

BEREC indicative calendar of international activities and events in 2023

10 March 2023

Introduction

The BEREC strategy 2021-25¹ 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 has initiated all necessary steps to implement the IC MTS, in line with Union policy and priorities. The International team, set up to support the chair and outgoing chair in maintaining an active relation with the external bodies mentioned in the MTS, developed the first calendar of international events in 2022 relevant for BEREC's work. This calendar has been used as a tool to proactively plan and assign the necessary resources and to implement a series of activities throughout 2022.

This document builds on what has been achieved in 2022 and presents an indicative calendar of events for 2023.

Calendar of international activities and events

This document presents an indicative calendar of international activities and events relevant for BEREC in 2023. It is 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 in 2023 relevant for BEREC is in Annex II.**

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 .

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 international activities are undertaken in the broader context of, and in line with, EU international activities (in which BEREC may or may not be involved). 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 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:

- The Western Balkans digital agenda and broadband rollout with partners in the **Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership**.
- The **Global Gateway**, the EU strategy for Connectivity launched in December 2021, promotes sustainable, secure, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity based on extensive engagement with partners.
- As part of the EU's Global Gateway initiative, Europe will be linked to its partners in the **Neighbourhood and Africa**, including via terrestrial and submarine cables and a secure constellation of satellites.
- The Commission will design and propose digital economy packages focusing on safe connectivity, skills, digitalisation of business and governance, to be financed through **Team Europe Initiatives**, in order to address the **digital gap** in partner countries, with **particular attention to Africa**.
- Implementation of the Indo-Pacific and **EU-Asia Connectivity Strategies**.
- **Digital Partnerships** with likeminded countries in Asia: **Japan (spring 2022)**, **Singapore** and the **Republic of Korea** (by the end of 2022).
- **Digital alliance with Latin America & the Caribbean**; launch of connectivity component of the Digital Alliance with Latin America & the Caribbean, including on the extension of 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. EU digital diplomacy in the US has recently been strengthened with the opening of an EU office in San Francisco in September 2022.
- The EU will contribute to common solutions such as the ongoing work at the G7, **G20 and the OECD**.

EaPeReg

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

2023 EaPeReg Activities

In 2023 EaPeReg will focus on the finalisation and signing of the two crucial regional agreements – 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.

2023 BEREC-EaPeReg cooperation

At high level, BEREC will meet with EaPeReg at the planned 4-lateral summit to take place in Madeira in October 2023.

At expert level, continuing collaboration between BEREC Roaming WG and the EaPeReg REWG is foreseen. The cooperation will touch above all the BEREC benchmarking practices related to roaming. Cooperation is also foreseen with the other two EWGs of EaPeReg – with SEWG in focus on QoS monitoring and measurements and with IRB on NRA independence features.

EaPeReg is also invited to participate at BEREC workshops.

BEREC will also follow-up on events in Ukraine and keep close contact with NCEC on matters of regulatory cooperation and assistance.

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 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.

2023 EMERG Activities

No budget is set for EMERG in 2023, therefore next year may see the operation change to virtual mode.

2023 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.

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.

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.

In 2023, EMERG will be one of the counterparts at the 4-Lateral Summit in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal. The lack of funding may influence 4Lateral attendance from EMERG.

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.

2023 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 2023 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 an **annual report** of its activities.

2023 BEREC- Regulatel Cooperation

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

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

Collaboration with Regulatel will be consolidated following the finalisation of Regulatel's calendar of events for 2023. However, in view of the MoU, BEREC already foresees participation in the following events:

- Joint working group meeting BEREC-REGULATEL foreseen for April at the AECID training Centre in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. (location may change)
- Next year 2023 Regulatel will participate in the 4th Lateral Summit in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.
- Regulatel Plenary which is foreseen for December

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.

4-lateral summit 2023

As mentioned above, BEREC will meet with EaPeReg, EMERG and Regulatel, at the planned 4-lateral summit to take place at P3 in Madeira in October 2023.

The INT team will prepare the topics for the summit in cooperation with the regional partners. After the topics are finalized, a common declaration will also be prepared.

Regulatel has already been invited and is aware of the place and time, EMERG will be informed likely during their extraordinary Plenary in December. EaPeReg has also been informed.

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.

'Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment' is one of the 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.

2023 ITU Activities

GSR23 main session is scheduled to take place from 5-8 June 2023, in Sharm El-Sheik (Egypt). This ITU event, organised by the ITU Development Sector, aims to foster the interchange of regulatory experiences, provide an opportunity to share good regulatory practices and to look ahead for important issues on the regulation of electronic communications and address forthcoming challenges. The target audience for this event are NRA's, namely Presidents of the Board or directors for regulatory matters, external affairs and innovation, high-level government officials in charge of telecommunication public policies, private companies and other ICT sector stakeholders. The agenda or proposed themes for the 2023 symposium are not yet defined⁸. A GSR preparatory regional meeting for Europe may take place (with no date yet known).

After a very busy year in terms of high-level events in ITU, since three of its major conferences took place in 2022 (as they had to be postponed from previous years, due to the Covid19 pandemic), the major event in 2023 will be the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-23), in Dubai, from 20 November to 15 December. Direct involvement by BEREC in WRC is not expected. However, 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 46 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 – coordinating work of Europe region with the ITU (ITO Council, ITU-D and ITU-T) and 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.

2023 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.

Follow-up and information exchanges can be useful, but direct involvement of BEREC in CEPT meetings is not expected.

⁸ For updates on the event, regularly check the following link: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/gsr/gsr-23/>.

Cooperation with African regional organisations (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.

2023 BEREC Cooperation with African regional organisations (PRIDA) - Activities

The current PRIDA program is ending, formally in the spring 2023, but there are no ongoing activities. The current program of PRIDA is being evaluated. The International team will make efforts to be able to influence the new call and process ahead.

Next to PRIDA, a new partly EU-funded program on the regulatory capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa is under way with possibilities for EU/EEA-NRAs to be involved.

At this moment, it is difficult to estimate the timing for these events.

Bilateral cooperation

Potential engagements for the respective organisations in 2023:

- **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 renewed in September 2022

Building on the renewal of the MoU between the FCC and BEREC, the international team is examining a few possibilities for some future meetings between the FCC & BEREC along with some potential topics that could be of interest to both parties.

Possibilities to consider for 2023 include one high-level meeting, involving the FCC Chair/Commissioners and the BEREC Board of Regulators and a second more “operational level” meeting, which would involve members of the BEREC Contact Network (CN).

As regards, topics for discussion on a very preliminary basis, some broad digital issues including the topic of the Sending Party Network Pays (SPNP) seems to be of mutual interest on both sides of the Atlantic and might be a good topic for discussion at the CN-level meeting. Related to this is the challenge of promoting investment and roll-out of both fixed and mobile networks which might be a good topic for discussion at a “Heads-level” meeting.

To summarise two concrete proposals (TBD) are suggested for 2023:

- A CN-level back-to-back with the BEREC CN2 meeting in Paris, 11-12 May 2023, to discuss “SPNP/Fair share”
- A Heads-level meeting alongside P4 in Warsaw – 7-8 December 2023 to discuss “Investment & network rollout”

The International team will further examine the possibilities with FCC and BEREC internally and assure follow up as necessary.

• **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

Building on the renewal of the MoU between the FCC and BEREC in 2022, the international team will examine the possibilities for some future meetings between CTRC and BEREC in 2023

• **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, ITU-GSR etc.

International activities planned by the BEREC Working Groups

The expert working groups must consider exchanges with international organisations in their plans for 2023. The WG proposals for cooperation for 2023⁹:

WG CS: ENISA, NIS CG

WG DM: OECD, FCC

WG EU: ITU, OECD

WG SUS: ITU, ERGP, RSPG, EEA

WG WNE: RSPG, EUSPA, ECC CEPT, ESA

Miniboard study trip

The study trip in 2023 will be organised to South Korea. The vice Chair 2023, outgoing chair ACM responsible for international cooperation will coordinate with colleagues from South Korea.

⁹ Source: project requirement documents (PRDs).

Annex I: International team 2023

Name	NRA	Tasks	Contact details
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Annex II: indicative calendar of events 2023 relevant for BEREC

Date	Meeting	Venue	BEREC participation	Note
TBD	BEREC-EaPeReg Summit	TBD	BEREC Chair	High-level
TBD	EMERG Plenary	“virtual” TBD	BEREC Chair	High-level
27 February – 1 March	Bi-lateral meetings with FCC and TRAI	Mobile World Conference, Barcelona	Mini-BoR	
3-7 April	Study trip	South Korea	Mini-BoR	
17-19 April	BEREC-Regulatel joint WG	Montevideo, Uruguay	WG co-chairs or experts	Expert level
11-12 May (TBC)	Meeting between FCC and CN	CN2 Paris	CN	
June 5-8	ITU-GSR core meeting	Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt	BEREC Chair/Vice-chair	Panel participation
4 October	4-Lateral Summit	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	BEREC BoR, EaPeReg, Regulatel, EMERG	High-level
6 or 7 December (TBD)	meeting between FCC and BEREC BoR	Warsaw	FCC Chair, Commissioners - BEREC BoR	High-level
December	Regulatel Plenary	TBD	BEREC Chair/Vice-chair or experts	