



Czech Telecommunication Office

March 2022

Telegraphically

Calls and SMS with Ukraine

Mobile operators [show their solidarity](#) with the invaded Ukraine. Some provide free calls and SMS to/from Ukraine, some have [moved Ukraine into the EU zone](#) both in terms of roaming and international calls. [Operators send SMS](#) messages to Ukrainians arriving in the Czech Republic with information on where to ask for help, supply SIM cards and boost the signal in areas with a higher incidence of refugees.

Fraudulent SMS messages about a parcel

[On its twitter account, Česká pošta warned](#) of another wave of fraudulent SMS messages informing about the alleged delivery of a parcel. However, after clicking the link, the recipient is redirected to a page with a .ru domain that asks for bank card details. Česká pošta also asks anyone who receives a fraudulent e-mail relating to Česká pošta to forward it to info@cpost.cz. Česká pošta stores fraudulent SMS messages and e-mails on its website [here](#).

International Telecommunication Union

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T) was held at the beginning of March. Member countries have decided to expel representatives of the Russian Federation from all positions in the leadership of ITU-T study groups, not only because their country initiated the war, but also because of a loss of confidence in the future ability of Russian experts to lead the study groups impartially. See page 11 for more details.

Year 2021 in CTU: Amendment to the Act, mobile market regulation, comparison tool and more

The past year was quite a turning point for the Czech Telecommunication Office and thus for the entire electronic communications sector. An important and long-awaited transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act has been adopted, resulting in a further increase in the protection of users of services, new requirements for undertakings and, of course, a number of implementing regulations. We have already granted frequency block allocations from the 5G auction at the beginning of the year.

We also focused more than before on consumer protection issues, not only by placing greater emphasis on education and checking undertakings, especially in terms of information on the quality of services provided, but also by launching tools to help consumers navigate important issues - a price and quality comparison tool and the NetTest measurement tool.

In terms of postal market activities, 2021 was primarily a year of reviewing the method and quality of the provision of universal postal services. This is a necessary step for the subsequent launch of the tender for a new postal licence holder this year.

AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT PASSED

One of the priorities of the Czech Telecommunication Office was to support the process of passing the so-called transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act. It mainly introduces a number of important new rights for consumers (change of internet access service provider, more mandatory information when concluding contracts, end of unsolicited marketing calls, etc.) and CTU has continuously provided the necessary assistance to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Parliament of the Czech Republic during the discussion process. The transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act was published in the Collection of Laws as [Act No. 374/2021 Coll.](#), and, for the most part, came into effect on 1 January 2022.

RELATED LEGISLATION IN PREPARATION

CTU started already in 2021 the preparation of implementing legislation that will follow up on the transposition amendment to the Electronic Communications Act. Probably the greatest interest also among professional organizations was related to the preparation of the decree on number portability ([Section 34 of the transposition amendment](#)) and change of internet access service provider ([Section 34a of the transposition amendment](#)). As in the case of several other implementing regulations, CTU organized a working meeting with representatives of the sector to present and discuss the conditions for the successful launch of the new rights of service users on the market.

The legislative processes preceding the adoption of all implementing regulations will continue during the first half of this year.

BLOCK ALLOCATIONS BASED ON THE 5G AUCTION HAVE ENTERED INTO LEGAL FORCE

At the beginning of the year, CTU granted radio frequency block allocations in the bands 700 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz to all successful participants in the auction of frequencies for 5G networks, all of which gradually came into legal force. Following the block allocations, the re-farming process for the entire 3400-3800 MHz band was initiated based on applications from block allocation holders submitted in May and was completed on 11 August 2021. Successful re-farming will enable efficient use of integrated frequency blocks in the provision of new services. Based on the obligation imposed under the terms of the 5G auction, two companies also presented a spectrum lease offer at the end of the holiday season last year for the purpose of developing 5G applications within Industry 4.0.

REGULATION OF THE WHOLESALE MARKET FOR ACCESS TO MOBILE SERVICES

In 2021, CTU followed up on previous steps and prepared [a draft analysis of the relevant market for wholesale access to mobile services](#) and, following a public consultation which was met with an unprecedented response, submitted it to the European Commission for notification in November. The Commission decided on phase II of the draft investigation, which was completed in early 2022.

In addition to this analysis, analyses of relevant markets 1 (wholesale services with local access) and the original relevant market 3b (wholesale services with central access) were carried out in 2021.

COMPARISON TOOL HELPS TO NAVIGATE SERVICES

In March 2021, we launched pilot operation of a comparison tool for price and quality of electronic communications services, which will allow members of the general public to compare prices for calls, SMS messages, data, fixed and mobile Internet, calls at a fixed location and TV. Since October 2021, the comparison tool has been in "live" operation; by the end of 2021, over 85 thousand users had visited the [comparison tool website](#) and had the opportunity to use its services.

THE LAUNCH OF THE NETTEST WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

The web version of NetTest for the public was launched on 17 September 2021. It has also brought the possibility of certified measurements, which makes it much easier for users to follow the claim process. The launch was accompanied by a large-scale campaign called "[Pay only for the real speed](#)" on TV, radio, in the media and CTU channels. The campaign used a [brochure](#) prepared at the beginning of the year on the topic of measuring and raising claims about Internet speed. In early 2022, the education campaign was followed by a more technical [video](#) on how to make the NetTest measurements as correct as possible.

On the day of launch of the tool, a total of 33,281 tests were performed by 26,118 users. This is still a record load for the tool to date. The total number of tests performed per month statistically stabilizes at 63,000 with 38,000 users.

POSTAL REVIEW

We carried out a comprehensive review of the level of quality and method of provision of universal services and their general availability pursuant to [Section 37\(4\)](#) of the Postal Services Act. CTU published [the results of the review](#), on the basis of which it submitted a plan to ensure the provision of universal services for public consultation. Based on the comments received, CTU modified its plan and submitted it for a new public consultation. Upon its completion, CTU announced on 8 March 2022 a tender for the postal licence holder for the period 2023 - 2024. See details on page 6.

The preparation and publication of an annual [report on the fulfilment of the postal licence holder's obligations](#), i.e. currently Česká pošta s.p., can also be seen as part of the review.

THE PROCESS OF NOTIFICATION OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICES CONTINUES

As early as 2020, the European Commission launched a formal investigation procedure with the Czech Republic on this matter, based on previous pre-notification negotiations and the submission of the final request for notification of the reimbursement of the net costs to the postal licence holder for the period 2018-2022. In 2021, CTU responded on an ongoing basis to all queries and requests for additional information and clarifications that are submitted to the European Commission through the Office for the Protection of Competition. However, by the end of 2021, the European Commission had not made a decision on the matter. Therefore, due to the pending notification, CTU was unable to reimburse the net costs of providing universal postal services for any of the years 2018-2020. We expect the Commission to make the decision in the first half of 2022.

WE ADDRESSED THE POOR QUALITY OF TV RECEPTION

In 2021, we received a total of 960 complaints and resolved a total of 1,083 complaints (including 123 carried forward from the end of 2020) about interference with terrestrial digital TV broadcasting. Of the 1083 interference cases resolved, only 27 cases involved a mobile network base station in the 700

MHz or 800 MHz band as the identified source of interference. For these cases, CTU has agreed in advance with the holders of frequencies from the 4G and 5G auction on a mechanism which, on the basis of trial (test) operation of new base stations, effectively prevents major problems of TV signal interference from mobile networks.

The identified causes of interference and their nature have remained the same over the long term (a high proportion of detected defects on the receiving side of the TV viewer - currently 62.6% of all digital TV broadcasting interference cases).

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The year 2021 was also marked by the preparation of an updated version of the CTU website. The new website was launched on 4 January 2022. The structure of the website is organized in such a way that users can easily find the required information.

TELECOMMUNICATION ACADEMY

After the easing of anti-epidemic measures, lecturing activities were resumed in the first half of the year. The team of lecturers, recruited from selected employees of the dispute settlement and consumer protection departments, has been significantly expanded. We expanded our portfolio of lectures and started creating short educational videos. In 2021, CTU published educational videos on the issues of claims of damaged postal items in postal services, colour lines, and, early in the new year, a guide to using the NetTest measurement tool.

WE HAVE SECURED 2G SERVICES UNTIL 2028

Following the review, O2 was granted a new block allocation in the 2100 MHz band which, among other conditions (in relation to improving 4G coverage on motorways), includes a condition to ensure the operation of the 2G network until at least 30 June 2028. In addition, the operator is obliged to cover 100% of motorways within 3 years and increase network capacity to provide subscribers with access at 10/3 Mbit/s. The block allocation has been granted with validity until 31 December 2041.

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

The Office continued to carry out many inspections in 2021 within its scope of powers and responsibilities. In connection with the newly defined conditions for the disclosure of specific information on the quality of Internet access service, in 2021 CTU carried out a nationwide and multi-stage inspection of the modification of contract terms and conditions in accordance with the requirements set out in Measure of General Nature [VO-S/1/08.2020-9](#). This has contributed to a significant improvement in end-users' awareness of the speed parameters of the services they use, and to aligning them with the actual user experience.

CTU also focused, for example, on checking compliance with selected development criteria by holders of block allocations for the bands 800, 1800 and 2600 MHz, checking the process of ensuring portability of telephone numbers by selected providers of electronic communications services. Furthermore, we focused on checking compliance with the conditions for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of equipment for broadband data transmission in the 2.4 GHz to 71 GHz bands according to the amended General Authorization VO-R/12, with a focus on compliance with the conditions for the newly opened 5.2 GHz, 5.8 GHz and 60 GHz bands. In the area of postal services, we particularly focused on carrying out a repeated inspection of the delivery of postal items classified as universal postal services by Česká pošta.

Analysis of the wholesale market for access to mobile services: CTU Council proposes temporary regulation of the wholesale market

Following the comments from BEREC and the European Commission, the Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU) has re-analysed relevant market No.3 - the wholesale market for access to mobile services. Based on its findings, CTU has launched a public consultation on a new draft analysis with specific proposals on temporary measures. Comments on the analysis can be submitted until 18 March 2022.

CTU concluded, in line with BEREC and other expert views, that the market is not an effectively competitive market within a time horizon of up to 2 years. There are undertakings with significant market power and the effects of the 700 MHz auction obligations will not be felt in the meantime. It is therefore necessary to act urgently to protect competition and the interests of users in compliance with Article 32(10) of the Code and Article 131(5) of the Electronic Communications Act and to introduce temporary measures, in particular to prevent certain competitors from being squeezed out of the retail market.

Prices of mobile services in the Czech Republic are [the highest in the European Union](#), according to a comparison by the European Commission. According to an [analysis by Cable.co.uk](#), mass market customers in the Czech Republic pay up to the third highest prices for mobile data services in the EU. In particular, the price for 1 GB of mobile data in the Czech Republic is 200% higher than the EU average and almost six times higher than the average of the other V4 countries. This has been a long-term trend over the last decade, with mobile service prices, especially mobile data prices, among the most expensive in Europe. Mobile data prices offered by the three main network operators in the wholesale market are almost twice as high as the already very high retail prices. This is gradually driving competition of attractive offers out of the retail market except those of the existing three mobile operators.

In 2021, T-Mobile terminated the wholesale contracts of a large portion of the smaller virtual operators on its network. Thus, in the wholesale market, there is contractual uncertainty between the three large network operators and the virtual operators. It is possible that a similar situation could happen again at any time, among other things because wholesale contracts normally contain the right of network operators to terminate the contracts within a relatively short period of three months without giving reasons. The situation in the mobile market is therefore very serious and urgently requires regulatory intervention.

Therefore, based on its analysis, CTU proposes to designate O2, T-Mobile and Vodafone as undertakings with significant market power, which allows the Office to order them to temporarily comply with the obligations imposed for the sake of protection of competition and users.

CTU proposes to impose obligations on the three operators to offer two regulatory packages with pre-defined mobile service content in all their current mobile network access contracts. The regulation of the prices of packages will take the form of a prohibition of margin squeeze combined with setting the maximum wholesale price for the regulatory packages. All three mobile network operators will be obliged to provide access on non-discriminatory terms to both packages, including for newly contracted MVNOs. The regulation will be limited in time to 18 months from the day the remedies will come into effect.

"The Czech Telecommunication Office is a regulatory authority, so I believe that it must try to influence prices, which are among the highest in Europe, by means of regulation. The law gives us that possibility. Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office did not consider it justifiable to do nothing. We hope that the proposed specific regulatory packages will contribute to reducing prices on the retail market," said CTU Council Chair Hana Továrková.

Tender for postal licence holder announced

The Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office has announced a tender for a postal licence holder for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024. Imposition of the obligation to provide and ensure the following universal services throughout the territory of the Czech Republic shall be the subject of the tender. The tender was published on the [notice board](#) and in the [Postal Bulletin](#). The deadline for submitting an application is 11 May 2022.

The delivery of postal parcels up to 10 kg nationally and the delivery of postal items up to 2 kg nationally for postal items whose dimensions exceed 35.3 x 25 x 2 cm or weight of 1 kg are no longer imposed as an obligation to provide the universal service. The provision of these services is ensured on the market under conditions comparable to the requirements under the Postal Services Act, without the need to impose such an obligation.

UNIVERSAL SERVICES THAT THE POSTAL LICENCE HOLDER WILL BE OBLIGED TO PROVIDE:

the service of delivery of postal items up to 2 kg abroad and also nationally for postal items, whose dimensions do not exceed 35.3 x 25 x 2 cm and weight does not exceed 1 kg,

the service of delivery of postal parcels up to 10 kg abroad,

the service of delivery of money by means of money order,

the service of delivery of registered item,

the service of delivery of insured items,

the service of free delivery of postal items up to 7 kg for the blind,

services that must be provided based on the obligations arising from the Czech Republic's membership of the Universal Postal Union

Checked by CTU in February...

...compliance with the conditions of General Authorization No. [VO-R/12/11.2021-11](#) for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of equipment for broadband data transmission in the bands 2.4 GHz–71 GHz

CTU carried out a total of 10 inspections. Defects were identified in 9 cases, consisting in the use of indoor frequencies outside a building and failure to comply with other terms of the general authorization, which were resolved by a call to rectify the identified deficiencies and which will subsequently be addressed in administrative proceedings.

...compliance with the conditions of General Authorization No. [VO-R/24/05.2019-4](#) for the operation of equipment of infrastructure for transmitting radio signals inside tunnels, premises of buildings and trains

CTU carried out a total of 3 inspections. Defects were identified in all 3 cases, consisting of failure to comply with the terms of the general authorization, which were resolved by a call to rectify the identified deficiencies and which will subsequently be addressed in administrative proceedings.

... [sources of interference with the operation of electronic communications equipment and networks, the provision of electronic communications services or the operation of radiocommunications services](#)

In February, CTU closed 8 cases of interference with GSM and LTE public mobile communication networks (in 3 cases the source of interference was an active element of TV signal reception), 9 cases of interference with radio and satellite signal reception, 2 cases of interference with WiFi stations, and 5 cases of interference with various devices (alarm receiving center receiver, short-range devices, amateur service radio station, etc.). In cases where the interference was confirmed and the source of the interference was traced, the operators of the interference sources were ordered to eliminate them.

... [the use of radio frequencies without authorization](#)

CTU carried out 14 inspections focusing on the use of frequencies without authorization. 3 inspections revealed use of frequencies without individual licence; the cases were referred for resolution in administrative proceedings.

... [sources of interference with TV signal reception](#)

In February, CTU closed a total of 65 cases of TV signal reception interference. The investigation of complaints about poor TV reception revealed that in 46 cases the defect was in the viewer's equipment (most often a technical fault of the receiving antenna), in 11 cases the interference stopped or occurred sporadically. In five cases, a source of interference was detected, and in all 5 cases the source of interference was a mobile operator's base station (see below). In 1 case, it was due to reception in a non-covered area and two complaints were cancelled by the complainants before the investigation began.

... [pilot operation of LTE base stations in the 800 MHz band](#)

As of 28 February 2022, 287 base stations were in pilot operation, and 16,976 stations were in permanent operation. In February, an LTE base station was not identified as a source of TV signal interference in any case.

... [pilot operation of 5G/LTE base stations in the 700 MHz band](#)

As of 28 February 2022, 416 base stations were in pilot operation, and 270 stations were in permanent operation. In February, a 5G/LTE base station was identified as a source of TV signal interference in five cases. In February, CTU sent a letter via data mailbox to 86 municipalities in whose region the pilot operation of 5G base stations was launched, [with information on how to proceed in the event of TV signal reception interference](#).

1756 - the number of decisions issued in February on the matter, of which 1747 decisions concerned a dispute over payment (payment of the price for services).

2695 - the number of administrative proceedings initiated in February concerning subscriber disputes between the person carrying out the communication activity and the subscriber. These are the disputes over payments and objection against the settlement of a claim concerning the billing of the price or the provided publicly available electronic communication service.

Market analyses

Market No. 2 – Wholesale dedicated capacity

In the period between 3 February and 3 March 2022, CTU published at the [discussion site](#) a public consultation on the draft measure of general nature A/2/xx.2022-Y, Market No. 2 – wholesale dedicated capacity. It will now settle the comments received within the period of one month and subsequently publish the settlement table. CTU will then consult the draft with the Office for the Protection of Competition.

A unilateral change to the contract must be notified in a clear and comprehensible manner

Providers of electronic communications services have the right to unilaterally change their contract terms and conditions, but they are obliged to comply with all the requirements of the Electronic Communications Act when making such changes. One of these requirements is to ensure that customers are informed of forthcoming changes to their subscription contracts.

According to the [current legislation](#) which has been in effect since 1 January 2022, providers are entitled to change the terms and conditions if so agreed. They are also obliged to inform the subscribers of any changes in text form in a clear and comprehensible manner no later than one month before the change to the contract comes into effect, and at the same time inform them of their right to terminate their commitment under the contract without incurring any additional costs if they do not agree to the new terms and conditions. The parties concerned have the right to terminate the contract within one month of receipt of the notice.

Regarding the newly defined conditions for communicating changes to contract terms, CTU welcomes in particular the new emphasis on a more transparent form of such notification, as the law explicitly defines the requirement for clear and comprehensible communication of this information to subscribers.

Legislative changes

DECREES RESPONDING TO THE TRANSPOSITION AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT

On 4 February 2022, [Decree No. 22/2022 Coll.](#) amending [Decree No. 267/2017 Coll.](#), on caller location and identification when calling emergency numbers, and [Decree No. 117/2007 Coll.](#), on numbering plans for electronic communications networks and services, as amended, were published in [Part 13 of the Collection of Laws](#).

The Decree came into effect on the date of its publication, i.e. 4 February 2022.

On the same day, [Decree No. 23/2022 Coll.](#) amending [Decree No. 388/2006 Coll.](#), on the net costs of universal service in electronic communications, was published in Part 13 of the Collection of Laws.

On 25 February 2022, [Decree No. 37/2022 Coll.](#) amending [Decree No. 161/2005 Coll.](#), on determining the characteristics of the functions of specially equipped telecommunications end devices for various types of disability, was published in [Part 19 of the Collection of Laws](#).

Both decrees came into effect on 1 March 2022.

Radio spectrum management

SATELLITE SERVICE

By issuing individual licences for the satellite and ground station, the Office completed the phase of registration of frequencies in the MIFR register (with ITU) of the CZE-BDSAT nanosatellite network and the granting of individual licence for the space station and the combined converter. The satellite is expected to be launched into orbit by SpaceX in April-May 2022.

PARAMETERS OF SYNCHRONOUS OPERATION OF 4G AND 5G

In the newly issued part of the Radio Spectrum Utilisation Plan [No. PV-P/7/02.2022-3](#) for the 2700-4200 MHz band, CTU added parameters for synchronous operation of 4G and 5G TDD mobile networks in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band. The adjustment follows the granting of block allocations for the operation of nationwide networks intended for the provision of high-speed electronic communications services in the 3400-3600 MHz band. The added conditions also consider the needs of transmitters or networks for Industry 4.0, campus and private networks.

UPDATING THE SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

On 2 March, the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office approved the material "Second Situation Report on the State of Fulfilment of Measures (supplementary document to the Radio Spectrum Management Strategy of 3 June 2015, as amended by the Situation Report on the State of Fulfilment of Measures of 16 May 2018)" for the launch of the inter-ministerial comment procedure.

The most important goals for the near future include:

Ensuring the conditions for the development of digital terrestrial radio broadcasting (DAB) in Band III (174-225 MHz) and conducting a tender for the block allocations of multiplex frequencies for commercial broadcasting (expected in 2022),

Preparing the 1.4 GHz band for use by MFCNs to support downloads for asymmetric traffic on IMT networks (including 4G and 5G) as demand for such use arises,

Analysis of possible conditions of use of the 410/420 MHz and 450/460 MHz frequency bands, including methods of authorization, considering the needs of potential users of the band,

Preparing a position for a future decision on the 600 MHz band (UHF band),

Comprehensive assessment of the fee policy and drafting of a proposal to amend Government Regulation No.154/2005 Coll., on the determination of the amount and method of calculation of fees for the use of radio frequencies and numbers, as amended, with a focus on optimizing frequency fees to take account of technological trends and cost aspects on the part of frequency users, to take account of the introduction of wide radio channels enabling higher data throughput, to encourage the development of innovative services and technologies, and to stimulate the development of coverage of non-covered areas.

Stakeholders can submit their comments within the inter-ministerial comment procedure until 16 March 2022.

Telecommunications regulation in EU and in the world

Official Journal of the EU

On 9 February, [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/172](#) of 7 February 2022 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1538 on the harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by short-range devices within the 874-876 and 915-921 MHz frequency bands, was published.

On 9 February, [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/173](#) of 7 February 2022 on the harmonisation of the 900 MHz and 1 800 MHz frequency bands for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services in the Union and repealing Decision 2009/766/EC, was published.

On 10 February, [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/179](#) of 8 February 2022 on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5 GHz frequency band for the implementation of wireless access systems including radio local area networks and repealing Decision 2005/513/EC, was published.

On 10 February, [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/180](#) of 8 February 2022 amending Decision 2006/771/EC as regards the update of harmonised technical conditions in the area of radio spectrum use for short-range devices was published.

BEREC

The [50th BEREC Plenary meeting](#) took place on 10 – 11 March 2021.

BEREC Board of Regulators adopted the following documents for publication:

- BoR (22) 22 28th BEREC International Roaming Benchmark Data Report – 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021
- BoR (22) 23 Public summary of the BEREC work on the Open Radio Access Network (RAN)
- BoR (22) 33 BEREC Report on regulatory treatment for fixed and mobile backhaul, and Report on the outcome of the public consultation
- BoR (22) 34 External Sustainability Study on Environmental impact of electronic communications

Other documents approved for public consultation:

- BoR (22) 30 Draft Update to the BEREC Guidelines on the Implementation of the Open Internet Regulation
- BoR (22) 31 Explanatory document on the Public Consultation on the draft BEREC Guidelines on the Implementation of the Open Internet Regulation
- BoR (22) 35 Draft BEREC Report on Sustainability: Assessing BEREC's contribution to limiting the impact of the digital sector on the environment

European Commission

On 2 February, the European Commission presented a new [strategy on standardisation](#), which outlines a new approach to standards within the single market and worldwide. The strategy is accompanied by a [proposal](#) for an amendment of the regulation on standardisation, a [report](#) on the implementation of the regulation and the 2022 [annual EU work programme](#) for European standardisation. The new strategy aims to strengthen the EU global competitiveness, contribute to resilient, green and digital economy and embed the democratic values in technological applications.

On 8 February, [Safer Internet Day](#) was celebrated worldwide. This year's main theme was "Together for a better internet". In the Czech Republic, the National centre for safer internet is the coordinator of this important day.

11 February marks the day to raise awareness about 112, the [single European emergency number](#). The 112-emergency number was adopted as a single European emergency number in 1991 and was introduced in the Czech Republic by Government Resolution No. 391/2000, as amended by Government Resolution No. 350/2002.

On 23 February, the EC proposed new rules on who can access and use EU-generated data across economic sectors. The [Data Act](#) is designed to ensure fairness in the digital environment, promote competition on the data market, open up opportunities for data-driven innovation and make data more accessible to all. This last horizontal building block of the [data strategy](#) is seen by the EC as key in the digital transformation, in line with the goals set out in the Digital Agenda 2030.

The Data Act also revises some aspects of the [Directive on the legal protection of databases](#). The proposal builds on the [Data Governance Act](#).

ITU (International Telecommunication Union)

[World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly](#) (WTSA-20) took place in Geneva from 1 to 9 March 2022 and was preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 28 February 2022. The World Assembly is the supreme body of the Standardisation Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T) and defines the directions of the ITU Standardisation Sector for the coming period. Preliminary conclusions have already been published. Already convened with a delay of almost two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's meeting has been greatly affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine. ITU member countries have decided to exclude representatives of the Russian Federation from all positions in the leadership of ITU-T Study Groups, not only because their country initiated the war, but also because of a loss of confidence in the future ability of Russian experts to lead the Study Groups impartially.

At the same time, EU member states have supported Ukraine's request to suspend the Russian Federation's membership of CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations), where the European region prepares for ITU conferences.

Blocking of disinformation

On 2 March, [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2022/350](#) of 1 March 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine. The regulation entered into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The amendment brings a ban on the dissemination of content provided by Russian state media, which the regulation also lists.

In response to this regulation BEREC issued statements on [4](#) and [11](#) March advising that the Open Internet Regulation does not constitute an obstacle to the imposition of these sanctions on Russian state media.