



Video conference of telecommunications ministers **7 December 2020**

Chair: Peter Altmaier, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy

The **meeting** will **start** at 9.00.

The main agenda item of this informal meeting will be a **policy debate** on the proposal for a **data governance act**, published by the Commission on 25 November.

Under **any other business**, the presidency will brief ministers on a joint declaration by the member states on the European initiative on processors and semiconductor technologies. This item will be taken before the policy debate.

Under AOB, the presidency will provide information on a number of current legislative proposals: the ePrivacy regulation (progress report); the regulation on a temporary derogation from the ePrivacy directive for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse online; the regulation establishing the Digital Europe programme; and the regulation establishing the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the Network of Coordination Centres.

The presidency will also brief ministers on the Council conclusions on the cybersecurity of connected devices, which were adopted on 2 December.

The Polish delegation will provide information on a non-paper on the NIS (security of network and information systems) regulatory framework.

The Commission will brief ministers on its work programme for 2021.

The incoming Portuguese presidency will present its work programme for the first half of 2021.

Online **press briefing** ahead of the video conference: 3 December at 14.00

Online **press conference**: at the end of the meeting, +/-13.30.

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[Video conference of telecommunication ministers - meeting page](#)

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

Data governance act

Ministers will hold an informal **policy debate** on the proposal for a **data governance act** ([13351/20](#)), published by the Commission on 25 November. The aim of the debate is to provide guidance for forthcoming discussions on the proposal in the telecommunications working party.

The overall objective of the draft data governance act is to **promote the availability of data for reuse** by increasing trust in 'data intermediaries' (data-sharing providers) and by strengthening various data-sharing mechanisms across the EU. Data intermediaries include for example data brokers and marketplaces for business users and personal data spaces (data wallets) for individuals.

More specifically, the proposal aims to:

- make public sector data available for reuse, in situations where such data is subject to the rights of others (e.g. personal data, trade secrets, confidential business information)
- facilitate data sharing among businesses, against remuneration
- allow personal data to be used with the help of a 'personal data-sharing intermediary'; designed to help people exercise their rights under the general data protection regulation (GDPR)
- facilitate data altruism (data made available voluntarily by individuals or companies for the common good)

The draft data governance act is the first of a set of measures announced in the 2020 [European data strategy](#), which sets out policy measures and investments designed to give the EU a competitive advantage by enabling it to capitalise on its vast quantities of data.

A key development in this respect will be the establishment of EU-wide common, interoperable data spaces in strategic sectors such energy, mobility and health. The draft data governance act will play a central role in enabling and guiding the creation of these sectoral data spaces, which will allow the development of personalised medicine and contribute to the green transition, among other things.

In order to structure the ministers' debate on this recent proposal, the presidency has prepared a [discussion document](#) with the following **questions**:

- *What framework does the EU need to facilitate the use of data? What can be done to encourage the voluntary sharing of data by individuals, and what governance requirements are necessary to ensure that this data sharing is effective and trustworthy?*
- *What can we do to strengthen European stakeholders regarding the use of data, but without setting up walls?*

The presidency will prepare a summary of the debate, which will be made available to the public on the Council website.

[Regulation on data governance – Questions and Answers \(European Commission\)](#)

[A digital future for Europe \(background information\)](#)

Other business:

(a) Current legislative proposals

(i) Regulation on ePrivacy (progress report: [13106/20](#))

(ii) Regulation on a temporary derogation from the ePrivacy Directive for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse online

(iii) Regulation establishing the Digital Europe programme

(iv) Regulation establishing the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the Network of Coordination Centres

Information from the presidency

[Combating child abuse online – Council ready to negotiate a temporary measure \(press release 28/10/2020\)](#)

(b) Council conclusions on the cybersecurity of connected devices

Information from the presidency

[Cybersecurity of connected devices – Council adopts conclusions \(press release 2/12/2020\)](#)

(c) Legal framework on security of network and information systems

Information from the Polish delegation on behalf of the Belgian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Irish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Slovak and Slovenian delegations

(d) Commission work programme 2021

Information from the Commission

(e) Work programme of the incoming presidency

Information from the Portuguese delegation

[A digital future for Europe \(background information\)](#)

[Cybersecurity in Europe: stronger rules and better protection \(background information\)](#)
