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Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on the "Digital Single Market Technologies and Public Services Modernisation" package - Statement by the United Kingdom, Estonia, Belgium, Slovenia, Poland, Latvia and Malta

**Statement by the United Kingdom, Estonia, Belgium, Slovenia, Poland, Latvia and Malta
regarding the Council conclusions on the "Digital Single Market Technologies and Public
Services Modernisation" package**

The above mentioned delegations welcome the Commission's "Digital Single Market Technologies and Public Services Modernisation" package and its commitment to enabling all European businesses, regardless of size, sector or specialism, to benefit from digital innovations. We welcome also the Council's Conclusions on the package.

We commend the Commission's acknowledgement that Open Standards ensure interoperability, foster innovation and lower market entry barriers in the Digital Single Market. To drive innovation and growth, and fulfil the potential of the DSM, we must continue to remove barriers to innovation, particularly for SMEs. Although the Communication on ICT Prioritisation refers solely to FRAND licensing in the paragraph on ICT Standardisation in regard to standard essential patents, we wish to emphasise the importance of the creation of Open Standards relying on Royalty Free intellectual property models in regard to software.

We request that, in future communications and work programmes, the Commission acknowledge all appropriate open, transparent and broad consensus-based models of standardisation used by industries across the Information Technology and the Electronic Communications Technology sectors. This will enable a level-playing field for all forms of software, electronic communications and data format standards that will enable EU companies to compete in local, regional and global markets on equal terms, where their innovative solutions can create new markets and jobs.
