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SECTOR DAYS
DIGITAL

Europe in the digital world

A Science|Business Network event

22 May 2023
Brussels

Partners

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Science|Business is launching a brand-new event series of "Sector Days" to bring members of the Science|Business Network, partners and key European and international experts to focus on (arguably) the three most significant domains of current R&I policy and funding: Digital, Green Deal & Climate, and Health & Life Science. The "Digital Day" is the first of the series.

AGENDA

12:30   **Registration, coffee & light lunch**

13:30   **Welcome by Science|Business**

13:35   **Setting digital priorities: Perspectives from the Belgian government**

A live Q&A with **Mathieu Michel**, State Secretary for Digitalisation, Government of Belgium

13:45   **Rules of the game: How will Europe's digital landscape change in the near future, and to what end?**

A live-streamed panel discussion focusing on the state of progress in Europe's most significant pieces of legislation, which key developments and decisions are expected by the end of this European Commission and Parliament's terms and how the outcomes may affect European and international R&D organisations in both the public and private sectors.

Speakers:

- **Brando Benifei,** Member & Rapporteur (AI Act), European Parliament
- **Ibán García del Blanco**, Member & Rapporteur (Data Act), European Parliament
- **Jeremy Rollison**, Senior Director of EU Government Affairs, Microsoft
- **Christer Hammarlund**, Cyber Security & Defence Officer, DG CNECT, European Commission

14:30   **Coffee break**

14:45   **High-level roundtables/workshops**

Parallel, in-depth policy discussions:

1/ The future of connectivity: Is Europe ready to lead the 6G race?

6G technologies will have a critical role to play in defining the future of communications networks, bringing together the digital, physical and human worlds in unprecedented ways, and harnessing intelligent knowledge systems with advanced computational capabilities. Based on its role in developing 5G technology standards, and its excellent scientific and engineering bases, the EU is well positioned for the race ahead – but the outcome is by no means a foregone conclusion. In this session, an expert panel and town hall forum will explore the challenges Europe – and in particular the Commission and member-states – must overcome to deliver 6G by the end of this decade, and what role its flagship R&D programmes might play in that process.

Featured speakers:

- **Pekka Rantala**, Head of 6G Bridge Program, Business Finland
- **Peter Stuckmann** – Head of Unit, Future Connectivity Systems, DG CNECT, European Commission

AGENDA

- **Henna Virkkunen,** Member, European Parliament
- **Maiju Gyran**, Senior Science Adviser, Coordinator of the Flagship Programme, Academy of Finland
- **Maarit Palovirta**, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO)

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2/ Standard-Essential Patents: Stumbling Block for the Internet of Things?

Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) play a critical role in enabling today's mobile telephony and the Internet of Things. The European Commission's proposal to regulate the licensing of SEPs is aimed at ensuring a fair licensing regime that fosters innovation and development in Europe, but it has also sparked a reflection on potentially undermining incentives for research and innovation. In this roundtable, academics, research organisations, and EU policy makers will explore the proposal's potential impact on open standards development, open innovation, and the overall innovation ecosystem in Europe.

Featured Participants:

- **Patrick McCutcheon**, Managing Director, IP Europe
- **Inês de Matos Pinto**, Policy Advisor, European Parliament
- **Axel Ferrazzini**, Managing Director, 4iP Council
- **Ashok Ganesh**, Director Market Perspectives & Innovation, CEN-CENELEC
- **Patrick Hofkens**, Director IPR Policy, Ericsson
- **Gregor Langus**, Vice President, Cornerstone Research
- **Christian Loyau**, Legal Affairs and Governance Director, ETSI
- **Jillian Mertsch**, Senior Director Government Affairs, Qualcomm
- **Collette Rawnsley**, Chairperson, IP Europe
- **Dirk Weiler**, Head of Standards Policy, Nokia

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16:15   Break

16:30   Digital world: Where can Europe take the lead?

Closing live-streamed plenary panel featuring:

- **Werner Stengg**, Cabinet expert, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, European Commission
- **François Bertrand**, Vice President for Research and Innovation, Polytechnique Montreal
- **Hilary Hanahoe**, Secretary General, Research Data Alliance

17:15   Networking reception

18:15   End of Day

BRANDO BENIFEI, Member & rapporteur (AI Act), European Parliament

Brando Benifei is an Italian Member of the European Parliament (EP) serving his second term and is the head of delegation of Partito Democratico in the EP. He is co-Rapporteur for the Artificial Intelligence Act, as a Member of the Committee for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

He also works on Employment, Legal and Constitutional Affairs. Brando is also a sincere federalist, being an active Member of the Board of the Spinelli Group, a Member of the European Federalist Movement and a Member of the Federal Committee of the Union of the European Federalists.

FRANCOIS BERTRAND, Vice President for Research and Innovation, Polytechnique Montreal

François Bertrand is professor of chemical engineering at Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Quebec, Canada. François earned his PhD in chemical engineering from Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine in 1996. He was chair of Polytechnique Montréal's department of chemical engineering from 2013 to 2016. He was appointed to the position of director of research, innovation and international affairs last January for a five-year term.

In addition to his teaching, research and management activities, he served on the institution's research committee and sub-committee on advanced studies, as well as on the executive committee of the Institut de l'énergie Trottier. He is strongly involved in research in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and in the modeling of granular and multiphase flows, with applications in mixing and filtration.

IBÁN GARCÍA DEL BLANCO, Member & rapporteur (Data Act), European Parliament

Ibán García del Blanco is a lawyer majored in cultural management. Before his election as a MEP he was the executive president of Acción Cultural Española (AC/E). Ibán has played an instrumental role defining AI policies as S&D group coordinator of the special committee for Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Age (AIDA).

He is a member of the Legal Affairs Committee, where he was appointed rapporteur for a legislative initiative report "on an ethical framework for artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies". He is also currently working on the Data Act and the AI Act. Also, he is a member of the Petitions Committee, substitute member of the CULT Committee, and of the Delegation with the Andean countries and the Parliamentary Assembly Euro-Latin America, EUROLAT.

CHRISTER E HAMMARLUND, Cyber security & defence officer, DG CNECT, European Commission

Christer Hammarlund has worked in the European Commission since 1999, first on enterprise policy, then as adviser to the President of the European Commission on ICT, climate change, energy, R&D, innovation and regional policy. His present responsibility is cyber security and cyber defence in the European Commission. He has been responsible for policy and regulatory aspects of the satellite/mobile communications sectors, and international relations with EU's strategic partners at the European Commission.

He has previously held management positions in governmental organisations and private companies, starting his career in the nuclear power sector. In 1989, he set up and managed the EU Affairs Department at the Swedish Embassy, dealing with strategic issues in the EU and Central and Eastern Europe.

FEATURED GUESTS

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HILARY HANAHOE, Secretary General, Research Data Alliance

Hilary Hanahoe leads the Research Data Alliance (RDA), an international, non-profit, volunteer organisation addressing the need for open and interoperable sharing and re-use of research data and building the social, technical and cross-disciplinary links to enable such sharing and re-use on a global scale. Currently, RDA has a community of over 13,500 individual data professionals from 148 countries collaborating on different open science and open data activities.

Hilary is responsible for the financial and organisational sustainability of RDA on an international level and is the RDA Foundation CEO. She is passionate about the work of the Research Data Alliance and its vibrant, volunteer community working to enable the open sharing and reuse of data across the globe.

MATHIEU MICHEL, State Secretary for Digitalisation, in charge of administrative simplification, privacy and the buildings administration, Federal Government of Belgium

Before his current role, Mathieu Michel held the position of president of the Provincial College of Walloon Brabant for 8 years, from 2012 to 2020. Together with the Walloon Brabant Property Development Agency, he was responsible for the development of new large-scale 'New Place of Working' projects.

Mathieu has worked on the digitalization of the Walloon Brabant's entire territory, turning its 27 communes into true "smart cities" and providing provincial schools with the latest computer equipment with the objective to further digitize education. Artificial intelligence is one of his priorities, marking Belgium's position as a European leader in the field, particularly in the sectors of health and energy. He also works to demystify the use of new technologies and to advocate for transparency as a guiding principle of digital technologies.

JEREMY ROLLISON, Senior Director of EU Government Affairs, Microsoft

In his role within Microsoft's Corporate, External, & Legal Affairs (CELA) group, Jeremy Rollison focuses on cloud policy related to the EU digital single market, with a particular emphasis on data issues and corresponding public policy covering privacy, cybersecurity, and the cross-border provision of online services. Prior to joining Microsoft, he worked in the government relations team at Nokia in the company's EU representative office, and was previously director of the European Digital Media Association (EDiMA) in Brussels.

He has over a decade of public policy experience in Brussels at the company, association, and consultancy levels, focusing and engaging with EU stakeholders on issues related to the development and delivery of digital and online services in the Internal Market and corresponding EU regulatory policy.

WERNER STENGG, Cabinet expert, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, European Commission

Werner Stengg, who joined the European institutions in 1996, currently deals with digital matters, including the platform economy, data and artificial intelligence, and disinformation, in the cabinet of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager. Between 2006 and 2019, he held different head of unit positions across the European Commission, dealing with e-commerce and online platforms, public interest services, online gambling and postal services, and with the better regulation agenda.

Prior to that, Werner was involved in mainstreaming policy evaluation across the Commission, in the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral textile trade agreements, and in the negotiations on regulatory files in the areas of aviation and maritime transport. He earned his doctoral degree in economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration.

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Guests featured in parallel sessions

- **Inês Guilherme de Matos Pinto,** Political Advisor, European Parliament
- **Axel Ferrazzini,** Managing Director, 4IP Council
- **Ashok Ganesh,** Director Market Perspectives & Innovation, CEN-CENELEC
- **Maiju Gyran,** Senior Science Adviser, Coordinator of the Flagship Programme, Academy of Finland
- **Patrick Hofkens,** Board Member, Ericsson
- **Gregor Langus,** Vice President, Cornerstone Research
- **Christian Loyau,** Legal Affairs and Governance Director, ETSI
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- **Pekka Rantala**, Head of 6G Bridge Program, Business Finland
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- **Henna Virkkunen**, Member, European Parliament
- **Dirk Weiler,** Head of Standards Policy, Nokia

Moderators:

- **Maryline Fiaschi,** CEO, Science|Business
- **David Pringle,** Senior Advisor, Science|Business
- **Brandon Mitchener,** Senior Advisor, Science|Business

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