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NOTE

From:	The Bulgarian delegation
To:	Council
Subject:	Work programme of the incoming Presidency - Information from the Bulgarian delegation

DIGITAL EUROPE

On 1 January 2018, Bulgaria will take over the Council's rotating Presidency from Estonia. In line with our trio priorities, we aim at continuing the hard work towards the completion of various initiatives under the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy.

In October 2017, the European Council set clear timelines to successfully build a Digital Europe and in particular, called the co-legislators to agree on the free flow of data and the electronic communications code by June 2018. The European Council also recognizes the need for the timely delivery of a common approach to cybersecurity.

Therefore, the work of the TTE - Telecoms Council in the next six months will be of crucial importance for the timely achievement of the Digital Single Market.

The Bulgarian Presidency is committed to proceed with the negotiations with the European Parliament on the proposal for **Electronic Communications Code**. We will primarily focus our efforts on continuing and finalizing successfully the work of previous presidencies on this important file for investments, competition in electronic communications sector and provision of contemporary digital services. Doing so, it will bring us one-step further towards the Gigabit Society. Based on the general approach reached at the TTE Council in December 2017 on the **BEREC regulation** we will engage in negotiations with the European Parliament in order to reach a political agreement during our Presidency.

With regard to the data economy and in particular the **data framework** we have several strategic files shaping our digital society and economy.

The Bulgarian Presidency shares the view that the **free flow of data** is a crucial element of the Digital Single Market; therefore, we will aim at removing any unjustified barriers that could hinder its functioning. We will align our plans on this dossier with the goals set in the conclusions of the European Council of October 2017.

We will carry on the work in progress on the **e-privacy** file and advance it in a timely fashion while striving to strike the right balance between end-users' rights to personal data protection, confidentiality of communications and digital innovations. We will work for compromise solutions tailored to the digital needs of our contemporary society with the goal to achieve a general approach and if possible, start trilogues with the European Parliament.

The Bulgarian Presidency will build on the work done so far in the cybersecurity area, along the lines of the **Trio Presidency Cybersecurity Work Programme**. We will advance all planned activities and measures in that Programme and will work for moving forward the files in the cybersecurity package announced in September by the Commission.

We will strive towards achieving a general approach on the proposed **Cybersecurity Act** providing ENISA with a strong permanent mandate and creating a true cybersecurity single market through setting up a **European Cybersecurity Certification Framework**. This should ensure trust and security in the Internet and tackle the current fragmentation of the cybersecurity market.

In the coming months we will work on defining the key priorities of the **Cooperation group** work program and the role of **the Network of CSIRTs** for the operational capability of the EU to respond collectively to significant cybersecurity attacks and incidents. In that regard we look closer into the Commission recommendation on coordinated response to large scale cybersecurity incidents and crises which is also part of the cybersecurity package to finalise the framework and prepare its testing through exercises and validation.

By the end of our Presidency term, we plan to provide a **report** on the implementation progress of the Action plan to be adopted on 12 December 2017 regarding the execution of the outlined activities by the respective actors.

During the Bulgarian Presidency we intend to start discussions on the expected **REFITs of the Domain Names (".eu") regulation** and on the revision of the **Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information (PSI Directive)**. In this regard, we plan a policy debate on the publicly funded data during the **TTE Council in June 2018**.

By early 2018, we expect the Commission to put forward a European approach to **artificial intelligence** that would be also high on our agenda bearing in mind that our digital future will rely on the Internet of Things and connected objects.

Europe has to make utmost use of the great opportunities offered by digital technologies, which go beyond borders and sectors.

Therefore, digital aspects tackling all traditional physical relations will be addressed in various Council formations (Competitiveness, Research, Justice and Home Affairs, Transport etc.). For instance, an expected new legislative initiative for settling **platforms-to-business** practices will be tabled for discussion under the Competitiveness Council.

Regarding the essential role of the Internet for our digital society and economy, an initiative on **tackling illegal content online** aiming at introducing appropriate measures at EU level will also take place during the Bulgarian Presidency. In addition, we expect the presentation of a shared coordinated approach for a multi-stakeholder process addressing **fake news and online disinformation**.

EVENTS

Bulgaria will also be delighted to host one of the major digital events, the **Digital Assembly** on 25-26 June 2018, which will mark the new era of the digital transformation to the Gigabit society. The **EU-Western Balkans** perspective will be a key topic during the Assembly, and in particular, the role of Bulgaria in promoting the EU digital policies like unconstrained connectivity for everyone by encouraging high-speed cross-border broadband access and gradual removal of roaming charges in the region.

We will hold a **Cybersecurity Challenges Conference** on 26 March 2018 and a **CSIRTs networks event** (Cyber Security Incidents Response Team) on the following days, 27-28 March 2018.

In order to raise the digital awareness in other sectors of the economy two more events are planned. An event on “**Digitalization and transformation in tourism**” will take place on the 15 February 2018. In addition, we will organize a conference dedicated to boost digital competences and digital skills: “**Educate to Create: from Digital Consumers to Digital Creators**” on 19-20 April 2018.