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**AT A GLANCE:** EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL SEES ROLE FOR DIGITAL SECTOR – MORE DETAILS EMERGE ON NEW SPACE AND DEFENCE DEPARTMENT – CLAIRE BURY IDENTIFIES NEW COMMISSION PRIORITIES IN DIGITAL POLICY - TRANSATLANTIC DIGITAL ECONOMY CONFERENCE DISCUSSES POLICY BEYOND 2020

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## GLOSSARY

**AI:** Artificial Intelligence, the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems.

**DG CNECT:** The Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology is the European Commission department responsible to develop a digital single market to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe.

**ENISA:** The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity, fully operational since 2005 and located in Athens, Greece.

**EP:** European Parliament, institutions of the European Union constituted of 751 Members of Parliament directly elected by European citizens.

**GDPR:** General Data Protection Regulation, it replaces the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC and is designed to harmonise data privacy laws across Europe, protect and empower all EU citizens' data privacy and reshape the way organisations across the region approach data privacy.

**IOT:** Internet of Things is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.

**MEP:** Member of the European Parliament, a co-legislator within the EU that is made up of representatives from political parties throughout Member States.

**COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS:** the gathering of all EU Commissioners, which adopts legislative proposals and other policy positions before they are presented.

**NIS DIRECTIVE:** The Directive on security of network and information systems entered into force in August 2016. It provides legal measures to boost the overall level of cybersecurity in the EU.

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## EU DIGITAL AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

# European Green Deal sees role for digital sector



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The European Commission presented in December 2019 its European Green Deal. The European Green Deal is the overarching roadmap for Europe to become climate-neutral by 2050. The Commission therefore proposes 50 measures by 2050 and sees this as a first step. The 3 key announcements were:

- **A climate law setting a binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050**, and a plan to boost the bloc's 2030 target for emissions cuts from at least 40 percent reduction to between 50 percent and 55 percent compared to 1990 levels (an impact assessment will be needed to determine target).
- **Funding will be a key area:** this transition will cost traditional sectors which is why in order for it to work, a social transition is also needed. The Commission will propose a Just Transition Fund within a year. It will reach 100 billion euros of investment (public and private) and will be a springboard for regions and sectors that need it (e.g. coal mines in Poland/Romania...).
- **Europe to lead on climate:** the College of Commissioners set itself a goal to be climate neutral by 2030, as the Commission, so this proves they want to lead by example both at European and global level. The Commission plans on exporting its principles via a carbon border tax in line with WTO rules that will protect European companies from unfair competition from heavy polluters. They will also use these principles in trade agreements.

In terms of next steps, a number of legislative proposals are expected in the coming months.

### Implications for digital

Digital gets a few mentions in the text, mostly as a supporting factor in the delivery of the European Green Deal's ambitions. The Commission will explore how artificial intelligence, 5G, cloud and edge computing and the internet of things can accelerate and maximise the impact of policies to deal with climate change and protect the environment. The digital sector in itself is expected to become more sustainable, while digital technologies can be for distance monitoring of air and water pollution, or for monitoring and optimising how energy and natural resources are used. Accessible and interoperable data will be at the heart of this.

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Although there is no explicit reference of digital-related actions under the European Green Deal, the expressed recognition of the potential of digitalisation in delivering its goals suggests that policy makers will be open to any proposals and activities cutting across both digital and sustainability.

The Green Deal can be found [here](#) and the Annexes [here](#).

(Source: Interel)

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## More details emerge on new Space and Defence department



Before leaving office at the end of November, Internal Market Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska announced that the new Directorate-General on space and defence will begin operating on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The New DG, since dubbed DG DEFI, will be structured around three directorates:

- Defence industry
- Development and innovation
- Space.

The new department will oversee the Galileo and Copernicus satellite programmes and will be supervised by Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton.

In December 2019 it was also announced that the Director-General for DG DEFI will be Timo Pesonen (from Finland). Mr Pesonen is currently the Director-General of DG GROW (Business, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs). His DG will be supported by a team of 190 staff members transferred from DG GROW.

**(Source: Politico pro)**

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### EU INSTITUTIONS

## Claire Bury identifies new Commission priorities in digital policy



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On 6<sup>th</sup> December we attended an AmCham Digital Economy Committee meeting with DG CNECT's Claire Bury (Deputy Director-General) as the guest speaker. The following key points of interest were raised and discussed within the committee:

**Digital sovereignty:** the main element of this debate is technological capacity. It is bad for the EU to not have a presence in some value chains. This topic includes procurement and investment screening. She noted that the US has had CFIUS for years to protect itself. She added that "The wind has now changed and we want to be more proactive and more interventionist." There will, however, be appropriate checks and balances, as some MS depend on FDI.

- **AI:** Commenting on the statement for "legislation within 100 days" she noted that there is a delicate balance to be struck, including with Commissioners who joined the discussion a bit later, such as Thierry Breton. There is a large number of issues to deal with, including jobs, privacy, black boxes etc. The first step is more transparency on what goes on, but that does not necessarily mean more transparency for certain algorithms. Another question is how companies deal with these issues in their governance structures, how decisions are taken etc. The committee was also informed that a consultation and impact assessment are expected in early 2020 ahead of a White Paper on AI.
- **Cloud security / certification:** ENISA mandate on cloud security certification: In terms of ad hoc working group, ENISA will publish a call for experts in the coming weeks. Indicatively, for the SOG-IS certification scheme, development will take about 6-9 months, but cloud will take longer. 20 members from industry will be included.
- **Cyber:** Stakeholder cybersecurity certification group to be delayed. NIS Directive review will be subject to much debate. Unsure how the EC will make substantial changes, as sovereignty and cyber resilience will remain issues. The cybersecurity unit that Commission President Ursula von der Leyen talked about will help pull together experience from various sectors.

**(Source: Intel and AmCham EU)**

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## Transatlantic Digital Economy Conference discusses policy beyond 2020



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AmCham EU held its [7<sup>th</sup> Annual Transatlantic Digital Economy Conference](#) on 10<sup>th</sup> December, focussing on Europe's digital leadership beyond 2020.

The conference featured an opening keynote speech from the Chair of BEREC followed by four panels bringing together policy makers, regulators, industry representatives and think tanks to discuss the (i) EU's digital sovereignty and global competitiveness, (ii) protection of privacy on both sides of the Atlantic, (iii) transatlantic digital cooperation and (iv) need for a sustainable digital society and technology that works for the people.

Speakers on the first panel had diverging views on what the concept of digital sovereignty means, but there was agreement between them that values and trust are integral elements of it. The Irish Data Protection Commissioner on the second panel indicated that the ECJ's Advocate General is due to issue an opinion next week on the legal challenge pending before the ECJ, which will provide an indication as to whether standard contractual clauses (SCCs) are in line with EU data protection rules (standard contractual clauses are used when data transfers occur between EU and non-EU countries).

On the fourth panel, DG CNECT pointed to the carbon footprint of the ICT industry, saying that the Commission would like in the future consumers to see the CO2 emissions footprint of services like Netflix. Furthermore, Salesforce, a U.S. cloud service provider outlined their Sustainability Cloud [launched](#) last September 2019 and commitments to the UN SDGs, highlighting it has established 100% energy neutral targets by 2022 and has a carbon neutral cloud offering. It was a good example of how a U.S. technology company showcasing what it does to contribute to meeting the EU's climate and sustainability goals.

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