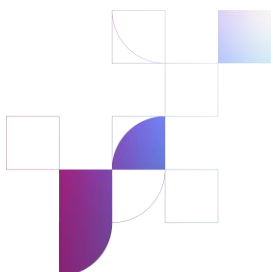


## **BEREC indicative calendar of international activities and events in 2024**

7 March 2024



## Introduction

The BEREC strategy 2021-25<sup>1</sup> 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](#)<sup>2</sup> (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 2024, BEREC will start its work for reviewing its three strategies (including the strategy for international relations) to set its objectives for the period 2026–2030 in view of the latest and expected relevant market, technological and regulatory developments for the next five years.

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. The same approach was followed during 2023

This document builds on what has been achieved in 2022 and 2023 and presents an indicative calendar of events for 2024.

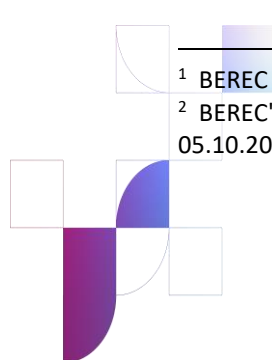
## Content of the document

This document presents an indicative calendar of international activities and events relevant for BEREC in 2024. 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 2024 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 .

<sup>1</sup> BEREC Strategy 2021 – 2025, BoR (20) 108, 16.06.2020

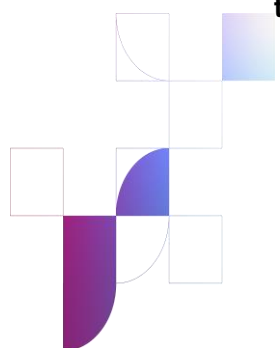
<sup>2</sup> BEREC's Medium-Term Strategy for international cooperation for the period 2022-2025 BoR (21) 135, 05.10.2021



## 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 vision for 2030 into concrete targets based on four cardinal points, now established in the [Digital Decade Policy Programme](#) (DDPP): digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and of public services. This Communication 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. The first [Report on the State of the Digital Decade](#) was presented by the Commission in September 2023. Corresponding partnerships and other engagements, which inform BEREC international activities, notably include:

- The Western Balkans digital agenda, the [new growth plan](#) for the Western Balkans 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 is designing 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**. Digital Economy Packages have been launched with Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya.
- Implementation of the Indo-Pacific and **EU-Asia Connectivity Strategies**.
- **Implementation of digital Partnerships** with likeminded countries in Asia: **Japan (spring 2022)**, **Singapore** (beginning of 2023) and the **Republic of Korea** (end of 2022).
- Digital Partnership with **Canada** established in November 2023.
- **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.
- The EU-India Trade and Technology Council launched in May 2023 as a coordination platform to address key trade, trusted technology and security challenges.
- The EU contributes to common solutions such as the ongoing work at the G7, **G20**, **the OECD, UNESCO and ITU**.



## Calendar of international activities and events

### **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).([BoR\(19\)196](#)).

### **2024 EaPeReg Activities**

EaPeReg, as a platform for cooperation of NRAs from the Eastern Partnership countries, has set out five pillars for its activity in which they are widely supported by the EU4Digital Facility:

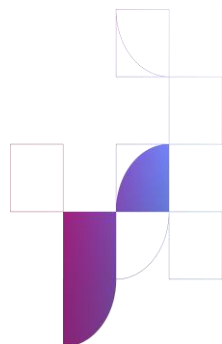
- Legislative approximation and fostering NRA independence
- Spectrum coordination
- Harmonisation of roaming tariffs
- Benchmarking studies
- Broadband development and mapping.

### **2024 BEREC-EaPeReg cooperation**

At high level, BEREC will participate in EaPeReg Plenary meetings at Mini-BoR level. EaPeReg has two plenary meetings in each year, with the first taking place in mid-May 2024 in Bucharest. The second plenary meeting will take place in November 2024 in Moldova.

At expert level, continuing collaboration between BEREC the three EaPeReg Expert Working Groups (EWGs) is foreseen. In particular, each of the EaPeReg EWG will hold two meetings each in 2024 (in April/May and September/October), in advance of the Plenary meetings. These EWG meetings are envisaged to include the following exchanges:

- BEREC's Wireless Network Evolution (WNE) WG will continue its cooperation with EaPeReg's Spectrum EWG to discuss topics of mutual interest.



- BEREC's Regulatory Framework (RF) and Market and Economic Analysis (MEA) WGs will continue to contribute to EaPeReg's Independence of Regulators and Broadband EWG (IRB EWG).
- BEREC's Roaming WG will assist EaPeReg's Roaming EWG (REWG).

In addition, EaPeReg will also be invited to participate at external BEREC workshops and BEREC experts might be invited to participate at workshops organised for EaPeReg under the EU's TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) instrument which is utilised to develop greater understanding on topics of particular interest, such as broadband mapping

## **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 countries<sup>3</sup> 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. 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.

## **2024 EMERG Activities**

No budget is set for EMERG in 2024, therefore the operation might change to virtual mode.

## **2024 BEREC-EMERG Cooperation**

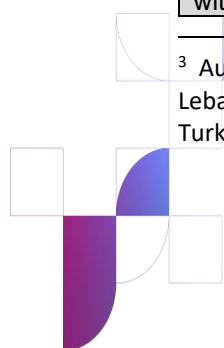
The current MoU encourages a cooperative relationship between the parties that supports the parties' respective efforts to address current and future regulatory challenges in both the Southern Mediterranean region and Europe.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.



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 countries<sup>4</sup>, including three EU Member States (Spain, Portugal and Italy).

The cooperation of BEREC with REGULATEL is currently based on a [MoU](#)<sup>5</sup> 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 celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this interrupted dialogue.

## 2024 Regulatel Activities

The 2024 work programme is based on the work of the working groups<sup>6</sup>. These working groups convene an annual physical meeting in Montevideo (Uruguay). 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.

## 2024 BEREC- Regulatel Cooperation

Collaboration with Regulatel will be consolidated following the finalisation of Regulatel's calendar of events for 2024. 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. BEREC is 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. For 2024 the following events are planned:

- Joint working group meeting BEREC-REGULATEL will take place from 9 to 12 April 2024 at the AECID training Centre in Montevideo (Uruguay).
- The BEREC-REGULATEL Summit will be held in June 2024. In 2024, this Summit will be held in Latin America and REGULATEL will be the host.
- Regulatel Plenary which is foreseen for December 2024

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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> [https://berec.europa.eu/eng/document\\_register/subject\\_matter/berec/download/0/8952-memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-0.pdf](https://berec.europa.eu/eng/document_register/subject_matter/berec/download/0/8952-memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-0.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Working groups of End Users, on Indicators, on Institutional strengthening, Internet matters, innovative regulation and of gender Parity



## 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.

## 2024 ITU Activities

### *GSR24*

**GSR24** main session is scheduled to take place in June 2024, place to be defined later. This 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 NRAs, namely Chairs 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 2024 symposium are yet not defined. A GSR preparatory regional meeting for Europe may take place (with no date yet known).

### *WTSA-24*

The **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly** is held every four years and defines the next period of study for ITU-T. **WTSA-24** is planned to take place from 15 to 24 October 2024 in **New Delhi, India**.

### *WSIS Forum 2024*

**WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event**, will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 to 31 May 2024.

The WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, an extended version of the WSIS Forum, will mark a significant milestone of twenty years of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in two phases



— Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005. Twenty years ago, WSIS set the framework for global digital cooperation with a vision to build a people-centric, inclusive, and development-oriented information and knowledge societies. It will serve as a platform aiming to review the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, in particular as outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action of 2003, under the mandates of participating UN agencies.

## **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.

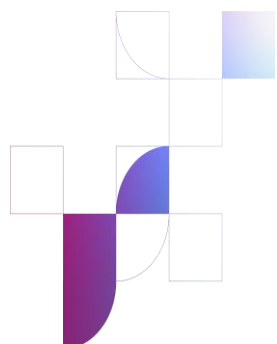
## **2024 CEPT Activities**

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

In 2024 Comm-ITU within CEPT will work on the preparation of European countries to the ITU WTSA, the executive conference of the standardisation sector which is to be held in October 2024 in India

## **Cooperation with African regional organisations**





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.

## 2024 BEREK Cooperation with African regional organisations - Activities

### COMESA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat and the European Union (EU) signed a Grant contribution agreement for the Enhancement of Governance and Enabling Environment in the ICT sector (EGEE-ICT) in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region (EA-SA-IO). The EGEE-ICT programme intends to enhance the performance of Regional ICT Associations through peer exchanges of their members and Secretariats. In 2024, a study visit to the BEREK Office will take place under the umbrella of the EGEE-ICT programme. More information is available in the following link: <https://www.comesa.int/egee-ict-programme/>

## Bilateral cooperation

Potential engagements for the respective organisations in 2024:

- **FCC**

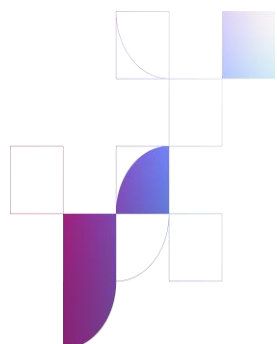
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable in the United States of America (in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories). As an independent U.S. government agency overseen by US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

An MoU between the FCC and BEREK was signed in July 2018 and renewed in September 2022

Building on the renewal of the MoU between the FCC and BEREK, the international team is examining possibilities for future meetings between the FCC & BEREK at working group level.

The International team will further examine the possibilities with FCC and BEREK 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 2024.

- **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 2024. The WG proposals for cooperation for 2024<sup>7</sup>:

WG CS: OECD

WG DM: UNESCO

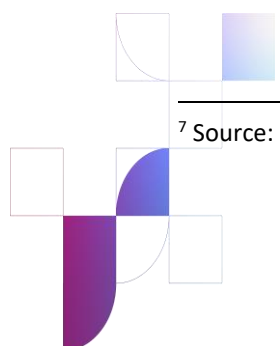
WG EU: ITU, OECD

WG SUS: ITU

### **Miniboard study trip**

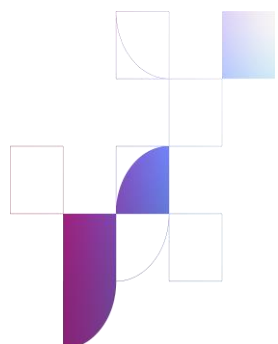
The study trip in 2024 will be organised to Brasil. The Chair 2023, and outgoing chair 2024, EETT responsible for international cooperation will coordinate with colleagues from Brasil.

<sup>7</sup> Source: project requirement documents (PRDs).



**Annex I: International team 2024**

<b>Name</b>	<b>NRA</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
<b>Ioanna Choudalaki</b>	EETT	International team coordinator,	<a href="mailto:Ichoudalaki@eett.gr">Ichoudalaki@eett.gr</a>
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<b>Antonio Serra</b>	CNMC	Regulatel	<a href="mailto:antonio.serra@cnmc.es">antonio.serra@cnmc.es</a>
<b>Marjan Pejovski</b>	BO	Administrative support	<a href="mailto:Marjan.Pejovski@berec.europa.eu">Marjan.Pejovski@berec.europa.eu</a>
<b>Laszlo Kasa</b>	BO	Administrative support	<a href="mailto:laszlo.kasa@berec.europa.eu">laszlo.kasa@berec.europa.eu</a>



**Annex II: indicative calendar of events 2024 relevant for BEREC**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>BEREC participation</b>	<b>Note</b>
TBD	BEREC-EaPeReg Summit	TBD	BEREC Chair	High-level
TBD	EMERG Plenary	“virtual” TBD	BEREC Chair	High-level
January	Study visit COMESA to BEREC and BEREC Office	Riga	BEREC Office / co-chairs	
5 February – 9 February	Study trip	Brasil	Mini-BoR	
26 February – 29 February	Bi-lateral meetings with MoU partners	Mobile World Conference, Barcelona	Mini-BoR	
9-12 April	BEREC-Regulatel joint WG	Montevideo, Uruguay	WG co-chairs or experts	Expert level
April – May	EaPeReg EWG meetings (3 x meetings; 1 each for EaPeReg’s REWG, SEWG, IRB EWG)	TBC	WG co-chairs or experts	Expert level
Mid-May	EaPeReg Plenary	Romania	BoR members	High level
Mid-May	Workshop back-to-back with EaPeReg Plenary	Romania	BEREC Co-Chairs/experts on some of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to PIA</li> <li>• Pricing remedies</li> <li>• Rights of way – Art 43 EECC</li> <li>• BCRD implementation</li> </ul>	Expert level
27-31 May	ITU WSIS Forum	Geneva	Tbd	
June	BEREC-Regulatel Summit	TBD (in Latin America)	BoR members	High level
June	ITU-GSR core meeting		BoR members	
15-24 October	ITU WTSA	New Delhi	Tbd	
October-November	EaPeReg EWG meetings (3 x meetings; 1 each for EaPeReg’s REWG, SEWG, IRB EWG)	TBC	WG co-chairs or experts	Expert level
November	EaPeReg Plenary	Chisinau, Moldova	BoR members	High level

November	Workshop back-to-back with EaPeReg Plenary	Chisinau, Moldova	BEREC OI WG Co-Chairs/experts on the following OI-related topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparency obligations for IAS contracts</li> <li>• QoS monitoring tools</li> <li>• Other relevant aspects of Regulation (EU) 2015/2120</li> </ul>	Expert level
Q4 2024 TBC	Summit & Workshop (or, alternatively Workshop only)	Riga, Latvia	BEREC – EaPeReg summit and BEREC Office – EaPeReg workshop (similar events to those held in November 2022)	Both High Level and Expert level
December	Regulatel Plenary	TBD	BoR members	High level

