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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Digital Single Market initiatives
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in Annex information from the Commission on the state of play of the Digital Single Market.

Information note from the Commission on the state of play of the Digital Single Market

This note aims to provide an update regarding the state of play of the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy (DSM).

Introduction

The EU needs concrete initiatives delivering job creation, economic growth and investment in the real economy. The DSM Strategy, adopted in May 2015, is one of the 10 priorities of President Juncker and plays an important role by:

- Offering better online access for consumers and businesses
- Ensuring the provision of innovative services and high speed connectivity
- Providing the right framework for a data based economy and boosting eSkills

It is estimated that achieving a Digital Single Market can contribute €15 billion per year to EU economy and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. The Commission is determined to fully implement the Strategy. The European Council also demonstrated their support and called for the adoption and implementation of the Strategy by end 2018.

Progress so far

2016 was a year of delivery, with most of the DSM Strategy's initiatives being adopted by the Commission during the course of this year.

In December 2015, the European Commission launched its "**Contract initiative**" including two legislative proposals to better protect consumers who shop online across the EU and help businesses expand their online sales, as well as one draft regulation aimed at ensuring the cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market

In April 2016, the College adopted the "**Digitizing European Industry**" initiative, together with the "European Cloud" and "ICT Standardisation Priorities" initiatives, as well as the Action Plan on e-Government.

In May 2016, two legislative packages were published. The "**e-commerce initiative**" combined measures on parcel delivery and preventing unjustified geo-blocking with the revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation and an updated guidance on unfair commercial practices. Meanwhile the "**content initiative**" contained the result of the Audio-visual Media Services Directive Review and a Communication on the role of online platforms.

In June 2016 the Commission presented a series of initiatives included in the Skills Agenda for Europe to promote learning of **digital skills**, which themselves are essential for Digitizing European Industry. In July, the Commission adopted the Communication and signed an important **Public Private Partnership on Cybersecurity** to stimulate investments in this field.

In September 2016, the Commission issued Communications on **Connectivity** for a competitive DSM and a 5G Action Plan to accompany its proposals for reform of the **Telecom Rules** and to promote Internet connectivity in local communities and public spaces (WiFi4EU). At the same time it adopted the second set of proposals for a modernised **Copyright** regime and the review of the **Satellite and Cable Directive**.

Remaining initiatives

The remaining DSM Strategy proposals are being prepared. Those include an initiative on building the data economy, a review of the e-Privacy Directive, the modernisation of VAT rules, a review of Directive on enforcement of intellectual property rights, a Revision of the European Interoperability Framework and a proposal to develop a "Single Digital Gateway". All of the initiatives will be adopted by the end of 2016 or early 2017.

Finally, the Commission Work Programme 2017 includes a Communication on the mid-term review of the DSM Strategy. This Communication will review the progress made towards completing the Digital Single Market and identify where further efforts are needed by the co-legislators.

Roadmap for completing the Digital Single Market

Pillar		Action	Adoption
I. Better online access for consumers and businesses	1	Legislative proposals for simple and effective cross-border contract rules for consumers and businesses	Dec 2015
	2	Review the Regulation on Consumer Protection Cooperation	May 2016
	3	Measures in the area of parcel delivery	May 2016
	4	A wide ranging review to prepare legislative proposals to tackle unjustified Geo-blocking	May 2016
	5	Competition sector inquiry into e-commerce, relating to the online trade of goods and the online provision of services	Q1 2017
	6	Proposal for a regulation on ensuring the cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market	Dec 2015
		Legislative proposals for a reform of the copyright regime (second set of proposals)	Sep 2016
		Review of the Intellectual Propriety Rights Enforcement Directive	early 2017
7	Review of the Satellite and Cable Directive	Sep 2016	
8	Legislative proposals to reduce the administrative burden on businesses arising from different VAT regimes	Nov 2016	

II. Advanced digital networks and innovative services	9	Legislative proposals to reform the current telecoms rules, including a regulation on the promotion of Internet connectivity in local communities and public spaces (WiFi4EU)	Sep 2016
	10	Review the Audiovisual Media Services Directive	May 2016
	11	Comprehensive analysis of the role of platforms in the market including illegal content on the Internet	May 2016
		In depth analysis identified specific additional follow-up reflections on B2B relations, role of intermediaries, and innovation.	On-going
	12	Review the e-Privacy Directive (Lex specialis for data protection)	Jan 2017
	13	Establishment of a Cybersecurity contractual Public-Private Partnership	Jul 2016
III. Maximizing the growth potential of the Digital Economy	14	Data economy initiative	Q1 2017
		European Cloud Initiative	Apr 2016
	15	Adoption of a Priority ICT Standards Plan	Apr 2016
		Extending the European Interoperability Framework for public services	Dec 2016
	16	e-Government Action Plan 2016-2020 including an initiative on the 'Once-Only' principle and an initiative on building up the interconnection of business registers, and a proposal to develop a "Single Digital Gateway".	Apr 2016