

European Commission's Digital Package

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The Commission has published a digital package, including its 5-year plans for the European digital economy. The package includes a Digital Strategy, Data Strategy and White Paper on Artificial Intelligence. Cicero/AMO has put together the below overview including the most important proposals and publications to expect from the Commission over the next years.

Overview of Digital and Competition



The Digital Strategy sets out the Commission's plans for the next 5 years, to address challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy. One of the key objectives guiding the Commission's strategy is to make Europe a more resilient and competitive player on the global stage. The Commission aims to do this through investment in European digital technologies and skills, and by reassessing the role and responsibilities of dominant online platforms towards the EU, its businesses and consumers.

One of the most noteworthy proposals expected from the Commission will be the Digital Services Act, which will enhance oversight on online platforms and increase responsibilities and liability rules. Under the leadership of digital competition chief Margrethe Vestager an ongoing review of the fitness of the EU's competition rules will determine whether the Commission will also propose sector-specific rules in the Digital Services Act, particularly in those areas where platforms have reached a significant scale that could enable them to act as market gatekeepers.

Key files

- **Q3 2020:** Digital finance framework, including Crypto Asset proposal.
- **Q4 2020:** Review of e-Commerce Directive, as part of the Digital Services Act, to broaden its scope and cover all digital services providers.
- **Q4 2020:** Regulation on European Digital Capacity establishing an EU legal framework allowing for flexible governance arrangements.
- **Q4 2020:** Review of the Security of Network Information Systems Directive to increase the EU's cyber resilience.
- **2020 - 2023:** Evaluation and adaption of EU competition rules and launch of a sector-specific inquiry (2020).
- **TBC:** Digital taxation initiative (taking into account OECD developments).

Overview of Data Strategy



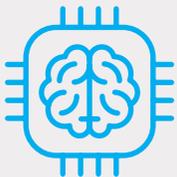
Data is a fundamental component of the Commission's vision for Europe to have a leading role in the global digital economy. Given the increasingly important role that data plays in all sectors of the economy, the Commission is looking to challenge the status quo in which a small number of (largely non-European) big Tech firms hold the majority of data. By facilitating better access and sharing of data for the public and private sector and enabling more responsible usage, the Commission aims to tackle these issues.

With these initial measures, the Commission is looking to create a Single Market for Data, including sector-specific data spaces by 2030. The Commission foresees a harmonised set of rules for all Member States. Yet, under the leadership of former tech industry leader Thierry Breton, its proposed measures are not expected to be overly prescriptive or stand in the way of innovation.

Key files

- **Q3 2020:** Legislative framework for the governance of Common European data spaces.
- **Q4 2020:** Digital Services Act to include analysis of the importance of data in the digital economy.
- **Q1 2021:** Implementing act on high value public data sets for SMEs.
- **2021:** Proposal on a Single Market for Data.
- **Q2 2022:** Proposal for a coherent framework around the rules for cloud services.

Overview of Artificial Intelligence (AI)



The European Commission is aiming for Europe to become more competitive in terms of its AI market, whilst also setting the bar for global standards that AI players will need to comply with. To accelerate the development of Europe's AI market, the Commission is aiming to increase investment and create an 'ecosystem of excellence' to foster the uptake of AI solutions.

At the same time, the Commission wants to ensure that AI is grounded in EU values and fundamental rights and based on an 'ecosystem of trust', with the aim to ensure a future regulatory framework for AI complies with EU rules. The Commission encourages Member States to look cautiously at more contentious AI developments such as facial recognition.

Key files

- **May 2020:** End of consultation on AI White Paper.
- **Q2 2020:** Legal instrument that will ensure Member States create a digital innovation hub specialising in artificial intelligence.
- **Q4 2020:** Revised coordination plan on AI, including regulatory framework.
- **TBC:** Creation of a public-private partnership in AI & robotics.

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If you would like to speak to the Cicero/AMO team about this document, or how we can help support your organisation and its public affairs objectives in 2020, please contact a member of the team below:



Helena Walsh

Executive Director - EU Public Affairs

BXL: +32 (0)2 670 0011

Helena.Walsh@cicero-group.com



Megan Ridderhof

Senior Account Executive

BXL: +32 (0)2 670 0015

Megan.Ridderhof@cicero-group.com



Salvatore Ferrara

Account Manager

BXL: +32 (0)2 670 0010

Salvatore.Ferrara@cicero-group.com