

# Digital Priorities of the German Presidency in second half 2020



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## General Support for EU Digital Sovereignty and Competitiveness

- The German Presidency is committed to an innovative Europe based on three pillars: expanding the EU's digital sovereignty, enhancing competitiveness and a sustainable and stable financial architecture;
- Moreover, the German Presidency establishes digital sovereignty as a leitmotiv of digital policy and aims at ensuring the development of digital skills while guaranteeing the openness of the Internal Market;
- To do so, Germany will work for high public and private investment in strengthening EU's digital capacities, a common understanding among Member States about the path forward, and the development of high-performance, sovereign European digital infrastructure and trustworthy European data infrastructure.

## Specific ambitions

During the second half of 2020, the German Presidency aims to:

- Engage in the discussion on rules and guidelines governing Common European data spaces and set the course for a transparent and legally secure exchange of European health related data;
- Harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence in the measures to promote economic recovery in all sectors;
- With the help of Council conclusions set in motion work on a Code of Conduct for the use of health data;
- Create legal prerequisites for secure storage options or standardized secure elements for all citizens' devices;
- Support Digital regulatory policy strengthening the internal market through better security provisions for the platform economy, digital services and consumer protection;
- Adopt Council conclusions on ecodesign;
- Work on an EU Strategy for Intellectual Property, to protect innovation, fair access rights and foster creativity;
- Strengthen citizens' digital inclusion, ensure good working conditions and social security in new forms of work (e.g. platform-based work) and to provide skills for the digital age;
- Further develop the Commission's Industrial and SME Strategies to strengthen European cooperation in innovative key technologies;
- Hold a SME Conference in November to discuss cross-border approaches to strengthening entrepreneurship, digital transformation and innovation;
- Implement the OECD Digital Services Tax at the EU level once the negotiations are over;
- Introduce of a financial transaction tax at European level;
- Create a Digital Financial Market Union to remove existing barriers to cross-border digital financial services and support the Commission's upcoming Digital Finance Strategy;
- Expand digital education in relation to the new Europass platform and increase learning mobility within the framework of a European Education Area.

## Broader context German presidency

Apart from these specific digital priorities, the German Presidency will concentrate on currently urgent issues. The beginning of their Presidency will be strongly focused on guiding the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and the Next Generation EU Recovery Fund. Simultaneously, the German Presidency has to deal with the formal completion of the UK's exit from the EU, including the final details on the provisions for the future relationship. Apart from these high-level priorities, the German Presidency will focus on the overarching ambitions of the EU, which are the digital and green transitions of the European economy.