



DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET BULLETIN APR 2018

- **Minister Breen Signs Declarations at EU Digital Day Event**
- **Commission Announcements on the Digital Single Market**
- **Overview of Inter-Departmental Committee on the Digital Single Market**

Further Reading: More in depth updates and commentary on the Digital Single Market agenda is available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/digital-single-market_en

This Bulletin is issued by the Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection. The Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation's Digital Single Market and Digital Economy Unit supports the Minister of State on DSM issues with the cooperation of the members of the Digital Single Market Interdepartmental Committee.

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MINISTER BREEN SIGNS DECLARATIONS AT EU DIGITAL DAY EVENT

On 10th April, Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Mr Pat Breen TD, attended EU Digital Day 2018 where he signed three political Declarations on behalf of Ireland.



Minister Breen addressing the audience and fellow panellists at the EU Digital Day event

This one-day event in Brussels was organised by the European Commission under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council and hosted by Andrus Ansip, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mariya Gabriel, Member of the European Commission. It brought together high-level stakeholders in the fields of digital technology and telecommunication to facilitate discussion on priority issues on the digital agenda.

The event was structured around initiatives to reach joint commitments related to the digital future of Europe in order to encourage investment in European digital technologies and infrastructure. As such, it featured panel discussions on the topics, after which Ministers from each Member State were invited to sign up to a formal Declaration. Minister Breen signed three Declarations, as follows:

- a Declaration of cooperation on Artificial Intelligence, wherein Member States agreed to work together on the most important issues raised by Artificial Intelligence, from ensuring Europe's competitiveness in the research and deployment of AI, to dealing with social, economic, ethical and legal questions. A total of 24 Member States, and 25 countries in total, signed this Declaration.

- a Declaration on the establishment of a European Blockchain Partnership, aimed at ensuring that Europe continues to play a leading role in the development and roll-out of blockchain technologies. Blockchain is a technology for promoting user trust, by making it possible to share on-line information, agree on and record transactions in a verifiable, secure and permanent way. This Declaration was signed by 21 other countries.
- a Declaration on Innovation Radar – a data-driven online tool that provides easy access to innovations supported by EU funding and the innovators behind them – which was launched by the European Commission at the event. The tool will allow every citizen, public official, professional and business person to discover the outputs of EU innovation funding and aid in the commercialisation of innovations. A total of 17 Member States signed this Declaration.

Further details are available [here](#) on the European Commission website.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET



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Over the course of 25-26 April, the European Commission made 10 announcements around two broad themes, Platforms and Data, covering aspects of the Digital Single Market (DSM), based on stakeholder consultations. The announcements contained a series of new initiatives to complete the Digital Single Market and turn data from different

countries, sectors and disciplines into a major source of innovation and growth. They include:

- A European approach on artificial intelligence ([AI](#)) to put this technology at the service of European citizens and boost Europe's competitiveness, while guaranteeing highest European standards for personal data protection.
- A proposal on Platforms to Business ([P2B](#)), which aims to establish a fair, trusted and innovation-driven ecosystem in the online platform economy in the EU and contribute to a strengthened, better-functioning Digital Single Market in terms of innovation, competitiveness, growth and jobs. The new rules will tackle these concerns by increasing transparency in search results, resolving disputes more effectively and setting up an EU Observatory to monitor the impact of the new rules.
- Measures to tackle [disinformation](#) online, including an EU-wide Code of Practice on Disinformation, support for an independent network of fact-checkers, and a series of actions to stimulate quality journalism and promote media literacy.
- Measures to introduce a common [data space](#) in the EU – a seamless digital area with the scale that will enable the development of new products and services based on data.
- A Directive on the [re-use of public sector information](#) provides a common legal framework for a European market for government-held data (public sector information).
- A Communication on enabling the [digital transformation of health and care](#) in the Digital Single Market which will empower citizens and building a healthier society.
- [Open access to scientific information](#). The results of publicly-funded research are to be disseminated more broadly to the benefit of researchers, innovative industry and citizens.

- A Staff Working Paper on guidelines on market analysis and the assessment of significant market power ([SMP](#)) under the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services.
- A Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation and functioning of the [.eu Top Level Domain Name](#) Top Level Domain name.

OVERVIEW OF INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

Minister Breen hosted the 8th Meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) on the Digital Single Market (DSM) on 26 April 2018.

At the meeting, Departmental representatives provided updates on a range of issues relating to the digital agenda, including:

- the EU Digital Day, which was held in Brussels on 10 April 2018, and the EU Digital Single Market Announcements that were made on 25 and 26 April – as documented in more detail above.
- the current position relating to ongoing work on the DSM agenda, covering the Telecoms Code, Audio-Visual Media Services, ePrivacy, Wifi4EU, Platforms to Business (P2B) and Illegal Content.
- The initiation of a scoping exercise for the new National Digital Strategy, which will be followed by the establishment of an inter-Departmental group and consultation across all sectors to progress the Strategy over the summer.

A number of oral presentations were made in relation to progress across the range of digital skills

initiatives that are currently progressing, including the EGFSN Digital Skills Study (DBEI), the Review of ICT Skills Strategy, Digital Schools Strategy (all ES), Digital Skills for Citizens (DCCAE) and the Digital upskilling of civil and public servants (OGCIO). The overall approach being taken is to identify, develop and activate the mix of skills needed to enable inclusive participation in an increasingly digitalised economy.

The key focus of the IDC is on ensuring effective whole-of-Government engagement with the EU DSM Strategy, particularly in terms of developing a coherent and coordinated approach to matters that cut across the responsibilities of individual Ministers, Departments and European Council formations, including in relation to the regulatory environment for online platforms and the free flow of data. Relevant Ministers and Departments will continue to lead on the key files in their respective areas of responsibility. However, there is also acknowledgement that many of the files have cross-cutting implications. The IDC on DSM includes representatives from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) and the following other Government Departments / Offices:

- Department of the Taoiseach,
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment,
- Department of Justice & Equality,
- Department of Finance,
- Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, and
- IDA Ireland.