

AT A GLANCE: ACTION PLAN ON IMPLEMENTATION CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES – NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECTRUM CONTINUE – ETHICS IN AI PRIORITY FOR EU FOR 2018-19

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BREXIT

European Council approves move to Stage II of Brexit talks



On December 15, the EU27 leaders approved the move to the second phase of Brexit talks related to transition and the framework for the future relationship, but warned that “negotiations in the second phase

can only progress as long as all commitments undertaken during the first phase are respected in full and translated faithfully into legal terms as quickly as possible”.

On a potential transition period, national leaders agreed “to negotiate a transition period covering the whole of the EU *acquis*, while the United Kingdom, as a third country, will no longer participate in or nominate or elect members of the EU institutions, nor participate in the decision-making of the Union bodies, offices and agencies”. This transition period must however be in the interests of the Union and the European Council called upon the Commission to put forward appropriate recommendations to this effect, and on the Council to adopt additional negotiating directives on transitional arrangements in January 2018. As for the future relationship, the national leaders noted that the UK has signalled its intention to leave both the single market and customs union and explained that it will “calibrate its approach as regards trade and economic cooperation in the light of this position so as to ensure a balance of rights and obligations, preserve a level playing field, avoid upsetting existing relations with other third countries, and to respect all other principles set out in its guidelines of 29 April 2017, in particular the need to preserve the integrity and proper functioning of the Single Market.”

Finally, the conclusions call on the UK “to provide further clarity on its position on the framework for the future relationship”. This latter point was a recurrent theme from the Heads of State or Government throughout the European Summit with the Maltese PM, Joseph Muscat noting that “the first real big step is for the UK to say very clearly what it wants in clear terms” and this was a sentiment reiterated by the Dutch PM, Mark Rutte and Donald Tusk, who noted that it is “to get more clarity on their vision”.

Source: Dods

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CYBERSECURITY

Action Plan on implementation cybersecurity initiatives



At the meeting of the Council's Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues back in September 2017 the Commission presented its cybersecurity package, including a **Joint Communication on Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU**. A political response to the initiatives

outlined in that Joint Communication were set by EU Member States in **Council Conclusions adopted on 20 November 2017**.

Now, an **Action Plan for implementation of the Council Conclusions** on the Joint Communication is adopted, which is a tool for horizontal oversight and strategic follow-up of the implementation of the Council Conclusions and of the actions detailed below. In the Action Plan, you will find a categorization of the initiatives according to the action, lead responsible, involved stakeholders and deadlines.

Source: Dods + Intere!

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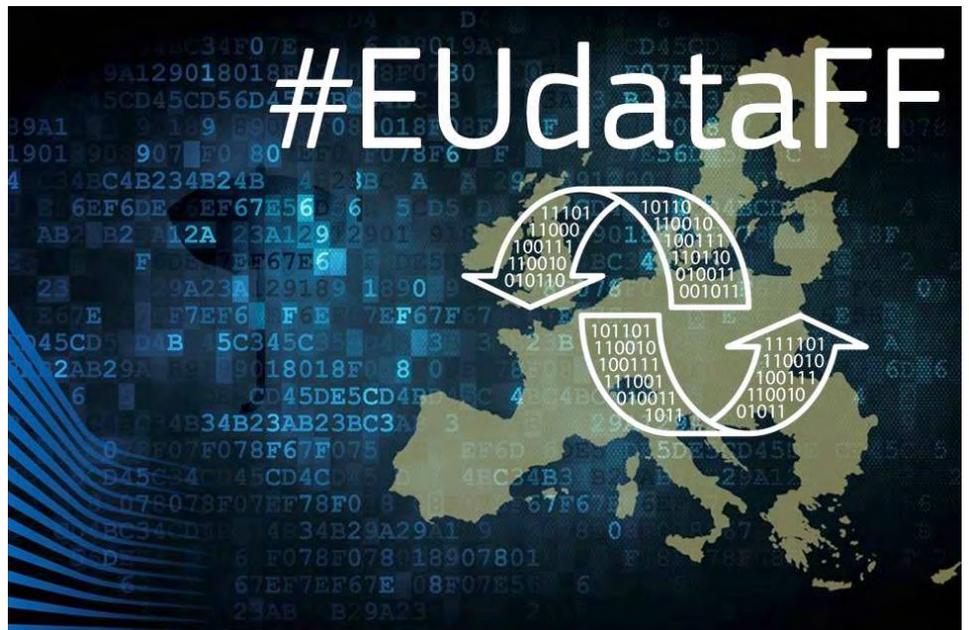
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DATA PROTECTION

Free flow of data initiative: joint statement by industry



In a position statement published this month several industry stakeholders, including BSA, CCIA Europe and Business Europe, expressed **support** for the EU efforts to unleash the free movement of data across the Union. The statement finds that the Commission proposal should only be permitted if there is a justified concern on public security grounds, in accordance with the relevant CJEU case-law. Industry fears that efforts to broaden the scope of the exception to include all “*public sector data*,” and permit exceptions for any “*public policy*” would pave the way for data localization requirements to proliferate across the EU and therefore rendering the Regulation effectively irrelevant.

Please find a presentation from the European Commission on the proposed Regulation [here](#) and the Council’s position on the Regulation [here](#).

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SPECTRUM

Negotiations on spectrum continue



Negotiators from the European Parliament and EU member states reached a provisional deal on a number of issues in the EU's reform of how spectrum is used and sold across Europe.

But negotiators did not strike a deal on the more contentious areas of spectrum policy.

Issues still under discussion include how long telecom companies can use spectrum licenses, whether countries should license the same spectrum bands at the same time, and whether companies can hold a license without actively using it after purchase.

Source: Politico Pro

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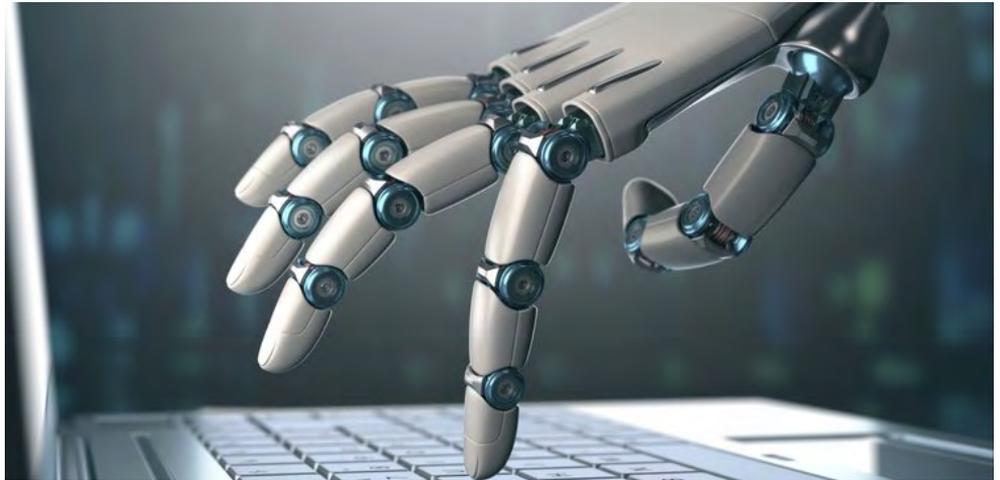
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Ethical standards in artificial intelligence priority for EU for next 2 years



In their **Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities** for 2018-2019, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker alongside President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani and holder of the rotating Council Presidency and Prime Minister of Estonia, Jüri Ratas, listed the 31 new legislative proposals tabled by the Commission which will be given priority treatment by the Parliament and Council for adoption or substantial progress by the time of the European Parliament elections in 2019.

On artificial intelligence and robotics, the declaration reads:

"Ensuring a high level of data protection, digital rights and ethical standards while capturing the benefits and avoiding the risks of developments in artificial intelligence and robotics."

Source: Dods + Interel

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for content, please contact the EPPI (eppi@ieee.org).