



Middle East and North Africa Telecommunications and Media Forum

Date: 23rd - 24th March 2021

Location: Online

Agenda: Tuesday 23 March 2021

0900 CET / 1000 EET / 1100 AST / 1200 GST: Session 1: Telecom futures - convergence in practice

Regulators and industry share their experiences, achievements and priorities, and discuss how their roles and policies are evolving in the face of digital transformation.

Discussion themes will include

- Evolution of communications infrastructure to maximise resilience, flexibility and inclusion
- Spectrum availability/licensing; infrastructure sharing; mobile vs fibre; 4G vs 5G; role of satellites
- International connectivity - priorities and bottlenecks
- Transitioning to digital services - IoT, data sovereignty, cloud policy frameworks
- Consumer protection, privacy, cybersecurity and trust - what role for comms regulators?

Regulators Panel

Moderator

Francesco Liberatore, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP; Former Chair, IIC Brussels Chapter

Panellists include

Pascal Dutru, Legal Unit Manager, Communications regulatory Authority (CRA), Qatar

Karima Mahmoudi, Central Director of the Electronic Communications Market

Observatory, Instance Nationale des Telecommunications (INT), Tunisia

Mohammed Alabdulqader, General Manager, Radio Spectrum Monitoring, Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC), Saudi Arabia

Dr Fadel Digham, Head of National Projects Sector, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) Egypt

Dr Jean Pierre Scerri, General Counsel, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), Bahrain

1030 CET / 1130 EET / 1230 AST / 1330 GST: Session 2: Telecom futures - convergence in practice

Industry Responses

Moderator:

James Bellis, Director, Telecommunications Practice, Frontier Economics

Panellists

Kamal Shehadi, Chief Legal and Regulatory Officer, Etisalat Group

Zeina Mokaddem, Vice President, Regulatory and Market Access, Inmarsat

Iman El Banna Kaiss, Senior Legal Counsel, Middle East, Africa and Turkey, Avaya

Dr Bharat Kumar Khimji Vagadia, Senior Director – Regulatory Affairs, Ooredoo Group

Dr Brahim Ghribi, Head of Government & Policy Affairs Middle East & Africa, Nokia

Ali Cheema, Head of Government & Industry Relations, Middle East & Africa, Ericsson

Agenda: Wednesday 24 March 2021

0900 CET / 1000 EET / 1100 AST / 1200 GST: Session 3: Content/audiovisual futures – convergence in practice

Regulators and industry share their experiences, achievements and priorities, and discuss how their roles and policies are evolving in the face of digital transformation.

Discussion themes will include

- Digital television transition, next generation infrastructure
- Transitioning to digital, on-demand services – levelling the playing field, OTT platform regulation, tackling disinformation
- Supporting the creative economy, preserving cultural diversity and safeguarding media pluralism
- Closing the digital divide – digital literacy & inclusion

Moderator

Andrea Millwood Hargrave, Principal, Millwood Hargrave Ltd

Panellists include

Latifa Akharbach, President, Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA), Morocco

Nouri Lajmi, President, High Independent Communication Authority (HAICA), Tunisia

Taha Yücel, Member, Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK), Turkey

Elena Scaramuzzi, Global Head of Research, Cullen International

Aynon Doyle, Head of Policy Analysis and Research (Regulatory Affairs), Multichoice SA