



Digital Single Market Bulletin

Contents:

Minister Breen meets with Dr Roberto Viola (DG CONNECT)

Overview of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Digital Single Market

European Commission Brexit Notices on Digital Single Market Issues

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

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Public Consultation – Ireland’s New National Digital Strategy



The Government launched a Public Consultation on a new National Digital Strategy on the 22nd of October, running for one month, inviting members of the public and interested stakeholders to make submissions. Your submission will help identify the issues and priorities that matter to the citizens, businesses, and communities of Ireland, and create a strong new National Digital Strategy.

Find out more about the [Public Consultation on Ireland’s New National Digital Strategy](#). The closing date for submissions is Friday 23 November, 2018.

Minister Breen meets with Dr Roberto Viola (DG Connect)

On 19 September 2018, Minister Breen met with Dr Roberto Viola, the Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, known as DG Connect. DG Connect is responsible for developing the initiatives required to support the European Digital Single Market. Dr Viola was in Dublin to deliver a keynote speech at the Data Summit 2018 in Croke Park.



Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Pat Breen met with Director-General Dr Roberto Viola.

Dr Viola thanked the Minister and Ireland for our ongoing support to the Commission for the EU Digital Single Market and wider digital transformation agenda. He was pleased that Ireland has confirmed its intention to join the European High-Performance Computing (HPC) joint undertaking and mentioned that the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC), which provides HPC

resources principally for researchers in third-level institutions, has made some very strong applications for funding support.

Dr Viola is a keen proponent for Europe adopting an ethical approach in the exploitation of new digital technologies, while exercising caution to avoid over regulation. He acknowledged the challenges faced in moving forward on this complex agenda but stressed the importance of committing sufficient resources to the digital agenda to secure beneficial outcomes for citizens and businesses throughout Europe. Dr Viola particularly mentioned challenges and potential big wins in digital applications in healthcare (e.g. European health data record card; using AI as a game changer in healthcare), in the adoption of a coordinated EU member state action plan for artificial intelligence (AI), in the application of AI, for example in, motorway driving and blockchain, and especially the potential for the provision of government services on public blockchain systems.

Dr Viola views precision agriculture and agri-tech as technologies suitable for developing countries such as Africa and considers that Irish companies could have great scope to exploit opportunities in these fields.

Overview of the IDC on the Digital Single Market

Minister Breen hosted the 10th Meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Digital Single Market (DSM) on 25 September 2018.

At the meeting, Departmental representatives provided updates on a range of issues, including:

- an outline of the recent Juncker State of the Union address and the key DSM elements of the associated Letter of Intent, which relate mainly to disinformation, cybersecurity, AI and skills;
- an overview of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027 and the Digital Europe Programme and other EU funding programmes with a digital dimension;
- developments in relation to Artificial Intelligence, including the appointment of the 52 experts group by the EU Commission and the establishment of

the AI Sherpa group to develop a EU member states coordinated plan by the end of the year. The Commission is also looking at ways for Europe to retain IT expertise, to develop skills necessary for a digital economy and to stimulate more private investment as a means of addressing a clear finance gap in relation to Digital Transformation and AI uptake;

- reports on the status of developments in relation to EU legislative proposals and negotiations on Platforms to Business (P2B), Geo-blocking, Copyright, Telecoms Code, AVMS, ePrivacy, the Wifi4EU initiative, and Illegal Online Content.
- work on the National Digital Strategy was progressing across four pillars: Infrastructure; Trust and Well-being; Effective use by citizens and Government and Innovation. A public

consultation exercise will commence in mid-October with a view to gathering views from a broad range of stakeholders and citizens.

A brief overview was provided about recent developments in relation to Brexit particularly as related to the DSM. The European Commission is working to identify necessary legislative amendments, convening expert seminars and events, and preparing Notices outlining the legal and technical impacts in the event of a no deal scenario. The Commission has issued approximately 80 Brexit Notices to date and D/BEI has briefed its Agencies and stakeholders. Short updates were provided by individual policy holders at the meeting in relation to the Notices that have a digital single market dimension (see separate article).

European Commission Brexit Notices on Digital Single Market Issues

On 29 March 2017, the UK submitted notification of its intention to withdraw from the European Union pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. This means that, unless a ratified withdrawal agreement establishes another date, all Union primary and secondary law will cease to apply to the UK from 30 March 2019 ('the withdrawal date'). The UK will then become a 'third country'.

Commission Digital Single Market Brexit Notices to Stakeholders

Subject to any transitional arrangement that may be contained in a possible withdrawal agreement, as of the withdrawal date, the EU rules in many fields will no longer apply to the UK. This has consequences, as set out hereunder in the Commission Notices to Stakeholders on the Withdrawal of the UK, in relation to the following aspects of the Digital Single Market:

[Geo-blocking](#)

[Trademarks and Community Designs](#)

[Customs Enforcement of IP Rights](#)

[Data Protection](#)

[Electronic Communications including Roaming](#)

[Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Consumer Protection & Passenger Rights](#)

[eCommerce and Net Neutrality](#)

[Audio-Visual Media Services](#)

[Security of Network and Information Systems](#)

[Domain Names](#)

Considerable efforts are underway to reach an agreement that will ensure the withdrawal of the UK from the EU occurs with minimum disruption and to put in place a framework for a future relationship which will provide for the closest possible EU-UK relationship post

Brexit. However, the UK's notification of its intention to withdraw from the EU has created significant uncertainties. The European Commission has therefore sought to clarify what the situation will be for a variety of

sectors if no agreement is reached to mitigate the impacts of the UK's withdrawal.

Preparing for the withdrawal is not just a matter for EU and national administrations but also for private parties. In view of the considerable uncertainties, in particular concerning the content of a possible withdrawal

agreement, stakeholders are reminded of legal repercussions which need to be considered when the UK becomes a third country. To this end, the European Commission has issued 80 Notices that outline the implications in the event of a "No deal" scenario. Details of the Notices that impact on the digital single market agenda are set out in the accompanying panel.

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 Inter-Departmental Committee.