



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 17 October 2017

**Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council
(Telecommunications issues)
Luxembourg, 24 October 2017**

Chair: Urve Palo, Estonia's Minister for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology

The **meeting** will **start** at 10.30.

The Council will hold a policy debate on the **implementation of the digital single market strategy**, with a particular focus on prioritising and speeding up work.

Ministers will also hold a policy debate on **cyber security**, in particular in relation to the cyber security package proposed by the Commission in September.

Both debates will follow up on discussions at the European Council on 19 October and the Tallinn Digital Summit on 29 September.

Over a working lunch, ministers will discuss **practical steps for achieving 5G connectivity**.

Under 'Any other business' items, the presidency will provide information on the **outcome of the lunch discussion**. The presidency will also brief ministers on the Tallinn ministerial declaration on **e-Government** adopted on 6 October and on the **Eastern Partnership digital ministerial meeting** held on 5 October.

Press conference: +/- 16.30.

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Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: www.eucouncil.tv

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Press Office.

Digital single market

The Council will hold a policy debate on the implementation of the digital single market strategy. Ministers are invited to discuss in particular:

- how to speed up progress on the digital single market as a whole
- which issues or dossiers – among those falling under the responsibility of the Telecommunications Council – should be prioritised

Current legislative proposals that are dealt with under the Telecommunications Council relate to:

- telecommunications – Electronic Communications Code; BEREC regulation governing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications
- data economy – regulation on the free flow of data
- cyber security – in particular the ENISA regulation proposing to upgrade the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security into an EU Cybersecurity Agency
- e-commerce – regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services
- privacy – regulation on privacy in electronic communications.

The Council debate will follow up on discussions at the European Council on 19 October, which will include stock-taking regarding the implementation of the digital single market.

It will also build on discussions held at the Tallinn Digital Summit on 29 September.

Background:

The aim of the digital single market is to boost innovation and growth, and to offer tangible benefits to citizens and businesses. Over recent years, the European Council has consistently called for its completion by 2018.

The digital single market strategy is built on three pillars:

1. Access: better access for consumers and businesses to digital goods and services across Europe
2. Environment: creating the right conditions and a level playing field for digital networks and innovative services to flourish
3. Economy & Society: maximising the growth potential of the digital economy.

Since the Commission published its digital single market strategy in May 2015, many elements of this critical strategy have been concluded, such as the end of roaming fees and agreement on EU-wide coordination of the 700 MHz frequency band.

[Conclusions of the Prime Minister of Estonia Jüri Ratas following the Tallinn Digital Summit](#)

[Digital single market for Europe](#) (background information)

[19-20 October 2017 European Council webpage](#)

Cybersecurity 2.0

The Council will hold a policy debate on one of the key challenges facing all member states: cybersecurity. Ministers will be invited to discuss in particular the initiatives included in the cybersecurity package recently presented by the Commission and the concrete actions to be undertaken with a view to its implementation.

Like the digital single market debate, the exchange of views on cyber security will follow up on discussions at the European Council on 19 October and the Tallinn Digital Summit on 29 September. Cybersecurity questions were addressed at length by EU leaders at the Tallinn summit, as reflected in the conclusions drawn by the Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas following the meeting.

The Commission published the wide-ranging cybersecurity package on 13 September, including a new EU cybersecurity strategy. The proposals aim to build EU resilience to cyber attacks and step up the EU's cybersecurity capacity, create an effective criminal law response and strengthen international cooperation on cybersecurity.

The package includes a draft regulation that would upgrade the current European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) into a permanent EU Cybersecurity Agency. The Commission also proposes creating an EU-wide certification framework to ensure that products and services are cyber secure.

A central EU tool in enhancing cybersecurity resilience and cooperation in Europe is the directive on the security of network and information systems (NIS directive) adopted in July 2016. The NIS directive formally created a network of member state computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs), the secretariat of which is provided by the ENISA. An upgraded mandate for the ENISA as proposed by the Commission would give the agency an enhanced role in assisting member states in implementing the NIS directive.

[Conclusions of the Prime Minister of Estonia Jüri Ratas following the Tallinn Digital Summit](#)

[Cyber security](#) (Commission webpages)

[ENISA website](#)

[19-20 October 2017 European Council webpage](#)

Any other business

- **Practical steps to achieving next generation connectivity**

Information from the presidency following the informal lunch debate

- **Tallinn ministerial declaration on e-Government and Eastern Partnership digital ministerial meeting**

Information from the presidency

[Tallinn ministerial declaration on e-Government](#) (6 October 2017)

[Eastern Partnership ministerial meeting on the digital economy – declaration](#) (5 October 2017)