The Digital Single Market and its Priorities under the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU

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CURRENT PRESIDENCY

Digital Single Market Strategy

- **Digital Single Market** Strategy published by the COM in May 2015

- **Council** and **European Parliament** endorsed the Strategy and both called for the **quick completion** of the functioning Digital Single Market **breaking the silos of the 27 Member States**

- **Positive agenda** in the times of economic, security and integration crises.

- Estimated contribution of **415 billion EUR** each year to Europe's economy, **creation of jobs and transformation our public services**

Digital Single Market Strategy

Three pillars:

- Better access for consumers and businesses to online goods and services across Europe

- Creating the right conditions for digital networks and services to flourish

- Creating a European Digital Economy and Society with long term growth potential

Digital Single Market Strategy Initiatives

- 16+ initiatives, broad scope of regulatory approach
  and cross-cutting policy areas, very complex

- Package approach on legislative and non-legislative files

- 4 main strands: **telecom, copyright and audiovisual,
  e-commerce and digital**

- Priority areas: digital contracts, services portability, roaming,
  spectrum, geoblocking and consumer protections, parcels,
  eGovernment, digital platforms, cyber, data, ICT standards, ...

Telecom

Main objective: establish a regulatory framework for electronic communications fit for the 21st century

Tree main dossiers:

1. **700 MHz –** better spectrum management coordination, timely release of the 700 MHz band to ensure Europe´s leadership in the roll-out of 5G networks

2. **Roaming –** abolition of roaming surcharges by June 2017

3. **Telecom review** – complex review of the telecom rules establishing so called European Gigabit Society (inside: *5G for Europe Action Plan, EU Electronic Communication Code; Regulation on the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications; Regulation on the promotion of Internet connectivity).*

Copyright + Audiovisual 1/2

AVMS Directive: strenghtening of the cross-border audiovisual market providing enhanced media services (protection of minors, new commercial rules, protection of EUworks, fight against hate speech) and following a principle of the country of origin.

Copyright reform objective: modernizing the copyright framework,extending the online content availability across the EU, adapting the current exceptions and limitations to the digital world and achieving a well-functioning copyright market place

Two main dossiers on copyright:

1. **On-line Services Cross-border Portability Regulation –** addresses the current restrictions in order to allow EU citizens to travel with the online content purchased/subscribed to at home

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Copyright 2/2

2. Copyright modernization framework (2nd wave): brings the EU rules in line with technological progress and with dynamic behaviour of viewers on-line

- **Regulation governing copyright and related rights for online transmissions and retransmissions of television and radio programmes** – to handle cross-border distribution by facilitating rights,

- **Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market** – to adjust licencing of content to the digital era, to bring exemptions to text and data mining for education, research and innovation,

- **Marrakesh Treaty implementation Directive + Regulation** – e.g. blind people can access content (including across borders) in formats that are accessible to them

eCommerce 1/2

Main objective: remove the current bottlenecks and obstacles to foster a dynamic Digital Single Market and protect consumers on-line

Key files:

1. **Digital contracts** - Digital Content Directive, Contracts Directive regarding the Distant Sales of Goods - legislative initiatives on harmonised rules for the supply of digital content and online and other distant sales of goods

2. **Online platforms/Collaborative economy** – a policy approach to online platforms and identification of areas where action or further assessment is needed

eCommerce 2/2

Key files:

3. Geoblocking – This regulation is on addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination defines specific situations when there can be no justified reasons for geo-blocking or other discriminations based on nationality, residence or location

4. Parcels – Regulation on Cross-boarder Parcel Delivery services increase price transparency and regulatory oversight of crossborder parcel delivery services

5. Consumer protection cooperation – this regulation governs the powers of enforcement authorities and addresses the need to better enforce EU consumer law in the fast evolving digital sphere

eGovernment/Cyber/Data

<u>Main files:</u>

1. **eGoverment** – European eGovernment Action Plan 2016 – 2020, tool to coordinate and accelerate the public sector modernization efforts and resources in the field of electronic public administration

2. **Cyber security** – Communication on Strengthening Europe's Cyber Resilience System and Fostering a Competitive and Innovative Cybersecurity Industry

3. **Data –** A strategy and a legal instrument (poss. regulation) on the free flow of data will clarify emerging issues of data ownership, access and liability.

4. **Interoperability and standardization –** EU catalogue of ICT standards for a more efficient public procurement and European Interoperability Framework to maximise the ability of ICT systems to work together

What´s next?

- Some of the initiatives of the DSM Strategy not yet published will be under the spotlight soon, e.g. **Free Flow of Data, ePrivacy Directive, Interoperability framework, ICT Standards or VAT proposals,**

- In the previous strategy of the Digital Agenda for Europe, completion of the functioning Digital Single Market was set ambitiously by 2015, but **this was not the case!**

- It is quite clear that **certain files will need more time** for negotiation within the Council and the European Parliament. We hope that by 2020**, it will be the case**☺

Thank you
for your attention!

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