



**Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council
(Telecommunications)
Luxembourg, 2 June 2023**

Chair: Eric Slottnér, Swedish minister for public administration

The **meeting** will **start** at 09.30

The Council will be invited to assess progress on three key legislative proposals for the Union's digital transformation, namely:

- the **gigabit infrastructure act** (GIA)
- the **interoperable Europe act** (IEA)
- the **cyber resilience act** (CRA)

Ministers will also hold a policy debate on the **future of the connectivity sector**.

Under **any other business**, the presidency will update ministers on the state of play of a number of legislative files, on which negotiations with the European Parliament are ongoing:

- the regulation establishing a framework for a European electronic identity (**eIDAS**)
- the regulation on harmonised rules on fair access to and the use of data (**Data Act**)
- the regulation concerning the respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications (**ePrivacy regulation**)

Also under **any other business**, the Commission will brief ministers on the state of play on international initiatives in the digital field, with a focus on the trade and technology councils and digital partnerships. It will also inform them about security of 5G and other security infrastructures.

The presidency will provide information on the outcome of the conference on 'Sustainable AI and AI for sustainability', held in Gothenburg on 2-3 May 2023.

As the last item, the incoming Spanish presidency will present its work programme for the second half of 2023.

Over an informal lunch, ministers will hold an exchange of views on the topic of a **competitive and digital Europe** beyond 2030.

Press conference: at the end of the informal lunch, +/-15.30.

[Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council \(Telecommunications\) – Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

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[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

Gigabit Infrastructure Act

The Council will take stock of progress on the proposal for a regulation on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks (**Gigabit Infrastructure Act**).

The main objective of this proposal is to **lower the costs** of the electronic communication infrastructure deployment, partially caused by the permit-granting procedures before deploying or upgrading the networks. These procedures differ across member states. The proposal also aims to **speed up the deployment of the networks**, to provide **legal certainty** and **transparency** for all economic actors involved and to provide for more efficient planning and deployment processes for operators of public electronic communications networks. In addition, the proposal addresses deployment and access to **in-building physical infrastructure**.

The Council's **Working Party on telecommunications and information society** has examined this proposal. The Swedish presidency has requested member states to provide their detailed comments on the proposal and intends to continue the work during its term in preparation of a smooth handover to the incoming Spanish presidency.

[Gigabit Infrastructure Act, Commission proposal, 23 February 2023](#)

Interoperable Europe Act

The Council will take stock of progress on the proposal for a regulation laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (**interoperable Europe act**).

The main objective of this proposal is setting up a new framework to enable public administrations across the EU to cooperate more effectively and ensure the **seamless delivery of public services across borders**, sectors, and organisational boundaries, thus saving time and costs for citizens and businesses. In addition, the proposal aims to facilitate the implementation of provisions relevant for the public services included in **other legislative acts**, such as the single digital gateway regulation, the digital decade policy programme, the open data directive and the data governance act, as well as legislative proposals still under discussion, such as the regulation for a European digital identity and the data act. To achieve these objectives, the proposal sets up a multi-level governance framework, through the '**Interoperable Europe Board**', and provides for the establishment of interoperability solutions, supported by measures to promote innovation and enhance skills and knowledge exchange.

The Council's **Working Party on telecommunications and information society** has examined this proposal. Based on member states' comments, the Swedish presidency has drafted two compromise texts and intends to continue work on the proposal during its term in preparation of a smooth handover to the incoming Spanish presidency.

[Interoperable Europe Act, Commission proposal, 18 November 2022](#)

Cyber Resilience Act

The Council will take stock of progress on the proposal for a regulation on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements (**cyber resilience act**).

The main objective of this proposal adopted by the Commission in mid-September 2022 is to **harmonise** essential cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements in all member states and **avoid overlapping cybersecurity requirements** stemming from different pieces of legislation. The proposal aims to fill the gaps in the existing cybersecurity legislation by ensuring that products with digital elements for example Internet of Things – IoT – products, such as connected home cameras, refrigerators, TVs, toys, and non-embedded software become **secure throughout the whole supply chain** and throughout their **whole lifecycle**. It also clarifies links with existing legislation and contributes to making the existing legislation more coherent. Finally, the proposal also allows users to take **cybersecurity** into account when selecting and using products with digital elements.

The Council's **Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues (HWPCI)** has examined this proposal.

On the basis of written contributions from member states and the work within the HWPCI, the presidency submitted several compromise texts. On the basis of the progress made under the Czech and Swedish presidencies, the incoming Spanish presidency plans to continue the work on this important file.

Cyber Resilience Act, Commission proposal, 15 September 2022

The future of the connectivity sector

At the initiative of the presidency, the Council will hold an exchange of views on the **future of the connectivity sector**.

A sustainable and well-functioning **connectivity infrastructure** is essential in order to strengthen the EU's long-term competitiveness. In light of significant technical and market developments, the questions of further roll-out of connectivity infrastructure have sparked a debate on the need for investments and the current regulatory conditions for the electronic communications sector. Against this background, the Commission launched last February an **exploratory consultation** on the future of the connectivity sector and its infrastructure aiming to gather views on the **changing technological and market landscape** and to identify the connectivity infrastructure that Europe needs to lead the digital transformation in the coming years.

In light of the ongoing discussions on **payments from content and application providers**, ministers will be invited to discuss the following questions:

- Given recent technological and market developments, do you see a need for measures to stimulate investments in infrastructure and do you see any potential benefits or risks in connection with such measures?
- Given the developments mentioned above, which other areas could be facing major challenges? Why? Do you see other challenges the electronic communications sector is facing that would require attention?

[The future of the electronic communication sector and its infrastructure, EU Commission, Consultation, 23 February 2023](#)
[A digital future for Europe \(background information\)](#)

Any other business

The presidency will report on the state of play of current legislative proposals, namely:

- the eIDAS revision
[Regulation establishing a framework for a European electronic identity \(eIDAS revision\), Commission proposal, 3 June 2021](#)
[eIDAS revision, Council's general approach, 6 December 2022](#)
- the data act
[Regulation on harmonised rules on fair access to and use of data \(Data Act\), Commission proposal, 24 February 2022](#)
[Data Act, Council's mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament, 22 March 2023](#)
- the ePrivacy regulation
[Regulation on the respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications \(ePrivacy regulation\), Commission proposal, 12 January 2017](#)
[ePrivacy regulation, Council's mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament, 10 February 2021](#)

The Commission will inform ministers on the state of play of **international initiatives** in the digital field with a focus on trade and technology councils and digital partnerships, as well as on **security of 5G** and other connectivity infrastructures.

With regard to **artificial intelligence** (AI), the presidency will inform ministers on the upcoming conference on 'Sustainable AI and AI for sustainability' due to take place in Gothenburg on 2-3 May 2023 and the Danish delegation will inform on practices and initiatives addressing the use of AI, outside the legislative process in the EU.

The Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese delegations will inform the Council about setting a coordination mechanism within the EU and strengthening the relations between the **International Telecommunications Union** (ITU) and the EU.

The Polish delegation will inform the Council about improving the digital economy and society index (**DESI**).

Finally, the Spanish presidency will present its priorities and **work programme** for the second half of 2023.

Informal lunch

Over an informal lunch, ministers will hold an exchange views on the topic of a **competitive and digital Europe** beyond 2030. Ministers will be invited to reflect on possible ways to ensure an innovation-friendly approach to regulation in the digital field and explore possible measures to ensure a growth-enhancing regulatory framework for the EU's digital transformation without leading to additional administrative burden for businesses in Europe.
