



**2021/0293(COD)**

19.1.2022

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council  
Establishing the 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade”  
(COM(2021)0574 – C9-0359/2021 – 2021/0293(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ivars Ijabs

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On 9 March 2021, the European Commission adopted the Communication “The 2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade” (‘Digital Compass Communication’) in response to the European Council’s call for a Digital Compass, building on the Commission’s Digital Strategy of February 2020. The ambitions of this Communication are lofty, as they seek to ensure EU digital sovereignty in an open and interconnected global environment, whilst pursuing policies that empower people and businesses alike to seize a human-centred, sustainable and more prosperous digital future. Within this framework, steps are also taken to build a climate neutral, circular and resilient European economy. This Policy Programme aims to ensure that the EU achieves its goals in bringing about a digital transformation of the European economy as well as broader society that is in line with our values, and reinforces Europe’s global position of digital leadership. The Programme sets out key targets that the Union as a whole is expected to achieve by the 2030 deadline, whilst also setting out an innovative governance mechanism involving annual cooperation between EU institutions and Member State authorities. The digital targets themselves are based on four key pillars: digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and digitalisation of public services.

In terms of digital skills, it is acknowledged that Europe’s citizens are, on the whole, currently lagging substantially behind, and it is incumbent on the European Union to help equip them with the skills they need. Whilst aiming to endow the whole population of the EU with basic or above digital skills, the projected target is for at least 80 % of Union citizens to be equipped with such by 2030 (the current figure is estimated at 56 %). Digital training and education is highlighted as urgently necessary in order to support a workforce in which people can acquire specialised digital skills to obtain quality jobs and rewarding careers. In addition to the target on digital skills established in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the EU shall furthermore have a target of educating 20 million Information and Communication Technologies specialists (up from the present estimate of 8 million), with steps taken to ensure a greater gender balance in what remains a heavily male-dominated sector.

Similarly, Europe’s digital infrastructure needs to be brought up to the highest possible modern standards to ensure competitiveness and security. Under the Programme, by 2030, networks with gigabit speeds should be available at accessible conditions for all those who need or wish for such capacity (current estimate is 59 %), and all populated areas should be covered by 5G (current estimate is a mere 14 %). The production of cutting-edge and sustainable semiconductors in Europe, including processors, should be by 2030 at least 20 % of the world’s production in value (meaning manufacturing capacities below 5nm nodes, aiming at 2nm, and 10 times more energy efficient than today). Currently, Europe produces an estimated 10 %. Further to this, 10,000 climate neutral highly secure edge nodes should be deployed in the EU by 2030, in a way that guarantees access to data services with low latency wherever businesses are located.

In terms of our businesses, the Programme foresees at least 75 % of European enterprises having taken up cloud computing services, big data and Artificial Intelligence by 2030 (the current figure is estimated at 26 %). More than 90 % of European SMEs should have reached at least a basic level of digital intensity by the same deadline (current estimate is 60 %). Further to this, cutting-edge and disruptive innovation aiming at doubling the number of

unicorns in Europe by 2030 will be prioritised, through growing the pipeline of the EU's innovative scale ups and improving their access to finance.

The final area of focus for the Programme is the digitalisation of public services. Here, the bold overarching goal aims to provide for democratic life and public services to be fully accessible to all citizens online by 2030. Everyone in the EU must benefit from a best-in-class digital environment facilitating easy-to-use, efficient and personalised services and tools with high security and privacy standards. All online provision of key public services will be available for European citizens and businesses. All European citizens should have access to their medical records (e-records) and it is hoped that 80 % of Union citizens will use digital ID solutions in some capacity as part of daily life.

As Rapporteur, I commend the overall spirit and aims of this Proposal, which seeks to put in place a solid digital infrastructure to pave the way for the future of the European digital market. However, it is important to highlight that certain critical elements for the achievement of the general objectives and digital targets are not entirely reflected in the text. Namely, these are a European Cloud, to ensure high security and privacy standards across the Union for our citizens; and empowerment of the Commission in terms of coordination with Member States on the latter's monitoring and reporting obligations.

On the first point, since the Proposal seeks the inclusion of democratic life - that is to say, elections at different levels, referendums, voter databases and more - it is critical to ensure a European-owned Cloud for this purpose. This is not a measure that seeks to raise barriers, nor is it an act of protectionism, but rather an essential safety feature. This is, in my view, a matter of paramount European as well as national security, and will be a main point for me in my role as Rapporteur. I look forward to hearing your views on this matter as we move onwards in this process.

On the second point, empowering the Commission, more responsibility should be shouldered by the Commission as regards following the process and progress of Member States in terms of implementation plans as well as their obligations on monitoring, evaluating and reporting. This need not prejudice the role of the European Parliament, which should also be kept abreast of developments.

Consideration should also be afforded to the way in which this Proposal feeds into the European Semester, including aspects relating to the Recovery and Resilience Facility. We must take into account the convergence points in order to ensure coherence with already-existing tools and legislation. Finally, the significance of the integration of the European Single Market - in terms of economic and social benefits for our citizens, as well as the broader strategic aspect for the Union as a whole - at the very heart of this proposal, cannot be stressed enough.

I intend to liaise with Martina Dlabajova, RE rapporteur in ITRE, as the Proposal advances - as IMCO votes first, we have the ability to set high standards and pave the way for the final vote in plenary.

## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a decision

##### Recital 5

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) The measures envisaged in the Digital Compass Communication should be implemented, to intensify actions defined in the strategy for Shaping Europe’s digital future, and building on existing Union instruments (such as Cohesion programmes, the Technical Support Instrument, Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>36</sup>, Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>37</sup> and Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>38</sup>) and on the funds allocated for digital transition of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>39</sup>. By this Decision, a Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade” should therefore be established in order to achieve, accelerate and shape a successful digital transformation of the Union’s economy and society.

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<sup>36</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

<sup>37</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research

###### *Amendment*

(5) The measures envisaged in the Digital Compass Communication should be implemented, to intensify actions defined in the strategy for Shaping Europe’s digital future, and building on existing Union instruments (such as Cohesion programmes, the Technical Support Instrument, Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>36</sup>, Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>37</sup> and Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>38</sup>) and on the funds allocated for digital transition of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>39</sup>. By this Decision, a Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade” should therefore be established in order to achieve, accelerate and shape a successful digital transformation of the Union’s economy and society, **with high security and privacy standards**.

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<sup>36</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

<sup>37</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research

and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

<sup>38</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 ( OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

<sup>39</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).

and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

<sup>38</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 ( OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

<sup>39</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).

Or. en

### *Justification*

*This amendment aims at harmonising the overall text. The same wording appears in other related recitals and articles.*

## **Amendment 2**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Recital 7**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(7) Digital skills, basic and advanced, are essential to reinforce the ***collective*** resilience of the Union's society. Digitally empowered and capable citizens will be able to take advantage of the opportunities of the Digital Decade. Moreover, digital training and education should support a workforce in which people can acquire specialised digital skills to get quality jobs and rewarding careers in much greater numbers than today, with convergence between women and men. ***In addition, an essential enabler for taking advantage of the benefits of digitisation, for further technological developments and for Europe's digital leadership is a sustainable digital infrastructure for***

##### *Amendment*

(7) Digital skills, basic and advanced, are essential to reinforce the resilience of the Union's society. Digitally empowered and capable citizens will be able to take advantage of the opportunities of the Digital Decade. Moreover, digital training and education should support a workforce in which people can acquire specialised digital skills to get quality jobs and rewarding careers in much greater numbers than today, with convergence between women and men.

*connectivity, microelectronics and the ability to process vast data. Excellent and secure connectivity for everybody and everywhere in Europe including in rural and remote areas<sup>40</sup> is needed. Societal needs for upload and download bandwidth are constantly growing. By 2030, networks with gigabit speeds should become available at accessible conditions for all those who need or wish such capacity. Moreover, microprocessors which are already today at the start of most of the key, strategic value chains are expected to be in even higher demand in the future, in particular the most innovative ones. Climate neutral highly secure edge node guaranteeing access to data services with low latency wherever businesses are located and quantum capacity are also expected to be critical enablers.*

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<sup>40</sup> Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas. COM(2021) 345 final.

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<sup>40</sup> Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas. COM(2021) 345 final.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The word resilience is enough for the purpose of this recital. Furthermore, this recital covers many different important elements in one paragraph. Therefore, to emphasize the content, a subparagraph has been introduced below.*

### **Amendment 3**

#### **Proposal for a decision Recital 7 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(7a) An essential enabler for taking advantage of the benefits of digitisation, for further technological developments and for Europe's digital leadership is a sustainable digital infrastructure for connectivity, microelectronics and the ability to process vast data. Excellent and***

*secure connectivity for everybody and everywhere in Europe including in rural and remote areas<sup>1a</sup> is needed. Societal needs for upload and download bandwidth are constantly growing. By 2030, networks with gigabit speeds should become available at accessible conditions for all those who need or wish such capacity. Moreover, microprocessors which are already today at the start of most of the key, strategic value chains are expected to be in even higher demand in the future, in particular the most innovative ones. Climate neutral highly secure edge node guaranteeing access to data services with low latency wherever businesses are located and quantum capacity are also expected to be critical enablers.*

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*<sup>1a</sup> Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas. COM(2021) 345 final.*

Or. en

#### Amendment 4

##### Proposal for a decision Recital 9

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(9) Democratic life and public services will ***also crucially*** depend on digital ***technologies and*** therefore ***they*** should be fully accessible for everyone, ***as a best-in-class digital environment providing*** for easy-to-use, efficient and personalised services and tools with high security and privacy standards.

*Amendment*

(9) Democratic life and public services will depend on ***a secure*** digital ***infrastructure***. Therefore, ***it*** should be fully accessible for everyone, for easy-to-use, efficient and personalised services and tools, with high security and privacy standards. ***For the purpose of improving access to public and private digital services across the Union and removing digital barriers across Member States, the European Digital Identity wallet<sup>1a</sup> should be made available to any citizen and business that wishes to make use of it, while keeping the control of the data effectively in the hands of the individual***



*user.*

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***1<sup>a</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) [.../...] amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity (OJ L ..).***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Digital infrastructure is a wider concept that includes digital technologies. Within the framework of digital infrastructure, all populated areas in Europe should be covered by 5G (current estimate is a mere 14 %) to bring about a digital transformation that would make democratic life and public services available to all Union citizens.*

**Amendment 5**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point b**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(b) structure and *stimulate* cooperation between the Union institutions and Member States;

(b) structure and *foster* cooperation between the Union institutions and Member States;

Or. en

**Amendment 6**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ca) contribute to the prosperity and development of the Digital Single Market;***

Or. en

*Justification*

*The subparagraph c brings into the text a reference to the Digital Single Market.*

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 5 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(5a) ‘basic or above basic skills’ means all individuals aged 16-74, with ‘basic’ or ‘above basic’ digital skills in each of the following four dimensions: information, communication, problem solving and software for content creation.**

Or. en

*Justification*

*This definition is taken from the DESI 2020 methodological note.  
[https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc\\_id=67082](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=67082)*

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) at least 80% of **those aged 16-74 have at least** basic digital skills;

(a) at least 80% of **Union citizens have basic or above** basic digital skills;

Or. en

*Justification*

*Digital skills are the backbone of the digital society, without which one cannot fully benefit from digital technologies. The DESI 2020 methodological note defines “Individuals with basic or above basic” digital skills, as those aged 16-74, with digital skills within the following four dimensions: information, communication, problem solving and software for content creation. The age limit remains embedded in the definition, serving as an indicator to measure the target (see new definition in Art 3) while not excluding younger or/and older individuals.<sup>3</sup>*

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(b) at least 20 million ***employed*** information and communications technology (ICT) specialists ***are employed***, with convergence between women and men;

(b) at least 20 million ***qualified*** information and communications technology (ICT) specialists, with convergence between women and men;

Or. en

*Justification*

*The competence and knowledge should be in place with the ambition of achieving a specific target, but there should not be any imposition in terms of employment. The latest should be linked to the demand in the field.*

## **Amendment 10**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point d a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(da) by 2030, the Union has a competitive and sustainable data cloud infrastructure in place, with high security and privacy standards and complying with the Union's data protection rules, for the purpose of supporting the Union's digital sovereignty.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Democratic life and public services will depend on secured digital infrastructure. Therefore, a data cloud infrastructure with high security and privacy standards is essential for achieving a robust and trusted digitalisation deployment. This is a matter of security for the Union and for our citizens. Furthermore, there is no intention to limit the market or establish a particular ownership.*

## **Amendment 11**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) 100% online accessible provision of key public services for Union citizens and businesses;

(a) 100% online accessible provision of key public services for Union citizens and businesses ***with high security and privacy standards***;

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at harmonising the wording of the text.*

**Amendment 12**

**Proposal for a decision  
Article 5 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(3) The Commission, in close cooperation with Member States, shall define Union-level projected trajectories for the attainment of each of the digital targets, which would serve as basis for the monitoring and the national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps. Where necessary, in light of technical, economic or societal developments, the Commission shall update ***one or more of*** these projected trajectories.

(3) The Commission, in close cooperation with Member States, shall define Union-level projected trajectories for the attainment of each of the digital targets, which would serve as basis for the monitoring and the national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps. Where necessary, in light of technical, economic or societal developments, the Commission shall update these projected trajectories ***accordingly***.

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at keeping a higher level of ambition and making sure that the Commission updates as many projected trajectories as possible, where needed.*

**Amendment 13**

**Proposal for a decision  
Article 5 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(4) Member States shall provide to the

(4) Member States shall provide to the

Commission in a timely manner the necessary information required for the effective monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the principles *enshrined* in the [insert title of solemn Declaration].

Commission in a timely manner the necessary information required for the effective monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the *digital* principles *as endorsed* in the [insert title of solemn Declaration].

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*This amendment aims at harmonising the overall text. The same wording appears in recital 17.*

### **Amendment 14**

#### **Proposal for a decision Article 6 – paragraph 2**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) In the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”, the Commission shall provide an assessment of the progress of the Union’s digital transition against the digital targets set out in Article 4 as well as the state of compliance with the general objectives referred to in Article 2 and the principles *enshrined* in the [insert title of solemn Declaration]. The assessment of the progress made shall be based, in particular, on the analysis and key performance indicators in the DESI as compared to Union-level and, where applicable, national projected trajectories, and, where applicable, on the establishment of and progress regarding Multi-Country Projects.

##### *Amendment*

(2) In the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”, the Commission shall provide an assessment of the progress of the Union’s digital transition against the digital targets set out in Article 4 as well as the state of compliance with the general objectives referred to in Article 2 and the *digital* principles *as endorsed* in the [insert title of solemn Declaration]. The assessment of the progress made shall be based, in particular, on the analysis and key performance indicators in the DESI as compared to Union-level and, where applicable, national projected trajectories, and, where applicable, on the establishment of and progress regarding Multi-Country Projects.

Or. en

### **Amendment 15**

#### **Proposal for a decision Article 6 – paragraph 3 – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(3) In the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”, the Commission may recommend policies, measures or actions to be taken by Member States in areas where progress was insufficient to achieve the digital targets set out in Article 4 or where significant gaps and shortages have been identified based on the results of the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”. Those recommended policies, measures or actions **may**, in particular, address:

(3) In the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”, the Commission may recommend policies, measures or actions to be taken by Member States in areas where progress was insufficient to achieve the digital targets set out in Article 4 or where significant gaps and shortages have been identified based on the results of the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”. Those recommended policies, measures or actions **shall**, in particular, address:

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at empowering the Commission to address the shortcoming in order to achieve the objectives and targets.*

**Amendment 16**

**Proposal for a decision  
Article 6 – paragraph 6**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(6) The report **may** also assess the need for any additional policies, measures or actions that might be required at the Union level.

(6) The report **shall** also assess the need for any additional policies, measures or actions that might be required at the Union level.

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at increasing the quality of the report and make it more comprehensive.*

**Amendment 17**

**Proposal for a decision  
Article 7 – paragraph 3 – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(3) The policies, measures and actions

(3) The policies, measures and actions

referred to in point (a) shall relate to the achievement of the objectives and the digital targets of this Decision for which at the date of submission of the national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps or of the adjustment of those roadmaps **one or more** of the following applies:

referred to in point (a) shall relate to the achievement of the objectives and the digital targets of this Decision for which at the date of submission of the national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps or of the adjustment of those roadmaps **all** of the following applies:

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*This amendment aims at increasing the level of ambition in relation to the achievement of the objectives and the digital targets. While not all Member States might be able to comply with all the requirements at the date of submission of the national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps or of the adjustment of those roadmaps, keeping “one or more” in the text might lower the level of commitment and efforts.*

### **Amendment 18**

#### **Proposal for a decision Article 7 – paragraph 4**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) Member States shall provide a general overview of the investment needed to contribute to the objectives and digital targets as set out in their national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps, as well as a general description on the sources of that investment, including, where applicable, planned use of Union programmes and instruments. The national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps **may** include proposals for Multi-Country Projects.

##### *Amendment*

(4) Member States shall provide a general overview of the investment needed to contribute to the objectives and digital targets as set out in their national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps, as well as a general description on the sources of that investment, including, where applicable, planned use of Union programmes and instruments. The national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps **shall** include proposals for Multi-Country Projects **to foster cross-border cooperation**.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The cross-border cooperation is an important European element. This amendment seeks to highlight it.*

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a decision Article 7 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) Member States shall ensure that their national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps take into consideration the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester. Adjustments to national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps shall take into account the recommended policies, measures and actions under Article 6(3) and the recommendations adopted under Article 9.

*Amendment*

(5) Member States shall ensure that their national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps take into consideration the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester **and feed into the following European Semester cycle**. Adjustments to national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps shall take into account the recommended policies, measures and actions under Article 6(3) and the recommendations adopted under Article 9.

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at making the text more coherent with Commission's communication Paragraph 14 and furthermore emphasizes on the necessity to ensure the continuation of Commissions decisions.*

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a decision Article 8 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) Member States and the Commission shall closely cooperate to identify ways to address deficiencies in areas where progress was insufficient to achieve one or more of the digital targets set out in Article 4 or where significant gaps and shortages have been identified based on the results of the report on the "State of the Digital Decade". ***This analysis shall take into account, in particular, the different capacities of Member States to contribute to some of the digital targets and the risk that delays***

*Amendment*

(1) Member States and the Commission shall closely cooperate to identify ways to address deficiencies in areas where progress was insufficient to achieve one or more of the digital targets set out in Article 4 or where significant gaps and shortages have been identified based on the results of the report on the "State of the Digital Decade".



*on certain of these targets may have a detrimental effect on the achievement of other digital targets.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*This last part is unnecessary and could be regarded as an advanced justification for failures and shortcomings. If this is the case, then it should be addressed in the final report and evaluation in order to improve future progress on the digital targets.*

**Amendment 21**

**Proposal for a decision  
Article 8 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) Within five months from the publication of the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”, the Member States concerned shall submit to the Commission adjustments to their national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps consisting of policies, measures and actions they intend to undertake, including, where relevant, proposals for Multi-Country Projects, to foster progress in the areas concerned by the digital targets set out in Article 4 and to fulfill objectives set out in Article 2. ***If a Member State considers that no action is required and that its national Digital Decade strategic roadmap does not require updating, it shall provide its reasons in writing.***

*Amendment*

(3) Within five months from the publication of the report on the “State of the Digital Decade”, the Member States concerned shall submit to the Commission adjustments to their national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps consisting of policies, measures and actions they intend to undertake, including, where relevant, proposals for Multi-Country Projects, to foster progress in the areas concerned by the digital targets set out in Article 4 and to fulfill objectives set out in Article 2.

Or. en

*Justification*

*This paragraph is being split into two separate paragraphs.*

**Amendment 22**

**Proposal for a decision  
Article 8 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(3a) If a Member State considers that no action is required and that its national Digital Decade strategic roadmap does not require updating, it shall provide its reasons in writing to the Commission and make it public.**

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at facilitating a better understanding of the Member States' Digital Decade strategic roadmaps, while bringing more transparency into the process, by making the information accessible to other Member States. This could also be regarded an opportunity for other Member States to share experiences.*

## **Amendment 23**

### **Proposal for a decision Article 8 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(4) At any point of the annual cooperation, the Commission and one or more Member States may undertake joint commitments, consult with other Member States on policy, measures or actions or establish Multi-Country Projects as provided for in Article 12. The Commission or a Member State which has proposed a policy, a measure or an action may also request a peer review process to be launched regarding specific aspects of that policy, measure or action, and in particular on its suitability to contribute to achieving a specific digital target. The outcome of the peer review process **may** be included in the following Report on the “State of the Digital Decade”.

(4) At any point of the annual cooperation, the Commission and one or more Member States may undertake joint commitments, consult with other Member States on policy, measures or actions or establish Multi-Country Projects as provided for in Article 12. The Commission or a Member State which has proposed a policy, a measure or an action may also request a peer review process to be launched regarding specific aspects of that policy, measure or action, and in particular on its suitability to contribute to achieving a specific digital target. The outcome of the peer review process **shall** be included in the following Report on the “State of the Digital Decade”.

Or. en

*Justification*

*Peer review is an essential part of the cross-border cooperation. This amendment aims at*

*increasing the quality of the report and make it more comprehensive by including the outcome of peer review in the report.*

## **Amendment 24**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 9 – paragraph 4**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) In addition, where the Commission concludes that national measures are insufficient and put at risk the timely achievement of the objectives and digital targets set out in this Decision, it **may** propose measures as appropriate and exercise its powers under the Treaties in order to ensure the collective achievement of those objectives and targets.

##### *Amendment*

(4) In addition, where the Commission concludes that national measures are insufficient and put at risk the timely achievement of the objectives and digital targets set out in this Decision, it **shall** propose measures as appropriate and exercise its powers under the Treaties in order to ensure the collective achievement of those objectives and targets.

Or. en

##### *Justification*

*This amendment aims at empowering the Commission to propose measures as appropriate and exercise its powers under the Treaties.*

## **Amendment 25**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 9 – paragraph 5**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) In case a Member State continuously deviates from the national projected trajectory for several years, or alternatively does not intend to adopt corrective action based on a previous Commission recommendation, the Commission **may** initiate a targeted dialogue with the Member State in question and inform the European Parliament and Council thereof.

##### *Amendment*

(5) In case a Member State continuously deviates from the national projected trajectory for several years, or alternatively does not intend to adopt corrective action based on a previous Commission recommendation, the Commission **shall** initiate a targeted dialogue with the Member State in question and inform the European Parliament and Council thereof.

Or. en

### *Justification*

*This amendment aims at empowering the Commission to initiate a targeted dialogue with the Member State in question and inform the European Parliament and Council thereof.*

## **Amendment 26**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 10 – paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1a) The Member States concerned or the Commission may request to launch a peer review process for the purposes of the implementation of the obligations and tasks established in this Decision.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*This amendment aims at promoting the opportunities the Member States concerned or the Commission to launch peer reviews process.*

## **Amendment 27**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 11 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(1) The Commission shall closely cooperate with private and public stakeholders, including social partners, to collect information and develop recommended policies, measures and actions for the purposes of the implementation of this Decision.

(1) The Commission shall closely cooperate ***in a transparent manner*** with private and public stakeholders, including social partners, to collect information and develop recommended policies, measures and actions for the purposes of the implementation of this Decision.

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The primary objectives for enhanced transparency during information collection and policy development processes are to improve the quality and effectiveness of proposed recommendations.*

## Amendment 28

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 12 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(ea) strengthening the Digital Single Market and its competitiveness;**

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment highlights the importance of the Digital Single Market and its competitiveness.*

## Amendment 29

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 13 – paragraph 4 – point g

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(g) any other appropriate implementation mechanism.

(g) any other appropriate implementation mechanism **in consultation with the Commission in accordance with Article 14.**

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment aims at strengthening the text and bringing coherent with the relevant article.*

## Amendment 30

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 14 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(3) In a second step of coordination, if at least three Member States express interest in a Multi-Country Project and at

(3) In a second step of coordination, if at least three Member States express interest in a Multi-Country Project and at

the same time propose financial or non-financial commitments to that project, the Commission, having consulted all Member States, shall give guidance on the choice of the appropriate implementation mechanism, on the sources of funding and on their combination within the project, as well as other strategic aspects related to the implementation of that project. ***The Commission may also propose on its own initiative to coordinate a Multi-Country Project in accordance with the steps described in paragraphs 2 and 3 to the participating Member States.***

the same time propose financial or non-financial commitments to that project, the Commission, having consulted all Member States, shall give guidance on the choice of the appropriate implementation mechanism, on the sources of funding and on their combination within the project, as well as other strategic aspects related to the implementation of that project.

Or. en

*Justification*

*The paragraph is being split into two separate paragraphs.*

**Amendment 31**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Article 14 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(3a) The Commission may also propose on its own initiative to coordinate a Multi-Country Project in accordance with the steps described in paragraphs 2 and 3 to the participating Member States.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*In order to highlight this element more in the draft Decision, this sentence should be deleted from Article 14(3) and presented as a separate paragraph.*