

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP REGULATORS NETWORK

Preamble

The Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) Electronic Communications Regulators Network, established on 11th September 2012 in Moldova, is an independent platform of National Regulatory Authorities for Electronic Communications Networks and Services.

In view of the differences in market structure and regulatory approaches across the region, the Regulatory Authorities recognise that more harmonisation of the principles of their frameworks will contribute to creating a level playing field and increase regulatory predictability. This will promote investment and leverage national development efforts, which will have positive socioeconomic impacts on the electronic communications sectors. Regional cooperation of the regulators is an efficient way to facilitate these developments.

In line with the objectives of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Communication of 2008¹ and the recent Joint Communication on an Eastern Partnership Roadmap², Regulatory Authorities for Electronic Communications Networks and Services in the Eastern Partnership region have joined forces to set up a network with the aim of facilitating and strengthening cooperation in the field of electronic communications.

The EaP Regulators and a number of EU regulators have already participated and been active in technical workshops, organised under platform 4 of the Eastern Partnership. The first such workshop was held at the initiative and with the support of the European Commission and the Austrian Regulator RTR in Vienna in October 2010. A second workshop was organised at the initiative and with the support of the European Commission and the Lithuanian Regulator RRT was held in Trakai at the end of June 2011. The last meeting was held in November 2011 in Barcelona, bringing together the EaP regulators as well as the members of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and REGULATEL. During these workshops the interest of participants for a deeper and more formalised cooperation became evident. The creation of a network of electronic regulators from the EaP region and the EU was supported by the European Union institutions, the Eastern Partnership regulators, as well as the regulators of the European Union Member States present at the meeting.

The EaP Network Members, hereinafter referred to as "Members", gathered in Chisinau for the Plenary Assembly of 11th September 2012, approve the following Memorandum of Understanding provisions:

Article 1: Objectives and their fulfilment

The members of the EaP Network commit themselves to improving relations and fostering cooperation amongst them by:

1. Providing a forum for regular exchanges of information and expertise on issues relating to electronic communications regulation;
2. Promoting the approximation to the European Union electronic communications and information society services regulatory framework, where appropriate, and promoting regulatory best practices among its Members;
3. Monitoring the development of the electronic communications markets and regulatory frameworks in the Eastern Partnership region;

¹http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/eastern_partnership/documents/eastern_partnership_communication_from_the_commission_to_the_european_parliament_and_the_council_en.pdf

²http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012_enp_pack/e_pship_roadmap_en.pdf

