

Decision No MB/2023/06
of the Management Board of the Agency for Support for BEREC
(‘BEREC Office’) on the approval of application of Multi-factor
Authentication (MFA) for accessing BERECNet+

The Management Board of the BEREC Office,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/1971 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and the Agency for Support for BEREC (‘BEREC Office’), amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009¹, and in particular Articles 23 (1) and 24 (7) thereof;

Having regard to Rules of Procedure of the Management Board of the BEREC Office², and in particular to Article 12 thereof;

Having regard to Single Programming Document of the Activities of the Agency for Support for BEREC (‘BEREC Office’) for the period 2023-2025³, and in particular Section III, point 2.3 thereof;

Whereas:

The BEREC Office has the task to collect information from NRAs and exchange and transmit information in relation to the regulatory tasks assigned to BEREC;

The BEREC Office should establish a common information and communication system to facilitate communications between all authorities involved in the work of BEREC;

In order to improve communication and collaboration amongst BEREC members, in 2014 BEREC Office developed BERECnet as a collaborative platform based on SharePoint online for exchange of documents and information between the BEREC members and observers;

BERECnet has functioned up to now as an internal IT system aimed at sharing information and facilitating collaboration between NRAs, BEREC Office and European Commission by

¹ OJ L 321, 17.12.2018, p. 1–35 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1575289447726&uri=CELEX:32018R1971>;

² MB (19) 108, Rules of Procedure on the operation of Expert Networking Groups, 06 December 2019;

³ MB (22) 81, [Single Programming Document of the Activities of the Agency for Support for BEREC \(‘BEREC Office’\) for the period 2023-2026, 14 December 2022](#).

guaranteeing a quick flow of information between users and the timely and security management of different kind of information;

Art. 41 of the BEREC Regulation requires that the BEREC Office shall establish and manage an information and communication system with at least the following functions: (a) a common platform for the exchange of information, providing BEREC, the Commission and NRAs with the necessary information for the consistent implementation of the Union regulatory framework for electronic communications; (b) a dedicated interface for requests for information and notification of those requests as referred to in Article 40, for access by BEREC, the BEREC Office, the Commission and NRAs; (c) a platform for early identification of the need for coordination between NRAs;

Despite the fact that a valid NRA e-mail address is needed to gain access to the BERECNet+, the Internal Audit Services (IAS) noted that the access does not require a two-factor authentication⁴, which is a standard practice in most organisations nowadays (e.g. the European Commission). The two-factor authentication provides more secure access to the system and there are different technical solutions available for that purpose.

The IAS identified a risk that inadequate monitoring of BERECNet+ access rights may lead to information being shared with unauthorised NRA personnel, which may ultimately negatively impact the reputation of the BEREC Office. The lack of two way authentication increases the risk of unauthorised access to the system and may lead to a leak of confidential information, which in turn could result in reputational risks for the BEREC Office.

The BEREC Office Experts Networking Group on ICT and the BEREC Office designated staff members were called on analysing and assessing possible improvements of BERECNet+ access through the introduction of the Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) in order to keep a high level of data and information security.

⁴ A two-factor authentication is an extra layer of security used to make sure that people trying to gain access to an online account are who they say they are.

Has adopted the following decision:

Article 1

- (1) The Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) shall be implemented for accessing BERECNet by sending the MFA code via the corporate emails of the users.
- (2) The deadline for implementation of the MFA shall be 29 February 2024.
- (3) The expenses of the implementation of the MFA shall not exceed EUR 25.000,-

Article 2

The Director of the BEREC Office shall be responsible for the execution of this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done at Athens on 10 March 2023.

For the Management Board

**Prof. Konstantinos Masselos
Chairperson**