



Czech Telecommunication Office

April 2024

Telegraphically

Consumption for life

As in the previous year, CTU took over the patronage of the competition [“Consumption for Life”](#), announced by the dTest magazine. It is a competition for high school students to create a sample edition of a consumer magazine for young people. The topic of the current edition was “life and rights in the digital era”. You can see the winning magazines [here](#).

Polish colleagues at CTU

On 17 April 2024 CTU held talks with colleagues from the Polish Office of Electronic Communications (UKE). The main topics of the meeting included ways to improve mobile signal coverage in border areas, market analyses, the situation in the postal market and preparation for the role of digital services coordinator. Established communication especially regarding coverage in the border areas will continue.

Obligations of providers under the DSA

On 22 April, CTU held a workshop focused on the new obligations imposed by the DSA on providers of intermediary services. During the meeting, individual categories of obligations were presented depending on the nature of the service and the size of the undertaking, the supervisory role of CTU and the draft Digital Economy Act.

Selection procedure for postal licence holder announced

The CTU Council has announced a selection procedure for the postal licence holder for the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029, preceded by a public consultation of the intention prepared on the basis of the conclusions of a review carried out in accordance with Section 37(4) of the Postal Services Act. The subject of the selection procedure is the imposition of an obligation to provide and ensure throughout the territory of the Czech Republic the following specified universal services. The selection procedure was published on the Official notice board and in the Postal Bulletin.

In accordance with the intention, the obligation imposed on the future postal licence holder is to provide the following universal services:

- the delivery of postal items up to 2 kg nationally for postal items whose dimensions do not exceed 35.3 x 25 x 2 cm and weight does not exceed 1 kg; the delivery of postal items up to 2 kg abroad;
- delivery of postal parcels up to 10 kg abroad;
- the delivery of money by means of money order;

- the delivery of registered items;
- the delivery of insured items;
- the free delivery of postal items up to 7 kg for blind persons;
- services which must be provided on the basis of the obligations arising from the membership of the Czech Republic in the Universal Postal Union, except for the service of delivery of printed matter bag and universal foreign postal service for printed matter bags.

The specified universal services must be provided on a permanent basis throughout the territory of the Czech Republic through a network of at least 2900 establishments. The new obligation to provide a printed matter bag delivery service and an international universal service for printed matter bags is no longer imposed. As in the previous period, services of 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 need to impose an obligation to provide universal services to the extent indicated follows from the review carried out on the need to impose an obligation to provide and ensure universal services, as their provision is not ensured on the market under conditions comparable to the requirements under the Postal Services Act on a commercial basis. The decision not to impose an obligation to provide the universal service of printed matter bag delivery is based on the existence of potential substitutes and in particular the change in requirements resulting from the amendment to the Universal Postal Convention, which moved the printed matter bag to the optional service category with effect from 1 January 2025.

The Council shall grant a postal licence, which imposes the obligation to ensure the general availability of universal services throughout the territory of the Czech Republic, to the applicant who has submitted an application to the announced selection procedure within the deadline, has met the conditions for participation in the selection procedure and has best met the set criteria for the evaluation of the application. The Office will publish a report on the course and results of the selection procedure and the decision to grant the postal licence in the Postal Bulletin.

The postal licence is expected to be granted by the end of October 2024. The Office will start preparing the notification of reimbursement of net costs with the European Commission.

OTHER CONCLUSIONS OF THE POSTAL REVIEW

The volume of parcels transported is increasing substantially and, on the contrary, the volume of letters is decreasing over the long term.

The competitive environment in the parcel services segment generates a range of services reflecting customer expectations, particularly in connection with the development of e-commerce and the emergence of new business models.

According to the results of the public opinion survey, 62.7% of respondents are completely or rather satisfied with the universal services of Česká pošta, which represents a significant decrease compared to the previous review conducted in 2021. At the same time, there was an increase in completely dissatisfied respondents to 9.5%, almost double the figure from the last review.

Digital services: Providers of online platforms must register in the transparency database

Pursuant to Article 24(5) [of the DSA](#), all providers of online platforms, with the exception of [micro and small undertakings](#), are obliged to register in a transparency database, which serves as a tool for scrutiny and public access to data that sheds light on the nature and outcome of complaints handled by users of online platforms. As part of the transparency database, platforms are obliged to submit without undue delay all decisions and statements of reasons that online platforms are obliged to provide under Article 17(1) of the DSA. The purpose of the statements of reasons is to transparently inform the user of any decisions regarding the restriction or deletion of their content shared on the online platform. In this way, the database increases public control over content moderation by providers, as information on complaints and justifications is publicly available in the database.

You can see the current analysis and the current volume of reported data in the transparency database [here](#).

We inform all providers of online platforms under Article 3(i) of the DSA (except micro and small undertakings) who have not yet done so that registration can be done via the [online form](#). The Office will then check the accuracy of the data filled in and enter it into the system. The registration will then be finalised by the European Commission.

A selection of planned items on the agenda of the Council meeting

Information on the evaluation of complaints and enquiries from subscribers/users of electronic communications services and postal services for the first quarter of 2024

The Council will consider a regular report on processing complaints and enquiries from subscribers/users of electronic communications services in the last quarter of 2024. As usual, a comprehensive summary of this report will be included in the next Monitoring Report in May 2024.

Evaluation of the fulfilment of development criteria and conditions in previously granted block allocations

An assessment of the fulfilment/non-fulfilment of the development criteria set for block allocation holders in the 5G auction, i.e. in particular ensuring coverage of identified white areas, will be presented to the Council for information.

Market assessment after the merger of CETIN and Nej.cz, including the next steps

The Council will be informed of the preliminary partial results of the assessment of the impact of the merger of CETIN a.s. and Nej.cz s.r.o. primarily on the conclusions of the applicable analyses of markets 1 and 3b.

We will also inform you via press releases about the key materials discussed by the CTU Council.

Checked by CTU in March...

...compliance with the conditions of General Authorisation 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 2.4 GHz - 71 GHz band

In March, CTU completed 14 inspections in which deficiencies were found in 8 cases, consisting mainly in the use of indoor frequencies outside a building, which in most cases were resolved by a call to rectify the identified deficiencies and which will subsequently be addressed in administrative proceedings.

... the use of radio frequencies without authorisation

Based on radio monitoring, CTU carried out a total of 11 inspections in March focused on the use of frequencies without authorisation (including frequencies for the use of which an individual authorisation cannot be issued). In all 11 cases, the use of frequencies without authorisation was detected, mainly by the operation of land mobile service stations, radio relay links and broadband data transmission devices (RLAN). The cases were referred to 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 March, CTU closed 11 cases of interference to GSM, LTE and 5G public mobile communication networks, 9 cases of interference to radio and satellite signal reception, 3 cases of interference to short-range devices, one case of interference to a civilian radio station and one case of interference to a wifi station. 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.

... sources of interference with TV signal reception

In March, CTU closed a total of 37 cases of TV signal reception interference. The investigation of complaints about poor TV signal reception revealed that in 13 cases the defect was in the viewer's equipment (most often a technical fault of the receiving antenna or lead-in). In 5 cases the interference stopped or did not manifest itself during the investigation, and in 4 cases the complainant cancelled the interference complaint during the investigation. In 3 cases, the reception problem was caused by poor signal quality at the reception location. In 12 cases, a source of interference was detected, and in 11 cases the source of interference was identified as a base station of a mobile operator, see below.

... pilot operation of LTE base stations in the 800 MHz band

As of 31 March 2024, 409 base stations were in pilot operation, and 17,406 stations were in permanent operation. In March, an LTE base station was identified as a source of TV signal interference in one case.

... pilot operation of 5G/LTE base stations in the 700 MHz band

As of 31 March 2024, 1,990 base stations were in pilot operation, and 7,992 stations were in permanent operation. In March, a 5G/LTE base station was identified as a source of TV signal interference in 10 cases. In all cases, the mobile network operators eliminated the interference at their own cost based on CTU's decision. In March, CTU sent a letter via data mailbox to 9 municipalities in

whose region the pilot operation of 5G base stations was launched, [with information](#) on how to proceed in the event of TV reception interference.

1,232 - the number of decisions issued in March on the matter, of which 1,225 decisions concerned a dispute over monetary consideration (payment of the price for services).

1,807 - the number of administrative proceedings initiated in March concerning subscriber disputes between the person carrying out the communication activity and the subscriber. These are the disputes over pecuniary consideration and objections to a claim settlement about the billing of the price or the provided publicly available electronic communications service.

Economic regulation

REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE LOSS ON THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL PRICES

On 7 February 2024, Vodafone Czech Republic a.s. submitted a request to CTU for compensation for the loss resulting from the provision of special prices for voice communication services and Internet access services to persons with special social needs for the year 2023. Upon receipt of the application, administrative proceedings were initiated with Vodafone Czech Republic a.s., in which CTU verified the calculation of the submitted loss and by decision No ČTÚ-6 286/2024-611/IV. vyř. determined the loss in the amount of CZK 1,662,373. The decision became final on 27 March 2024 and CTU paid this amount to Vodafone Czech Republic a.s. from the state budget on 8 April 2024.

On 21 February 2024, PODA a.s. submitted a request to CTU for compensation for the loss in the amount of CZK 1,500,816 resulting from the provision of special prices for voice communication services and Internet access services to persons with special social needs for the year 2023. CTU subsequently initiated administrative proceedings with PODA a.s. to verify the amount contained in the submitted request. After the final decision has been issued, the verified loss will be covered by the state budget through CTU.

Telecommunications regulation in the EU

Official Journal of the EU

On 8 March, [Corrigendum to Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) 2024/436 of 20 October 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council, by laying down rules on the performance of audits for very large online platforms and very large online search engines was published.

On 22 March, [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/903](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act) was published in the Official Journal of the EU. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply from 12 July 2024. However, Article 3(1) to (4) and Article 17 shall apply from 12 January 2025.

European Commission

The European Commission has received [notifications](#) from Booking, ByteDance and X, about their services potentially meeting the Digital Markets Act (DMA) thresholds, which could make them subject to the new EU rules on gatekeeper platforms. The Commission now has 45 working days to decide

whether to designate the companies as gatekeepers. The Commission will also assess any argument put forward by the submitting companies to rebut the presumption that they should be designated as gatekeepers. If designated, gatekeepers will have six months to comply with the requirements in the DMA. Apple, Alphabet, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft and ByteDance must already comply with these requirements as of [7 March](#). They have been designated as [gatekeepers](#) in September 2023.

BEREC

On 14 March, BEREC held a virtual [workshop on digital networks developments](#). Participants we invited to share their experience and insights on digital networks developments as well as any comments, information or suggestions on the draft reports which BEREC is currently working on (Report on the entry of large content and application providers into the markets for electronic communications networks and services and Report on Cloud and Edge Computing Services), and which could help BEREC for their finalisation. [Presentations](#) from the workshop are available on BEREC website.

On 26 March, [12th BEREC Stakeholder Forum](#) took place in Brussels, dedicated to two main topics: (1) White paper “*How to master Europe’s digital infrastructure needs?*” and (2) *paths to ensure security and resilience in digital infrastructure*. Like last year, informal meetings, so called Meet & Greet, of registered participants with co-Chairs of individual Working groups took place before the Forum itself. During the Stakeholder Forum, the current BEREC Chair Tonko Obuljen (HAKOM, Croatia) and the incoming Chair for 2024, Robert Mourik (ComReg, Ireland), presented together BEREC Work Plan for 2025.

On 26 March 2024, BEREC and the Ukrainian National Commission for the State Regulation of Electronic Communications, Radio Frequency Spectrum and the Provision of Postal Services (NCEC) [signed](#) revised Working Arrangements originally concluded on 9 December 2022. The revised agreement ensures that the Ukrainian national regulatory authority will remain an active participant in the day-to-day work of BEREC’s [Board of Regulators](#), appointing experts to [BEREC’s working groups](#) and seconding them to work at the [Agency for Support for BEREC](#) (the BEREC Office).

On 9 April, BEREC held [Workshop on end-users rights](#). Participants discussed how market and technological developments are affecting the rights of end-users and their ability to make free and informed decisions. The workshop consisted of presentations from BEREC, stakeholders and end-user associations, as well as from the European Commission.

On 11 April, BEREC held [Workshop on ex ante regulatory experience](#) concerning commitments, wholesale-only undertakings and commercial agreements review according to Art. 76, 79 and 80 of the EECC. The adoption of network access commitments and/or co-investment agreements were introduced in the EECC as alternative routes to the imposition of a typical set of remedies for undertakings with significant market power. Participants had the opportunity to comment in particular on the importance of these legal provisions, their application, harmonisation, monitoring, evaluation and related BEREC guidance.

EBDS

On 25 April 2024, the third meeting of the European Board for Digital Services took place in Brussels. It was announced that two more countries (EL, SI) have completed the adaptation of the DSA Regulation into their legal order and have thus become full members of the Board. The Commission then reported on its current investigations against very large online platforms and its forthcoming guidelines on several aspects of the implementation of the DSA Regulation. Activities to ensure proper electoral processes in the context of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament are very

topical. Here, the EC organised a tabletop exercise on 24 April to address several scenarios of disinformation dissemination or manipulation. Information was also given on the preparation of guidelines on Article 28 for the protection of children on online platforms. Last but not least, there was a short discussion on the draft rules of procedure of the Board.