

**AT A GLANCE:** INTERNAL MARKET COMMITTEE ISSUES OPINION ON CYBERSECURITY ACT – EU LONG-TERM BUDGET SUGGESTS INCREASED INVESTMENTS IN DIGITAL ECONOMY – FACEBOOK’S CEO HOLDS HEARING AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – DIGITAL TAX IN THE SPOTLIGHT – EU GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) ENTERS INTO FORCE

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#### CYBERSECURITY

## Internal Market Committee issues Opinion on Cybersecurity Act



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While Member States reached a general approach at the Council level, Members of the European Parliament’s Internal Market and Consumer Affairs Committee (IMCO) adopted its **Opinion** on the Cybersecurity Act. The Committee Opinion highlights how the cybersecurity and digital industries should adopt self-regulatory schemes to boost their cybersecurity standards.

The Opinion, which was drafted by MEP Nicola Danti (S&D, Italy), focused on the wider involvement of stakeholders and ensuring that future certification schemes will consider existing standards and security-by-design principles.

The Opinion will be sent to the Industry Committee (ITRE), which is leading the Parliament’s work on the Act and will feed into the Parliament’s position on the legislative proposal. A vote in the ITRE Committee is expected on 19 June, after which the European Parliament in a plenary session will approve its final position and authorize the launch of trilogue negotiations with the Council and the Commission. Final agreement on the Act is expected by the end of the year.

**Source: Interel + Politico Pro**

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## EU BUDGET

# EU long-term budget suggests increased investments in digital economy



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The European Commission released its **Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF)**, which sets out the EU's budget for the period 2021-2027. In its proposal, the Commission proposed a 64% increase in funds allocated to research, innovation and digital.

In addition, the Commission envisions the establishment of a new Digital Europe Program, which will target digital investment, technological change and reforms to education and employment systems across Europe. The program defines target areas, including supercomputing, cybersecurity and digitization of the industry.

The decision on the long-term EU budget will now fall to the EU Council, acting by unanimity, and with the consent of the European Parliament. The Commission called on Member States to prioritize negotiations on the budget, pointing out the importance of reaching an agreement before the European Parliament's elections in May 2019.

**Source:** [Interel](#)

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## DATA PROTECTION

# EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) enters into force

Following two years from its formal adoption by European institutions, on 25 May the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) entered into force and has become applicable in EU Member States.

As stated by Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Vera Jourova, the GDPR updates data protection rules on collection, storage and processing of the personal data of EU citizens to make Europe fit for the digital age and to offer benefits for both citizens and businesses. According to the Regulation, Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) are entrusted to monitor and enforce the application of the GDPR and to safeguard its effectiveness, both in their national capacity and as part of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB).

Meanwhile, on 23 May 2018, the EU Council and the European Parliament agreed on new data protection rules for EU institutions, bodies and agencies. The rules significantly overlap with the GDPR.

***The GDPR, possibly one of the most challenging piece of legislation to negotiate, is widely seen as setting a new global standard for data protection, as it can affect any company dealing with the personal data of EU citizens, no matter where the company is based. Moreover, in light of the recent Facebook / Cambridge Analytica events, Europe's cautious approach on privacy and tech regulation more generally has appeared vindicated. This could mean that EU regulators feel emboldened throughout the next policy cycle.***

Source: Interrel

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## DATA PROTECTION

# Facebook's CEO holds hearing at the European



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## Parliament

On 22 May 2018, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg appeared in front of a panel of Members of the European Parliament to answer questions stemming from the recent revelations about misuse of personal data by Cambridge Analytica. Securing the appearance of Mr. Zuckerberg underlined the role of EU policy makers in setting rules at the global level and the recognition by technology executives that these institutions matter.

During a session that lasted 90 minutes, discussions revolved around a wide range of topics, including election hacking, illegal online content, privacy and GDPR, as well as security and use of non-Facebook users' data.

Facebook subsequently **published** written responses to the outstanding questions, a large part of which was taken up by data collection and privacy and the Cambridge Analytica story. Other topics included anti-trust issues, fake accounts, taxation, elections, the neutrality of the platform and third party fact-checkers.

**Source:** Interrel

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DIGITAL TAX

**EU Digital Tax in the spotlight**



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EU Member States remain divided on the digital tax legislative package, which was issued in March 2018 by the European Commission. While some countries, France in primis, maintain a strong political interest in introducing a digital tax, both the opposition of a group of skeptical countries and unanimity of EU governments in the EU Council on taxation issues make an agreement difficult.

Meanwhile, the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council published a digital taxation **roadmap**, outlining its proposed way forward for the digital tax legislative package. According to the document, the Presidency expects EU governments to hold a first round of technical analysis on the introduction of a revenue-based tax at the next Working Party on Tax Questions on 4-5 June 2018.

**Source: Interel**

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