

AT A GLANCE :TAJANI NEW PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – PARLIAMENT’S REPORT ON GEO-BLOCKING – MORE INVESTMENT NEEDED TO REACH GIGABIT SOCIETY

## EDITION CONTENT:

### European Parliament:

- [Tajani elected as president of the European Parliament](#)

### Digital Single Market:

- [Parliament’s report on geo-blocking](#)
- [Next-Generation Internet Conference](#)

### Cloud Initiative:

- [European Cloud Initiative discussed at the Parliament](#)

### Cybersecurity:

- [ENISA at Omnisecond conference](#)

### Data:

- [Building the European Data Economy](#)

### Telecoms:

- [Trilogues on Roaming](#)
- [5G and gigabit society](#)

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### Tajani elected as president of the European Parliament



On Tuesday 17 January, Antonio Tajani was finally elected President of the European Parliament after four rounds of voting, comfortably beating the Socialist candidate Gianni Pittella by 351 votes to 202. Tajani will be a very different President to Martin Schulz as he has a much less combative style and will find it harder to have the Parliament’s voice heard in the European Council. He should however maintain good relations with Juncker and the Commission.

Tajani’s main problem will be that he starts with much of the left-wing parties against him. He is labelled as Berlusconi’s man in Brussels, and his views on LGBT rights and the role of women are constantly used against him. He has

still not thrown off suspicion that he knew far more than he’s letting on in the Dieselgate scandal. And yet he is a survivor and a political animal who has confounded critics before and made it to the top. His name may not be recognised by Donald Trump but he’s well known in Brussels circles and unlikely to rock the boat too much or try and be too innovative a president. His campaign pledges were fairly modest – a smaller cabinet with gender parity and a member designated to peripheral regions and linguistic minorities.

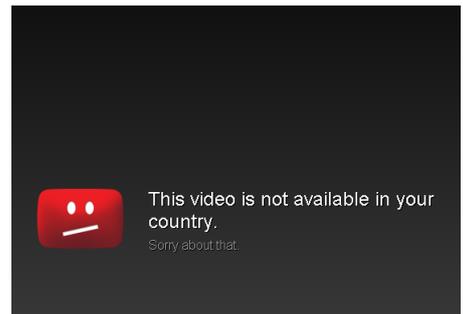
Ironically, his style of presidency may suit some of his loudest critics. Philippe Lamberts, co-president of the Greens, argued that Martin Schulz had in fact weakened the Parliament by submitting it to the will of the Commission and European Council. He claimed that under Schulz it had taken less risks on legislation and the budget. These allegations echo the words of Pittella who is looking for clear blue water between the S&D and EPP and the bad blood between the two groups could herald a new era of uncertainty in the Parliament.

## DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

### Parliament’s report on geo-blocking

Following to the Commission’s proposal on geo-blocking in May 2016, the European Parliament appointed the rapporteur on the file, MEP Ró a Gráfin von Thun und Hohenstein, who now issued the Parliament’s report. At a hearing in November, she noted the importance of having clear harmonizing geo-blocking rules so that SMEs are not put under the risk, as well as of encouraging companies to sell online. Please find the draft parliamentary report [here](#).

The rapporteur will now take the lead on the Parliament’s work, and enter into negotiations with the Council once the Parliament has adopted its position.



### Next-Generation Internet Conference

On 25 January a conference was organized by the Commission’s DG



Connect on Next-Generation Internet. Peter Fatelnig, deputy Head of Unit of DG Connect’s team of Next-Generation Internet, opened the discussion: “Today’s internet is fragmented, and suffers from a concentration of power. We also see mounting concerns of users in terms of privacy and security. People have urged us to take initiative.”

He then looked to the future: “Internet will have new functionalities in 10 years’ from now. The Commission is going to specifically address the concerns of users, and how the users perceive internet: not about the transport or IP layer of internet, nor about networks, but rather about how the consumers perceive it, in their daily businesses, social media, banks, friends,...” He finally referred to Roberto Viola, the Director General of DG Connect: “It should offer more to people and to our society, providing better

services and greater involvement and participation. It should be designed for humans, so that it can meet its full potential for society and economy and reflect the social and ethical values that we enjoy in our societies.”

Since October the Commission has organized a number of meetings and workshops, including an online consultation and a call for proposals (ICT 41). This work will continue throughout 2017 and beyond. As Mr Fatelnig said: “We now need a policy which responds short notice to the needs that arise from the internet community. The developers of the internet of the future will have to be consulted. The Commission’s keen to find the innovators, experts and internet developers who will be able to support the Commission in this field. Although some issues, such as privacy, will have to be solved through regulation, lots of the solutions will have to come from technology.”

The Commission will welcome input and suggestions from experts, such as EPPI’s WG on ICT’s members, in the area of NGI for the years to come.

#### CLOUD INITIATIVE

## European Cloud Initiative discussed at the Parliament

On January 12, the European Parliament’s Industry Committee voted on the draft report by MEP Jean-Luc Schaffhauser on the European Cloud Initiative.



The report was adopted, as amended, with 46 votes in favour and 7 against. Due to the amount of changes to his own draft, the rapporteur decided to withdraw his name from the report.

At the same time, shadow rapporteur and Conservative spokesman for the Industry Committee, MEP Ashley Fox, said the report agreed by the Committee failed to send a clear message to the European Commission that its top-down policy was not the best way to drive innovation: “We fully support the idea of a European Open Science Cloud to create a trusted, open environment for the research community,” he said. “But we will not succeed if we leave it to the Commission to impose a centralised, ‘we know best’ approach in relation to infrastructure developments.

Mr Fox stressed that future policy and investment proposals on cloud computing must take account of existing initiatives and not duplicate effort. He added: “In the UK businesses and consumers benefit from having multiple cloud providers offering access to technologically advanced, free to use services. The EU should learn from our example.”

The report will be considered by the full parliament on 13 February.

#### CYBERSECURITY

## ENISA attending the Omnisecure conference in Berlin

On 16-18 January 2017 Germany’s Interior Ministry organized its annual Omnisecure conference in Berlin. The conference’s programme included a number of forums and workshops on Payment, e-Government, Connected Living, e-Identification, Industry 4.0 and Big Data, e-Mobility, Internet of Secured Things and Cyber Security. This year the event particularly looked into smart ID solutions for products and services, with a focus on payments, e-Government, intelligent mobility and connected living.



ENISA, the European Agency for Network and Information Security, participated in a number of sessions throughout the conference in the areas of National Cyber Security Strategies (NCSS) and the Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive.

As you may know, ENISA’s key role in NCSS includes leveraging existing knowledge and expertise in the area, assisting the Member States in evaluating current strategies and the development of new strategies. Furthermore the agency promotes EU cooperation through the CSIRTS network and the EU Cooperation Group on NIS. The agency also assists EOS and DSPs on the smooth implementation of the NIS Directive.

This past year ENIS studied a number of areas, including automotive cyber security and the resilience of smart cars (please see [report](#) here) as well as “smart” airports: a **guide** to airport decision makers and airport information security professionals. The study aims to provide airport operators with a start-up kit to enhance cybersecurity in “smart” airports, identifies gaps in different areas, and future steps to enhance cybersecurity in the field.

In the area of privacy, ENISA has developed the **‘PETs control matrix’** which works as an assessment framework and tool for the systematic presentation and evaluation of online and mobile privacy tools for end users.

#### DATA

## Building the European Data Economy

On 10 January the European Commission adopted a **Communication** on “Building a European Data Economy”. The Commission looks at the rules and regulations impeding the free flow of data and presents options to remove unjustified or disproportionate data location restrictions. It also outlines legal issues regarding access to and transfer of data, data portability and liability of non-personal, machine-generated digital data.

This initiative is said to help shaping the future policy agenda on the European data economy. At the same time, a **consultation** was launched which will run until 26 April 2017 and feed into the Commission’s possible future initiative on the European Data Economy later in 2017.

The Commission’s proposals are wide-ranging and ambitious, including (for example) potential EU enforcement actions to invalidate national data localization requirements; a new EU legal framework to promote access to data, potentially including a requirement for companies to provide access to data generated on their own products and services through the Internet of Things (“IoT”); default contract rules that would invalidate data access and usage provisions in other contracts that are deemed unfair, including in a B2B context; and a mandatory portability right for non-personal data based on the EU portability right for personal data.

These initiatives are of critical importance for all companies doing business in the EU, not only technology companies. The Commission hopes that the E-Privacy Regulation will be adopted by May 2018, in time for the GDPR’s entry into force. In addition to the consultation on the European data economy, the Commission also plans to conduct bilateral discussions with individual stakeholders.

## TELECOMS

## Negotiations between EU institutions on Roaming on-going

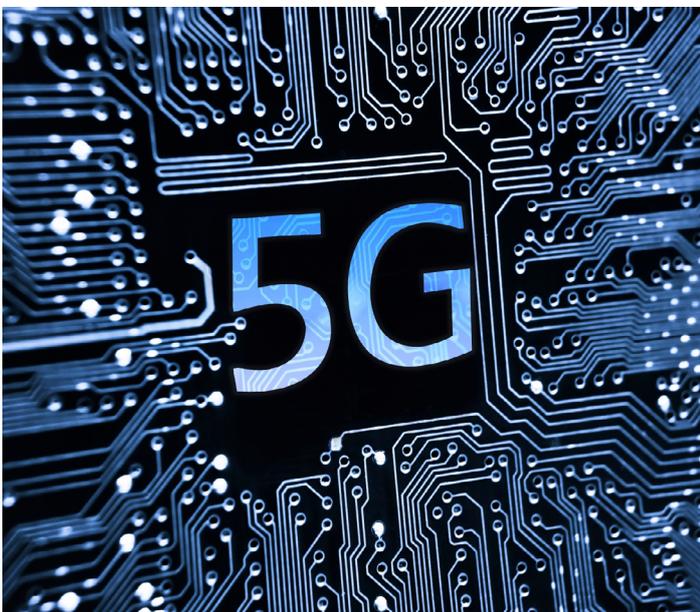
The draft **regulation** on the “Wholesale Roaming Markets” was adopted by the European Commission in June 2016. The Parliament voted on the text in the Industry Committee in November 2016. The first “trilogue” negotiations between the Commission, Council and Parliament took place in December and January. However, according to the Parliament’s



draftsman, MEP Miapetra Kumpula, the positions of the Council and the European Parliament remain too divergent, particularly on the issue of the price that companies need to pay to each other. However, the Commission agreed on a so-called “fair use policy”, a new element which has to be taken into consideration by the negotiators. Finally, Kumpula found that the information of consumers is also a point where further discussions were necessary. Once the three institutions agreed on a compromise text, the act is ready to be passed.

## 5G and Gigabit Society.

This month ETNO, the European Telecommunications Network Operators Association, shed its light on the Commission’s vision for “Europe’s connected future”. The association is favourable to a technology-neutral approach, stresses the importance of innovation and investment and calls for a spectrum reform in view of the 5G objective. With 5G peeking



around the corner, ETO calls on the Commission to uphold a “consistent policy environment”, as one of the conditions, along with investment, to ensure that 5G will be this building block of a new society “in which all citizens make the most out of connectivity and digital services.” With regards to the regulatory environment, policy makers should at any time keep the end goal in sight: the users. Be they citizens, public administration or businesses, there must be a full understanding of the advantages of advanced broadband and 5G.

In addition to the politics, new digital services and advanced networks need innovation and investment.

When it comes to advanced networks and new digital services, innovation and investment in broadband are the starting point. According to the 2016 **report** by the Boston Consulting Group, at the current levels of investment, it will take until 2035 to develop a gigabit society. ETNO believes this is far from being desirable from a societal, political or industrial viewpoint. For this reason, the report points to ways as to how the investment levels can be boosted to get there by 2025.

Moreover, ETNO calls for a technology-neutral approach in Europe in order to make sure the entire continent can benefit from this gigabit society. All technologies should be included, such as very fast VDSL and g.fast. The choice of technology should be driven by competition, and engineers in companies. As the association said: “They are much better equipped to pick the best technologies, as opposed to regulators.”

Regarding 5G, there is a need for spectrum reform to match the 5G objective. ETNO says the focus should be on spectrum identification and on establishing the right ecosystems with other industries. Many of the ETNO companies are working with vertical industries through partnerships and collaborative research and innovation projects. For this reason, ETNO supports the European Commission’s plans for the identification of adequate spectrum resources for 5G.

However, if a truly coordinated approach to 5G deployment is to be achieved, we must also ensure that spectrum terms and timing are harmonized at the European. Also for spectrum, a positive outcome of the legislative process on the Electronic Communications Code is therefore essential. The proposal goes in the right direction, by promoting longer duration of licenses and better conditions for spectrum trading, but it should be further strengthened.