



**Computer & Communications
Industry Association**
Tech Advocacy Since 1972

CCIA RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION LEADERSHIP

The European Union's new leadership has the opportunity to ensure that Europe remains an innovative, competitive and attractive place to start a business, invest, and live. Technology is key to enable this vision and to help solve societal challenges such as climate change and aging populations. We encourage the new decision-makers to first assess the impact of all the recent EU legislation and to ensure that future legislation is evidence-based, proportionate and future-proof. We look forward to working with the new EU leadership!

European prosperity and competitiveness relies on access to global markets

European firms rely on access to global supply chains and global markets. Calls for "technological sovereignty" must not become an excuse for protectionism, by Europe or our trading partners. Europe is stronger, safer, and more competitive when we have access to choose any of the world's most innovative products and services. The EU should lead efforts to remove digital trade barriers globally.

The Digital Services Act must strengthen the Single Market and online safeguards

The announced Digital Services Act is an opportunity to design a pro-innovative framework that strengthens the EU Single Market to allow startups to scale-up from wherever they are based in the EU. We urge the Commission to thoroughly consult with all stakeholders, evaluate the impact of recent EU regulation, and conduct impact assessments before proposing new legislation. The EU's eCommerce Directive remains a corner-stone of Europe's internet economy. Any revision should maintain the liability protection regime and the prohibition of general monitoring obligations. The introduction of a 'Good Samaritan' clause would encourage companies to take proactive measures to tackle illegal content, without being penalized for their good efforts to proactively fight illegal content.

Allow Artificial Intelligence to improve Europeans' wellbeing

Artificial intelligence has enormous potential to improve quality, price and efficiency across European industry sectors. AI could add €2.7 trillion, or 19 percent, to Europe's economy by 2030 while also improving employment. We encourage policy-makers to introduce a smart pro-innovative policy framework that maximises the benefits of AI while limiting risks. We urge the new EU leadership to thoroughly assess and consult with all stakeholders before making crucial policy choices on such an important technology for Europe's future.

Encourage voluntary data sharing where needed

Data-driven innovation is modernising Europe's economy. Businesses across sectors use data to improve their competitiveness and offerings while public authorities use data to better serve citizens. EU policy-makers should encourage voluntary data sharing where it demonstrably supports social improvements and economic innovations. EU action should be tech-neutral and respect industry's trade secrets, contractual freedom and the protection of personal data.



Adapt social and working policies to the changing world of work

The European Pillar of Social Rights was a significant step in adapting social protection and working conditions to the changing world of work. We encourage policy-makers to promote regulatory approaches that create the conditions for flexible independent work by allowing platforms to provide or facilitate access to social protection, without risking being reclassified as employers. This will enable platforms to provide opportunities for independent work, while at the same time, ensuring people have access to social protection.

Smart digital mobility policies

Digital mobility services are developing across the EU with the potential to tackle traffic congestion and pollution and to contribute to the EU's 2050 carbon neutrality target. We encourage smart and sustainable mobility services as part of the EU's future transport and environment policies.

Remove unjustified online sales restrictions

The European Commission is currently reviewing the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation and its corresponding guidelines. This is an opportunity to ensure privately imposed restrictions to online trade, such as blanket online marketplace bans or brick and mortar store requirements, do not hamper e-commerce to flourish in Europe.

Competition law remains fit for purpose

For decades the EU competition framework has proven to be remarkably flexible to deal with any technological wave. The Internet is no exception. Many high-profile enforcement cases at both the EU and national level prove that point. We therefore advise against any creation of a special competition enforcement regime targeted at digital companies.

Strengthen cybersecurity in Europe

When improving cybersecurity capabilities, Europe should continue to strive for agile responses to the rapidly evolving global security threat, with measures based on common risk management principles. Global cyber threats need global responses and the EU should develop a common baseline with its strategic partners, including the United States. Europe should promote greater R&D collaboration and interoperability of cybersecurity products to better fend off global threats.

eGovernment and digital transformation for Europe's public sector

We encourage the new EU leadership to accelerate the digital transformation of the public sector in Europe. This should build on the EU's Tallinn Declaration and results achieved from open source, open collaboration and innovation.

Protect user communications and device data without hurting innovation

The EU's ePrivacy Regulation should ensure meaningful privacy protection and confidentiality of communications while leaving room for the development and use of secure and innovative digital services in Europe, including those based on Artificial Intelligence. A context and risk-based approach, similar to the EU General Data Protection Regulation, is key to guarantee appropriate privacy protection without unduly harming Europe's ability to innovate.



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A transatlantic framework for law enforcement access to digital evidence with strong safeguards

A future EU-U.S. agreement should strengthen user rights and due process safeguards when law enforcement needs access to electronic evidence during criminal investigations and prosecutions on either side of the Atlantic. A framework agreement should also seek to avoid conflicts between EU and U.S. laws.

Finalise negotiations on a robust, user rights-friendly e-Evidence package

We encourage the EU institutions to finalise the on-going negotiations on the draft EU e-Evidence package. The future framework should provide companies with the ability to object to manifestly abusive orders while obliging Member States to use the new instrument for investigations that are not purely domestic in nature.

An interoperable online payment ecosystem will help complete the Digital Single Market

With the Revised EU Payment Service Directive (“PSD2”), the EU has adopted a progressive and forward-looking legislation that will open up competition, new products and increase interoperability between different parts of the payment ecosystem.

A holistic strategy building on fast, reliable and secure online payment solutions is needed to complete the EU Digital Single Market. More “Open Banking”, i.e. access for non-banks to the financial ecosystem, will allow new market entrants to innovate and compete and make Europe a FinTech leader.

Tackle terrorist content online while maintaining online safeguards and innovation

We support the goal of the EU proposal to tackle terrorist content online. However, the Council’s approach risks harming online freedoms by introducing a general obligation on companies to monitor online content. This, paired with the deletion of the ‘Good Samaritan clause’, suggested by the European Parliament, risks harming online freedoms. In view of the upcoming final negotiations, we encourage the Council to take into account the vast differences between types of online services and also the abilities of smaller companies. We hope the final law will strike the right balance between preventing dissemination of terrorist content online and avoiding over-removal of lawful content.

Implement new EU copyright rules without hurting online innovation

We encourage EU Member States to remain vigilant to the impact on online innovation and rights when transposing the new EU Copyright Directive into national law.

Europe should lead efforts towards ambitious, global tax reform

We strongly support efforts to achieve tax reform at a global level. We encourage the EU to continue pursuing the OECD/G20-led discussions while ensuring that all efforts to achieve global reform centre around proposals that are profits-based and covers all sectors. Nations should in the meantime avoid unilateral measures which risk upsetting trade relations and ruin the prospects of reaching consensus on more ambitious global reform.

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