

ISOC European Regional Bureau Newsletter

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EU: New structure of the European Commission unveiled

- On 10 September, the President-elect of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker presented the **new structure of the Commission** with seven Vice-Presidents. **Andrus Ansip**, former Prime Minister of Estonia, will be the **Vice-President** in charge of the **Digital Single Market**.
- From his position, Ansip will steer, coordinate and oversee the drafting of digital economy policies by 12 other Commissioners who are members of the so-called *Project team Digital Single Market* (among others, Commissioners for Internal market, Industry etc.). Ansip will have the right to block any initiative coming from them. Estonia has stood out as a leader in developing and making use of technology, with widespread high-speed broadband availability, ubiquitous e-services and a cutting-edge cyber-defence system.
- Germany's **Günther Oettinger** was appointed as **Digital Economy and Society Commissioner** and will be the main Commissioner working with Vice-President Ansip on **copyright issues**. The new Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender equality, Czech Republic's Věra **Jourová**, will be responsible for **data protection**. Polish Commissioner **Elżbieta Bieńkowska** will be in charge of Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.
- Speaking about the nomination of **Margrethe Vestager** as the new **EU Competition Commissioner**, Juncker stated that one of the priorities of her work should be **digital sector**, underlining that the Commissioner's competition powers should be used to support EU growth and employment policies.
- In a **mission letter** sent by Jean-Claude Juncker, Vice-President Ansip has been asked to use the first six months of his mandate on legislative steps towards a connected Digital Single Market, notably by adding more ambition to the **ongoing reform of Europe's telecoms rules**. Modernisation of **copyright rules** and **consumer rules for online and digital purchases** has also been highlighted among priority areas, together with the conclusion of negotiations on the proposed overhaul of the **EU data protection rules**, and the review of the **Safe Harbour arrangement**.

Copyright

EU: Online copyright breaches claims must be made where violation took place

- In an **opinion** published by the **Advocate General of the EU Court of Justice Pedro Cruz Villalón**, **copyright infringement claims** against websites **must be brought in the country where the violation occurred**. The case was brought to justice by an Austrian photographer whose picture was used in Germany without consent.
- According to Cruz Villalón, the **site's audience and location have no bearing on which court should be handling the claim**.
- Thus, a copyright holder does not have a right to use his or her country's court to bring a copyright claim committed in another country.
- The opinions of Advocates General are independent and are **not binding on the court**.

EU: White paper on copyright reform to be published by the new Commission

- A Commission spokesperson confirmed that the long-awaited **white paper on EU copyright framework** reform will **only be published once the new European Commission takes office** (scheduled for 1 November).
- The delayed publication is said to be caused by internal divisions, although EU Internal Market Commissioner Barnier, whose department is in charge of the dossier in the current Commission, believes that the draft strikes the right balance between the different interests at stake.
- In the new Commission, **copyright will pass from DG Internal market to DG Connect**, under the leadership of **Günther Oettinger**.

Data protection

Ireland: New data protection chief has corporate background

- **Helen Dixon**, currently the Irish Registrar of Companies, has been appointed as **Ireland's new Data Protection Commissioner**. Dixon had previously worked for several US technology firms.
- Irish Data Protection Commissioner plays an important role in the EU given that many US tech companies established their European headquarters and data centres in the country.

Open Internet

EU: MEPs and Commissioner sign joint statement on Open Internet

- At the **Internet Governance Forum** that recently took place in Istanbul, the **EU delegation**, including Digital Agenda **Commissioner Neelie Kroes** and Members of the European Parliament : Pilar del Castillo (EPP, Spain), Paul Rübig (EPP, Austria), Sabine Verheyen (EPP, Germany), Renato Soru (S&D, Italy) and Julia Reda (Greens-EFA, Germany), have signed a **joint declaration** supporting Open Internet.
- The statement has called for maintaining the Internet as an **open and non-discriminatory space**, providing greater **transparency** in the decision making process, strengthening the **Internet Governance Forum** in legal and financial terms, and protecting **fundamental rights on the net**.
- The delegation also disapproved the **Turkish government's actions** with regards to **social media freedom**.

Cybersecurity

EU: Coordination group publishes white paper on cybersecurity standards

- The **Cybersecurity Coordination Group** (CSCG), a joint group of the three recognised European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) has published a **White Paper** with **recommendations on digital security**. The paper responds to the **EU's cybersecurity strategy** published in February 2013.
- Standardisation in cybersecurity has been underlined as a **crucial component of the completion** of the **European internal market**. The recommendations are divided into **three main categories**: governance, harmonisation and global dimension.
- The paper has called on the Commission to mandate CSCG to create a **governance framework** for cybersecurity standardisation in Europe, while defining a common understanding of the scope of cybersecurity. Re-establishment of trust by producing **standardised mechanisms** (e.g. European Cybersecurity Label) and dialogues with the European research community, and within an industrial forum, were also recommended.

Cloud computing

EU: Commission launches consultation on cloud computing and software

- The European Commission's DG Connect has launched a web-based consultation on cloud computing and software.
- The consultation that runs until 10 October is designed to help the Commission **define future research priorities**, ahead of the **H2020 ICT Work Programme 2016-2017**. Following the completion of the consultation, a workshop will be held in Brussels on 4 November to discuss the views collected by the stakeholders.

General

France: 1st anniversary of the French industrial renaissance

- One year ago, the French government launched the **New Industrial France**, a plan of 34 industrial renaissance projects that bring together large corporate groups and SMEs, with the support of the state.
- Among the 10 projects presented this week to President Hollande is a tablet used for learning that runs on a **secured French cloud**.
- A press release on the anniversary had a part on **digital revolution**, underlining that the French **big data market** is estimated to reach €9 billion by 2020, potentially providing employment for 137,000 people.