

Science, not Fiction

Context

Who doesn't like a good fiction novel about the future? It takes us to a distant land, centuries into the future and it shows us what the human race can achieve if it has the right conditions to flourish. Once we close the book and we think of the present day, we cannot help but wonder what needs to be done now in order for the human race to turn fiction into reality.

Join us on this journey of discovery and of realisation that the power to change our future for the better lies within us all. How can liberals foster innovation in Europe and reach new frontiers? We need not be scared of the future, but embrace its challenges and see how we can encourage and contribute to the creation of a liberal environment and mindset at the cutting edge of certain fields: digital, health, and hardware.

Digital Theme

Online event

03 June 2021, 09:30 – 11:10 (CEST)

About the event

Innovation in almost any sector is advancing at a pace that we have not seen before and the digital sector is a prime example of the limitless nature of humans. What is new today will already be considered old next month. Liberals need to keep their eyes on the horizon and try to facilitate the creation of an innovative environment in which all sectors have everything they need to succeed and push the boundaries of science even further into space.

Europe seems to be falling behind in the competition of creating a thriving ecosystem for digital innovation. We risk becoming the readers of other geopolitical actor's novel instead of writing our own.

How can we provide enough incentives to nurture digital innovation in Europe? How should the EU tax digital companies that operate on its territory? Where does the liability of actions in the digital domain lie? What is the most beneficial environment for citizens, entrepreneurs and companies? What can and should the EU do in order to transform fiction into science?

Event Schedule

09:25 Participants connect to Hopin

09:30 Introductory remarks

Speaker: [Svenja Hahn](#), Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group & First Vice-President, European Liberal Forum

Conference moderator: [Jennifer Baker](#), EU Policy and Tech Reporter

09:35 Setting the scene

Speaker: [Gerd Leonhard](#), Futurist and Humanist Author & CEO, Futures Agency

- Why are we only looking at what is in front of us instead of 2 steps ahead?
- What is already on the horizon: augmented reality, Neuralink, quantum computing, facial recognition, 6G, Internet of Things
- Why is it important for Europe to retain our technological sovereignty and to push for “citizen-centered innovation”?
- What happens if we leave the monopoly of innovation in the digital sphere to countries that do not share our values?

09:45 "Lightning Talk" with innovator

Speaker: [Hans-Christian Boos](#), CEO, Arago

- What are you working on currently?
- What problems are you running into?
- How does the perfect innovation-friendly environment look to you?

09:50 Reaction from an MEP

Speaker: [Ivars Ijabs](#), Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

09:55 How to make this fiction reality?

Speaker: [Aura Salla](#), Public Policy Director & Head of EU Affairs, Facebook

Speaker: [Zoran Stančič](#), PhD, Special Adviser, DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT), European Commission

Is European regulation innovation-friendly? Are we ready for the next digital revolution? What do we need to do not to be overtaken by China/India/etc? Legislative initiatives?

10:20 Coffee break

10:25 "Lightning Talk" with innovator

Speaker: [Leonie Mueck](#), CPO, Riverlane

- What are you working on currently?
- What problems are you running into?
- What problems does Europe have in nurturing and retaining innovative talent?

10:30 Reaction from an MEP

Speaker: Dita Charanzová, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group & Vice-President of the European Parliament

10:35 How to make this fiction reality?

Speaker: Isidro Laso Ballesteros, Cabinet Expert on Innovation, Cabinet of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, European Commission

Speaker: Audrey Scozzaro Ferrazzini, Senior Director for Government Affairs, Qualcomm

Is Europe a continent of passive users rather than active innovators? How can we make people feel positive about innovation and not consider it a threat? What are the skills we need to foster to make that reality? How can we improve our education systems and programmes to foster innovative mindsets? How can we boost R&D efforts?

11:00 Academic Input: What is smart regulation?

Speaker: Sylvie Blanco, Professor and Executive Director for Innovation & Experimentation, Grenoble Ecole de Management

If we want to have an innovation-friendly ecosystem in the new to medium future, what types of regulations need to be implemented today? For upcoming inventions without an immediate and visible presence in our society, how can we and our elected leaders know what is the best regulation to implement for a better and more innovative future?

11:10 END OF EVENT

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