international organisations in their plans for 2022, as follows:

- **End User Group**: In the framework of the workshop on Digital Divide, the group intends to establish contacts with ITU and possibly Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)...
- **Markets and Economic Analysis Group**: Currently, the group does not plan for any international activities, but this could change in the future. The group especially considers cooperating with the OECD, in the context of the PRDs on the Internet Ecosystems and the workshop on interoperability for NI-ICS.
- **International Roaming Group**: The group co-operates quite closely with EaPeReg (see section on EaPeReg) and are open to co-operation with EMERG upon any request from their side.
- **Planning and Future Trends Group**: The group plans contacts with FCC in the framework of the report on the impact of AI solutions in the telecoms sector on regulation.
- **Wireless Network Evolution Group**: The group intends to organize an "Open RAN Workshop" in 2022 and considers inviting, among others National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), EaPeReg, ITU and FCC.
- **Sustainability Group**: The EWG have cooperated and organised bilateral meetings with several organisations during 2021. Many of them have confirmed their continuous

interest to cooperate with BEREC on the topic. The group plans to update them about their relevant publications and continue contacts. The list includes UN Environment Programme (UNEP), ITU, International Energy Agency (IEA), OECD).

Miniboard study trip

The Miniboard study trip to the US will be postponed, due to current situation and restrictions caused by Covid19. Some planned meetings have been cancelled.

The study trip to the US will be organised in the second week of September (12-16) 2022. The vice Chair responsible for international cooperation will inform colleagues from the US about this proposal.

Annex : indicative calendar of events 2022 relevant for BEREC

| Date | Meeting | Venue | BEREC participation | Note |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| March/TBD | BEREC-Regulatel joint WG | TBD | WG co-chairs or experts | |
| 6 – 16 June | ITU WTDC | Kigali | BEREC Chair/Vice-chair | Participation in high-level roundtables |
| 16 - 17 June | EaPeReg 19th Plenary Meeting | Online | BEREC Chair | High-level |
| 31 st May | EMERG Plenary | Brussels (hybrid) | BEREC Chair | High-level |
| June/TBD | Regulatel-BEREC Summit | TBD | BEREC Chair/Vice-chair | |
| June/July/TBD | ITU-GSR European preparatory meeting | TBD | BEREC Chair/Vice-chair | Panel participation |
| September | study trip | US (TBC) | Miniboard: Heads + CN chair + outgoing CN chair | Postponed from February to September |
| 26 September – 14 October | PP-22 | Bucharest | | |
| November | ITU-GSR core meeting | TBD | BEREC Chair/Vice-chair | Panel participation |
| November/TBD | Regulatel Plenary | | BEREC Chair/Vice-chair | High-level |
| May / June 2022 | Online meeting between FCC and the PFT group | Online | PFT group | Expert level |
| Under discussion, for Q2 2022 | Open RAN workshop, coordinated by the WNE group | Online (to be confirmed) | Heads and WNE group | Possible invitation to NTIA, EaPeReg, ITU, FCC |
| June 2022 | Digital Divide workshop, coordinated by the EU group | June 2022 Plenary | Heads workshop | Consideration to invite representatives from ITU and/ or OECD. |
| 31 May 2022 | EaPeReg 10 th anniversary event | TBC | BEREC chair/Vice-chair | High level |
| 6-7 October 2022 | 13 th REWG meeting and thematic WS with BEREC | Salzburg, Austria | Co-chairs of the IR group, others TBC | expert level |
| November 2022 | BEREC-EaPeReg Workshop | Riga, Latvia | WG co-chairs or experts | Expert level |
| 7 December 2022 | EaPeReg 20th Plenary Meeting + TBC EaPeReg 10th anniversary celebration | Prague | BEREC Chair/Vice-chair | High-level |

