



# Digitalisation, Connectivity and e-Commerce

Expert Forum – Liberal White Book Europe 2030

Zoom Meeting

02 October 2020, 09h30 – 13h45 (CEST)

## ABOUT THE EVENT

Embracing digitalisation is embracing the improvement of our lives, societies, workplaces and schools. However, it is not just an end in itself. The European Institutions are also paying great attention to digitalisation as a tool to create value. This is vital for our economy, our society and a “greener” future. Many unknowns remain as to how to achieve this process in a fair and ambitious manner, but what is certain is that choices must be made cohesively across the EU and in the Member States.

This Expert Forum will emphasize the importance of certain key topics related to the aforementioned processes:

- *Digitalisation*: is a fundamental process in several respects. The Digital Economy and Society Index of the European Commission show some inconsistencies in the digitalisation processes within Europe. While some differences still exist between countries in how digital processes are integrated into society, education, internal market and in adding value to business, the IoT, 5G and AI can be the keys to the future of the digitalisation process.
- *Connectivity*: equal access to the web in an interconnected world can determine the success of the economy of a country, while the use of social media changed the way people communicate on a day by day basis. In the next 10 years, equal access to the network throughout Europe will be essential, while digital IDs and privacy concerns will need further regulatory steps. As per the liberal adage, “what worries you, masters you” citizens should be empowered to master their own digital lives.
- *E-commerce*: a logical consequence of digital processes is the implementation of a market linked to them. Since the first online transaction back in 1994, the online sale of any product has grown exponentially in recent years and will reach the stratospheric figure of over 6 trillion dollars in 2022. E-commerce probably saved our economy during lockdown and the pandemic; how can it be implemented in the future?

## EVENT SCHEDULE

**09h25 Participants connect to the online Expert Forum**

**09h30 Welcome & Presentation of the Liberal White Book Europe 2030 project and introduction to the Expert Forum**

Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

**09h35 Welcome Words by the Patron**

Svenja Hahn, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

**Moderator:** Catharina Candolin, Lead Specialist (Cybersecurity), OP Financial Group

**09h45 Keynote Speech - state of the art of digital processes in Europe**

**Steve Purser**, Head of Core Operations Department, EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)

**10h15 Break**

**10h20 Digitalisation, IoT and 5G for a smarter future**

**Moderator:** Catharina Candolin, Lead Specialist (Cybersecurity), OP Financial Group

Short input statements:

- Ernesto Damiani, Professor, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi & Head of AI research programme in UAE
- Dragoş Tudorache, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group
- Ray Pinto, Director for Digital Transformation, DIGITALEUROPE

*followed by a discussion among all participants.*

**Discussion topics:** European digitalisation strategy and the role of AI; new technologies, IoT, 5G, and their integration in the Digi process in EU; a multi-speed digitalisation process and the role of private enterprises; the robotisation of jobs.

**11h20 Break**

## 11h25 Connectivity, Social Media and Online communication

**Moderator:** Astrid Thors, Member of the Finnish Parliament

Short input statements:

- Heidi Jern, Government Affairs & Public Policy Manager for Finland and Sweden, Google
- David Dueñas-Cid, PhD, Researcher, Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance, Tallinn University of Technology & Assistant Professor, New Research on Digital Societies, Kozminski University
- Claudia Selli, Executive Director, Political Affairs, AT&T

*followed by a discussion among all participants.*

**Discussion topics:** use of the World Wide Web: 2020 to 2030; the future of Social Media; improving the future of communications; policies and privacy for the future; digital IDs for European citizens; how online communication can change our idea of community; e-voting and the European 2.0 elections.

## 12h25 Break

## 12h30 E-commerce and the digital market

**Moderator:** Ted Urho, Manager, Tankesmedjan Agenda

Short input statements:

- Christian Stummeyer, PhD, Professor of “Business IT and Digital Commerce”, Technical University of Ingolstadt (THI)
- Hendrik Bourgeois, Head of Government Affairs, Europe and Russia, Apple
- Stefan Krawczyk, Head of Government Relations Europe, Middle East and Africa, eBay

*followed by a discussion among all participants.*

**Discussion topics:** platform regulation; the role of financial technology for the internal market; future of e-commerce and the cross-board free economy; service providers and the customers / retailers of the future.

## 13h30 Final talk & Conclusions

Flóra Szigeti, PhD, District Council Member, Budapest 5<sup>th</sup> District

Author of the Digitalisation, Connectivity and e-Commerce chapter, Liberal White Book Europe 2030

## 13h45 End of Expert Forum

With the support of:



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