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NOTE

from:	Latvian delegation
to:	Council
Subject:	Work programme of the incoming Presidency - Information from the Latvian delegation

Latvia will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union following the constitution of a new European Parliament and a new European Commission. In this respect, digital issues have taken an even more prominent place in the list of priorities. The incoming Presidency aims to progress and, where possible, finalize some of the legislative proposals and policy initiatives during its semester. The Latvian Presidency intends to act as a constructive facilitator, fairly representing all the views and trying to find an approach which can be accepted by all Member States.

Improving cybersecurity is a pre-condition for the functioning of our societies and economies. We see the Directive concerning measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the Union (NIS) as an important tool for improving the quality of cybersecurity both on a national and EU level and for facilitating international cooperation. Acknowledging that the NIS directive proposal has entered its final phase, the Latvian Presidency will work towards its timely adoption and implementation.

In view of making further progress in strengthening the Digital Single Market and in evolving the legal framework, the Latvian Presidency will, depending on the state of play and respecting the interests of different stakeholders, give due consideration to the proposal for a Regulation laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent (TSM).

The Latvian Presidency also intends to put an effort to finalize the work on the Web accessibility Directive which aims to improve the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites to all users, in particular people with functional limitations. We also aim to make significant progress regarding the Decision establishing a programme on interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2) in order to support cross-border and cross-sector interaction for European public administrations, enterprises and citizens.

In connection to non-legislative policy initiatives, the main topic on the external digital agenda of the Presidency will be Internet Governance, where the Latvian Presidency will closely monitor, and if necessary, act upon, the developments in this field, especially as we approach the announced transition of the stewardship of the IANA function and enhancing the accountability of ICANN.

The Latvian Presidency will facilitate the discussions among the Member States regarding the EU 2020 mid-term review and the Annual Growth Survey. Depending on the developments and the progress made, we will also consider contributing to the exchange of views on the expected revision of the Regulatory Framework for electronic communications.

Finally, the Latvian Presidency is planning to organize and host the Digital Assembly in Rīga in June 2015 to discuss emerging challenges related to the building of a vibrant digital economy and society in Europe.
