Topic	Elevator pitch	In more detail
Competitiveness	Europe's economy is falling behind its trading partners. The EU needs to focus on boosting its competitiveness by 1. Ensuring a more integrated Single Market via efficient and unified implementation of recent legislative work. 2. Enabling digital and green transformation. 3. Building on strategic alliances and trade. 4. Removing barriers for SMEs and startups in particular in the digital sector where scaling is vital.	European Roundtable of Industrialists: ● A recent survey said 80% of European CEOs are pessimistic about Europe's competitiveness, with 60% saying they would consider moving operations or investments to the US. DigitalEurope: ● SMEs, vital to the EU economy, face growth barriers, with only 8.7% trading across borders. This problem is acute in the digital sector, where scaling is crucial. ● Many innovative companies, big and small, find doing business in Europe challenging, particularly due to regulatory fragmentation. Implementing the EU Single Market, including the digital aspect, can enhance competitiveness and the twin transition. Harmonisation and reducing national exemptions is essential. 15 govts non-paper Jan '24: ● A more integrated Single Market, a more prominent role in digital development and an active policy of free and rules based trade with the rest of the world will strengthen the EU's competitiveness. All EU businesses, workers and citizens should benefit from free movement. This requires, among other things, proper implementation and in particular, enforcement of the Single Market rules. FI Govt non-paper Jan '24: Digital Growth (attached) ● Focus should be on transforming the EU from a regulatory powerhouse into a superpower of digital delivery. Effective and unified implementation of the recent legislative work will create digital growth in the EU. ● Instead of focusing on further regulation, resources should be dedicated to supporting an efficient and unified implementation and to ensuring leverage through investment and innovation funds. We must also continue radically reducing the administrative overload created by the old structures and regulations so we can ensure that the EU is truly fit for the Digital Decade. Startup Manifesto: ● Europe needs a surge in high-quality venture capital to cultivate iconic companies of tomorrow. To ensure EU's global competitiveness, investing in innovation should be the catalyst for propelling Europe forward. A balanced mix of private and public

		funding, coupled with a culture of reinvesting in startups, will bolster Europe's competitive edge.
Better regulation	All the EU institutions need to commit to deliver a better regulation agenda that: 1. is evidence-based 2. honours the proportionality and subsidiarity principles 3. provides legal certainty 4. is transparent 5. contributes to European competitiveness by providing a coherent and predictable regulatory framework To respond to rapidly developing new tech, EU regulation needs to focus on identifying the overall objectives and principles that should govern the digital sector in a technology-neutral and coherent manner, avoiding overlapping and prescriptive regulation.	We hear growing calls for change from European industry and govts ● Business Europe calls for 'regulatory breathing space' (March 2023) ● 10 PMs letter calls for "reducing unnecessary regulatory burden" ● Dutch govt calls for "more effective policy development" (incl better use of impact assessments and aiming for future proof regulations) 　○ Decision-making must also be adaptive, by ensuring that regulations can respond to rapidly developing technologies such as AI, and by sufficiently involving the academic and private sectors in the decision-making process, for example through the formation of sectoral coalitions. ● DigitalEurope: 　○ The EU should reduce the regulatory burden, conduct independent competitiveness checks with the private sector, and do thorough regulatory sandboxing before proposing new laws. By 2030 - business reporting obligations should be cut by 50% 　○ The EU should put in place a thorough stock-taking exercise of new laws (in particular the interplay of the GDPR, Data Act and adjacent regulations) - in dialogue with industry experts across all sectors. 　○ All proposed rules, particularly complex digital files, should undergo pre-regulation sandboxing to assess whether they are fit for purpose, contribute to European competitiveness, and overlap with existing laws. 　　■ Policy sandboxing should take place before the legislative process so that issues identified can be tackled before proposals are put forward and to provide real-world data and insights to assist policymakers in reaching their final agreements. 　　■ After the regulation is in place, all companies in Europe should be granted the freedom to experiment and test innovative technologies, products, and services within a regulatory sandbox framework. 　　■ We must also reward policymakers who spend their time assessing existing legislation to see if it is fit for purpose and for repealing it if

necessary. The simplest way of adapting behaviour is by shifting the KPIs for EU policymakers→ barriers removed, policy targets achieved.

- **Allied for Startups** calls for a "scale-up test" for any new EU legislation, for "EU startups being able to operate in the global economy" and "investing in digital skills".
- **Startup Manifesto** calls for proactive measures to address concerns with recent regulatory developments hindering the growth of European innovators and innovation across the continent. And to revisit existing regulations, implementing a temporary pause on any new legislation in areas where startups still face burdens.
- **Swedish Board of Trade** calls on the EU institutions to truly deliver on their commitments to the Better Regulation Agenda. Incl. complete impact assessments – incl. an international aspect and ensuring that EU legislation reflects international regulatory co-operation –, as well as stakeholder consultation and input from experts in different digital fields + prioritised ex-post evaluations, and fitness checks of legislative and whole policy areas.
- **CER** calls on the next EC to ensure that digital laws form a predictable, coherent rulebook which is applied consistently across the EU, and is future-proofed, principles-based and proportionate. The EC should ensure tech laws build on the EU's strengths: its single market and open trading links with the rest of the world. The weakness of EU digital laws is their focus on addressing immediate problems rather than stepping back to identify overall objectives and principles that should govern the digital sector. Good tech laws also give an appropriate amount of space for at least some degree of self-regulation or co-regulation.

15 govts non-paper Jan '24
The new European Commission should:
- Add a thorough, timely and high-quality impact assessment to each legislative proposal, including a Competitiveness Check, and ensure consultation with all stakeholders, and consider the cumulative impacts and costs of different initiatives and existing rules on the competitiveness of EU businesses, particularly SMEs and micro-enterprises.

		- Assess the extension of the mandate of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board to specifically ask for impact assessment in cases where they were not done. - Continue to assess the impacts and effectiveness of existing rules, especially rules in relation to the green and digital transition, for example by introducing appropriate review clauses to proposals. - Prioritize reducing regulatory burden in the EU. Reduction of reporting obligations by 25 per cent is welcomed and it should not be a one-time initiative, but rather an ongoing principle in the European Union.
Open strategic autonomy	In the context of open strategic autonomy, the EU should: - focus on fostering open and competitive markets, remove unjustified barriers and invest in new businesses - avoid a general fear of dependencies and trending inward looking trade in policy making - enhance the EU's digital resilience, - and cooperate with allies while reducing risky strategic dependencies. The EU should avoid policies that could harm economic development or discriminate against foreign businesses. Instead, it should promote regulatory cooperation with like-minded democracies.	**Europe Unlocked:** - Rather than erect economic barriers in pursuit of greater 'sovereignty', we need to refocus on growing open and competitive markets. This in turn will act to boost productivity, the biggest driver of economic growth and the only sustainable long-term way to grow the EU economy. Security for Europe will be achieved through economic prosperity and acknowledging that business can help to meet the pressing societal challenges of our time. **DigitalEurope** - The current EC has pursued a number of actions to protect sensitive assets. These actions should enable companies in Europe to choose the best available technologies without restricting possibilities for cooperation with our closest allies. A balance needs to be struck between enhancing the EU's digital resilience on the one hand, while maintaining competitiveness and open trade links on the other. We must also ensure that our actions do not have counterproductive effects. **Dutch Govt plan for Open Strategic Autonomy** - In addition to reducing risky strategic dependencies where desirable, continued attention must also be paid to investing in new businesses, financing startups and scale-ups, strengthening the digital infrastructure, strengthening the business and investment climate, and leading scientific research and technological leadership.

- An open, strategically autonomous EU starts with a well-functioning internal market. Unjustified obstacles to the free movement of goods, people, services and capital must be addressed and removed.
- A global level playing field and the prevention of a subsidy race between Member States remains of great importance for the EU's competitiveness in the long term
- International cooperation is crucial for a sustainable, inclusive and fair digital transition and strengthening the EU's digital open strategic autonomy. Diversification (including through the conclusion of trade agreements) contributes to reducing risky strategic dependencies.

ECIPE on [Forward-Thinking Approach to Open Strategic Autonomy](#) (Nov 2023)
- Trade data demonstrates that the EU does not have critical dependencies on products and services imported from outside the EU, except for a few niche areas like energy commodities and some raw materials. Trade data reveals that the total value of EU exports in digital and digitally enabled services to both the US and the rest of the world is roughly equivalent to the total value of EU imports.
- Trade in intellectual property shows that EU businesses benefit much from foreign innovation and technology, especially in areas like biomedical and digital technologies, indicating the importance of continued international technology cooperation.
- The EU should:
    - Avoid a general fear of dependency and instead tailor EU policies to specific products and export countries, focusing on diversifying suppliers and increasing inventories for critical items.
    - Not pursue discriminatory regulations that could harm economic development in MS. Subsidies, while considered in various sectors, are a costly and typically ineffective attempt for bridging the technology gap.
    - Not pursue an excessively value-oriented policy, with the effect of discriminating against foreign businesses. Inward-looking trade, investment, and industrial policies send a dangerous message to the global community, empowering foreign govts to impose additional trade and investment barriers.

		○ Should seriously promote regulatory cooperation with like-minded democracies such as the US and OECD countries.
		○ Needs to embrace supply-side policies, such as competitive taxation of businesses and workers, professional skills development, and, generally, deregulation and harmonisation through the deepening of the EU Single Market.
		CER calls on the next EC to maintain the EU's openness – at least to countries that have a similar commitment to openness. While the EU repeatedly commits to keeping markets open, in practice a number of digital laws have shifted away from open markets and towards a more 'sovereignty-first' approach to technology. It is critical both to firms' technology adoption and to EU tech firms who have ambitions to become global leaders.
Single Market	The EU needs to reiterate, deepen and fully implement the EU's Single Market: ● Acknowledge digitalisation as an integral part of Single Market policy-making ● Implement thorough analysis of and measures addressing existing barriers, benchmarked against EU's competitiveness and the effect of digitalisation ● Deliver on EU's Better Regulation commitments, reduce national derogations and fragmentation in MS implementation	European Commission: Removing Single Market barriers in goods and services could amount to €713 billion of growth by 2029. 15 govts non-paper Jan '24 suggests a new horizontal Single Market Strategy based on: ● Thorough analysis of Single Market barriers and ways to enhance the EU's competitiveness should be a benchmark and starting point for monitoring progress during the next Commission's term. ● The Single Market perspective should be taken into account across all policy areas - a holistic approach should be in relevant EU documents. ● Political ownership is key in all relevant fora and at all relevant levels, including all DGs and SECGEN within EC. Europe Unlocked: ● Companies and countries alike are now demanding that the Single Market be put at the top of the agenda of the incoming European Commission. It is essential for Europe's long-term competitiveness and strengthening it will bring growth and prosperity for Europe. ● The Commission's annual Single Market and competitiveness report shows no improvement in the transposition of EU directives into national laws. The so-called conformity deficit means that in many fields companies and citizens are faced

with a patchwork of laws instead of enjoying legal certainty across the internal market.
- We need to embrace competition and trade, ensure that the green and digital transitions deliver productive and sustainable outcomes, provide Europe's workforce with the skills needed to compete in a modern, global economy and deliver better regulation.
- CEPS concludes that if the EU Single Market was empowered with a medium-term programme, led by the European Council and actively implemented by the Commission and the European Parliament, it could boost the EU economy by some 9 % of EU GDP, and possibly more if greater dynamism is generated via a stimulus of startups, higher R&D investment and a greater use of the new Unitary Patent.

DigitalEurope:
- The number of SMEs selling across at least one European border has flatlined at around 8% since 2019
- The EU needs to 1) crack down on unilateral legislative action in areas where EU has the legislative competence 2) reduce national derogations 3) tackle fragmented implementation (making use of a structured dialogue with industry) 4) scrutinise all draft proposals for duplications and remove unnecessary implementing acts

Swedish Board of Trade ask the next European Commission:
- To show a commitment to attaining a well functioning Single Market. This must include allowing time for and ensuring that legislation already adopted, or about to be adopted, for the digital economy can come into effect, be applied and its' impacts are assessed.
- View digitalisation as a mainstreamed development of the Single Market, and to bring more clarity and emphasis on the effect digitalisation has on various policy and legislative areas.
- To support and guide all actors concerned so that they are able to gain an overview and understanding of new requirements and how they will work in practice.

		ECIPE: ● Deepen the Single Market - e.g. comprehensive assessment of barriers to growth + action plan; assessment of regulatory burden; firm commitment to better regulation (comparable impact assessments throughout the process, competitiveness checks); focus enabling policy-making (not only punitive) **CER** calls on the next European Commission: ● Promote more centralised implementation and enforcement to deepen the Digital Single Market. Continuing to allow divergences between EU MS undermine the EU's ambitions for one digital single market. ● Continue to prioritise regulations over directives, and allow fewer opportunities for MS to supplement or diverge from EU-wide rules.
Trade	The EU should continue to promote an open and rules-based trading system by: ● acknowledging that ICT is global by default ● keeping EU open for international business and outside providers ● striving for solutions that will boost the EU and US technological strengths in partnership ● prioritising internal capacity building rather than limiting competition from non-EU players	ECIPE Forward-Thinking Approach to Open Strategic Autonomy (Nov 2023) : ● EU business benefits from foreign innovation & tech + must continue to rely on outside providers. ● EU should not develop a general fear of dependency + pursue discriminatory regulations that close off choices / options for businesses ● EU should focus policies and resources on diversifying supply for critical items + promote reg cooperation with like-minded democracies (USA, OECD) + embrace supply-side policies (skills, taxation, de-regulation / harmonisation, boost SM) FI Govt non-paper Jan '24: Digital Growth (attached) ● The resilience of digital markets requires ongoing effort to provide a strategic roadmap that complements the regulatory framework with standardisation and open commons for the interoperability of key applications, technologies and structures for data sharing and use. As such, the EU must remain a firm partner in discussions regarding the free movement of data with trust within international organisations such as the G7, OECD and WTO. By fostering internal robustness, the EU will not only protect its external interests, but will also become a stronger partner on the global stage. It is crucial that standardisation is viewed and harnessed as a strategic asset in delivering trustworthy yet open and interoperable frameworks on a global scale.

		DigitalEurope: ● ICT is global by default and enables global value chains for every sector of the economy. A stable, predictable, and open global economy is therefore crucial. With the rising threat of protectionism and increased pressure on the multilateral trading system, we believe that Europe should continue to promote an open and rules-based trading system. ● Europe needs to lead by example, strive for market access and preserve openness, including with like-minded partners such as the US. In addition, a new approach to digital resilience should acknowledge the essential role of like-minded countries and companies and work together to set global standards. It is time for Europe and the US to find concrete solutions to boost their technological strengths, collaborate on setting standards, and defend a open, rules-based trading system ● We should work to remove unjustified tariffs and non-tariff barriers with likeminded partners. The EU should also prioritise internal capacity building rather than limiting competition from non-EU players. **CER**: ● Most of the EU's productivity growth is currently concentrated in smaller and poorer member-states, who can benefit from adopting mature technologies. This 'catch-up growth' relies heavily on being able to take advantage of technologies and services from anywhere around the world – and therefore maintaining economies which are open to international trade. To deliver economic growth, adoption of technology by firms is far more important than being the source of innovation.
AI	The upcoming European elections coincide with a pivotal moment in the evolution of technology. This opens a window of opportunity to develop a long-term competitiveness strategy and	**DigitalEurope**: ● Europe should drive the development of a global standard on responsible AI to ensure ethical use, protect human rights, and foster trust in AI systems globally. **Startup Manifesto**: ● If the AI Act fails to adequately support innovation, it could hinder the attraction of

	policy agenda that provides businesses and people with the means to harness AI's economic potential.

The EU should pay attention to the implementation of the AI Act to adequately support EU innovation, productivity and competitiveness:

- Avoid being overly prescriptive in regulation and target a few, but specific technologies.
- Prepare regulation for future technological developments setting out the overall principles and direction for the EU's digital Single Market as a whole.
- Create certainty to boost innovation and growth | capital from external sources, potentially slowing down the development of AI startups within the EU. To safeguard the European AI ecosystem and foster innovation, we urge risk-based legislation.

CER:
- By trying to be, the EU risks being overly prescriptive or taking disproportionate action in regulation. Regulation which is too specific, or is targeted at particular technologies or immediate problems, rarely creates a clear and enduring set of rules, becomes out-of-date as technologies and markets evolve + creates further uncertainty – hindering competition, take-up of new technologies, and productivity growth.
- Numerous other laws also impose their own overlapping rules on AI. These include the GDPR, the DSA, the DMA and P2B. the terms used across these laws are inconsistent – such as algorithms, recommender systems, profiling and automated decision-making – and these terms do not have the same definitions. This makes it very difficult for businesses that want to develop or use artificial intelligence to understand which obligations they have to comply with.
- This is in contrast with the US digital regulatory framework, and means that innovative EU firms may hold back commercialising new ideas out of a fear of non-compliance with EU laws. It also risks creating unnecessary barriers to competition – because large firms are far better able to manage regulatory complexity and uncertainty than smaller ones. This is self-defeating, given the EU's intention to deliver a digital policy framework that provides more opportunity for European businesses. |
| Security | Enhancing the robustness of the Single Market and trust in the EU's digital economy and societies would strengthen the take-off of | DigitalEurope:
- ENISA needs to function as an independent watchdog that critically scrutinises EU policy to ensure it promotes cybersecurity. To do so, we should grant ENISA more explicit power to be consulted and provide opinions on planned EU cybersecurity |

	the EU's digital economy and make the EU a much stronger global partner too. The EU should foster greater collaboration with and across sectors, to uplevel shared intelligence and to jointly anticipate, warn about, and mitigate threats for member states, societies, and economies. To improve the security of the Single Market, the EU should incentivize technology modernization with secure-by-default technologies and cloud services, that maximise portability of data and applications between multiple cloud service providers and on-premises environments.	laws. The EC should be obliged to consult them. To do this effectively, it will need more resources. In preparing its opinions, ENISA should engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, civil society and academia. Mandatory ENISA consultation on legislative initiatives related to cybersecurity would contribute to more effective and comprehensive cybersecurity policies, ultimately enhancing the EU's digital resilience. ● The EU should create a new position of European Cyber coordinator, supported by those trusted companies, with enhanced responsibilities for coordinating cyber activities across the EU. ● To tackle the one million cyber skills gap and fully operationalise the Cyber Skills Academy, we need the public and private sectors to unite. Inspired by the Campus Cyber in France, Europe should establish at least ten cyber campuses. ● The establishment of a common ENISA cybersecurity educational certification based on international standards, market-led credentials, and increased funding for skills that support our collective digital resilience. FI Govt non-paper Jan '24: Digital Growth (attached) ● One of the key pillars of the robustness of the EU's Single Market is trust in the digital economy and digital societies, which is built upon a firm foundation of cyber resilience and security. ● By incorporating principles such as Zero Trust and Security by Design, we can enhance the security of digital markets without jeopardising opportunities for cross-border cooperation and business. These principles, coupled with energy efficiency, technology neutrality and demonstrable compliance, must be factored into the standardisation of new technologies and phenomena. ● Building the necessary trust networks and scaling up best practices among authorities can lead to more agile and uniform governance. The Nordic countries could serve as a model in this regard. Joint Nordic infrastructures, such as cloud services, along with a common European digital identity and digital wallets, can further strengthen the take-off of the European digital economy.

Green transition	Digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, can significantly contribute towards achieving the carbon reduction goals the EU has set for the future. Accelerating the twin digital and green transition requires an enabling policy framework that provides the necessary incentives to facilitate investment in cost-effective digital climate solutions.	World Economic Forum Studies have found that by 2030, digital technologies have the potential to help other industries save 20% of global CO2 emissions. DigitalEurope: - To accelerate decarbonisation, Europe must adopt a twin transition strategy for every key sector of our economy, starting with those with the biggest potential to reduce their emissions. - In our Digital Action = Climate Action report, we identified five sectors where digital technology can play an important enabling role in decarbonisation: construction and buildings, manufacturing, energy, agriculture, and transport. - We call on the EU to create a dedicated Twin Transition Fund, a new dedicated financing instrument to pool EU, national and private resources to centralise current initiatives and speed up the transition towards a greener and more digital future.
Privacy and data governance	The EU's fundamental rights, democratic principles and vibrant civil society are a guiding principle for responsible innovation. Building on this strong foundation, which is critical to foster trust in technology, the EU can harness the opportunities offered by digital transformation. Priorities should be: - Focus on consistent and proportionate implementation of existing regulation. - Adopting a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy to	Startup Manifesto: - We urge the EU to prioritise strengthening the enforcement of existing rules while refraining from introducing any new regulations that could further burden startups. By upholding the GDPR's integrity while safeguarding the one-stop-shop mechanism, we can ensure that startups can continue to innovate and thrive in a data-driven world without compromising data protection standards. CER: - EU firms have a huge, and mostly untapped, opportunity to exploit data in a privacy-friendly way. Anonymised data holds enormous economic potential for Europe. It offers a way to reconcile the EU's ambitions for data-driven economic growth and innovation, on the one hand, with protection for fundamental rights on the other hand. - A significant problem is that firms often cannot easily isolate non-personal data from personal data. Regulators have not done enough to help firms understand how to commercialise data without harming individuals' fundamental rights. - The EC should also pursue targeted improvements to the EU's GDPR to ensure it is

	incentivize the development and adoption of Privacy-Enhancing Technologies ● Promoting online safety through effective and harmonised age-appropriate design across the EU	applied consistently and proportionately across the EU. ● The EC should also engage with EDPB to encourage the Board's new data anonymisation guidelines to be risk-based, proportionate and comprehensive. DigitalEurope: ● The next Commission should focus on implementing the current data strategy, not adding more regulation. ● What is needed now is a thorough stock-taking exercise of all new data sharing laws in place. The EU should remain open to ideas to simplify and harmonise existing legislation. Where necessary, we should also be ready to repeal or significantly amend laws that are ineffective. ● The focus for the next five years should also be on boosting EU funding and providing other support to encourage data-sharing and facilitate businesses to collaborate with those in other sectors. ● Europe should support market-driven standardisation efforts to solve data access and interoperability issues and promote voluntary data-sharing frameworks based on specific use cases that meet actual industrial needs.
Startups, scaleups & SMEs	The EU should adopt a comprehensive SME strategy based on identifying and tackling the most severe difficulties for small businesses when trying to trade across borders. This could include a one-stop-shop for helping SMEs' in compliance difficulties. Currently, innovative EU firms may hold back commercialising new ideas out of a fear of non-compliance with EU laws.	DigitalEurope: ● By 2030: the EU should double the number of unicorns and more than 90% of SMEs should reach at least a basic level of digital intensity (DESI, 2023: 69%). ● Proposes a requirement for every member state and the EU to create an SME one-stop shop that acts as a point of contact for small businesses and helps them with their legislative compliance questions including those relating to information provision, assistance, certification, or simulation online, and the "only once principle" ● Need to kick start an EU-wide conversation with SMEs to build a new, enforceable EU SME strategy that identifies and tackles the most common practical difficulties small businesses face when trying to trade across borders. ● Onerous procurement practices and a complex web of funding opportunities without a common application process often make funding inaccessible for SMEs. Streamlining application procedures, providing better outreach and support, and tailoring funding opportunities can help SMEs overcome these challenges and

			foster innovation and diversity. CER: ● Calls on the next EC to undertake a simplification and rationalisation exercise to assess the current digital regulatory landscape in Europe and address any gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies. Currently, entrepreneurs may prefer to relocate to the US, where the digital regulatory framework is easier to understand and comply with. Innovative EU firms may hold back commercialising new ideas out of a fear of non-compliance with EU laws. ● The EU needs to make real progress on creating well-integrated capital markets in order to enable investors that can back high-risk, high-potential ideas for a long enough period to allow those firms to scale up significantly. ● Another long-term constraint is that many EU firms find it difficult to hire people with digital skills. While there are ambitious targets, there has also been little progress on this front and faster solutions like increased immigration remain politically challenging.

Accelerating digital transformation		To match the ambition of a fully-fledged Digital Single Market, the EU should set a target for increasing the share of the digital economy in European GDP by 2030.
		
		The complex EU regulatory framework and cost of compliance in the Single Market adds a significant cost for companies wanting to digitalise their business models and reduce their operational costs.
		
		Priorities need to be:
			DigitalEurope:
			● Progress toward the digitalisation of SMEs is off track (69%, compared to a target of 90% of SMEs by 2030) and uneven across member states
			● Proposes new targets for 2030:
			  ○ 75% of SMEs should use cloud computing, big data, and AI
			  ○ 100% of key public services should be available online for European citizens and businesses, including medical records (DESI, 2023: 77%)
			● Instead of introducing additional regulations, the focus for the next five years should be on boosting EU funding and providing other support to encourage data-sharing and facilitate businesses to collaborate with those in other sectors.
			● Europe should support market-driven standardisation efforts to solve data access and interoperability issues and promote voluntary data-sharing frameworks based on specific use cases that meet actual industrial needs.
			● Propose that the next College includes a new horizontal role for the digitalisation of key economic sectors. Crucially, this new role would have access to digitalisation units implanted in the different DGs but reporting centrally. This

	- making it easier for companies and organisations to access the funding they need to invest in digital transformation - Focusing on coherent implementation of existing regulation	would support a more coherent approach to digitalisation. [15 govts non-paper Jan '24](#) By developing digital infrastructure, which helps to reduce the administrative burden for businesses and citizens, we can ensure the Single Market's long-term competitiveness. The Commission should support: - MS in the introduction and development of e-governance solutions. - Data interoperability and standardisation, which is crucial for fostering innovation, enhancing digital services, and enabling data-driven decision-making. Harmonising data standards and regulations across MS will promote seamless data exchange and utilisation. - proper implementation and evaluation of the digital legislative proposals that have been presented for the Digital Single Market. We must therefore also foster research and innovation and transfer from research and innovation into business practice on the Single Market in critical and emerging digital technologies, such as 6G and artificial intelligence, in order to stay competitive. [CER](#): - The next Commission should push member states to remove regulatory barriers to the deployment of digital infrastructure, make rollout cheaper and faster. Measures should not merely facilitate more telecoms networks, but also help reduce regulatory barriers for other types of digital infrastructure like data centres and edge nodes. - The Commission should focus on encouraging consumers and businesses to take up new digital technologies, so that telecoms companies will see a better business case for investing in infrastructure to support those technologies. The Commission should also review telecoms regulations to ensure they are technologically-neutral and do not impose disproportionate costs on telecoms firms. [Swedish Board of Trade](#) - Regulatory sandboxing needs to be used more to allow for the testing of innovative technologies, products, services, or approaches. These may not be fully

		compliant with existing legislation, but with the help of regulatory sandboxes tests can be done for how new legislation might be designed in an effective way.
Skills	In light of fast evolving new technologies such as generative AI, priorities need to be: ● Aligning on what skills, training and incentives are needed to bridge the skills gap ● Ensuring that skills initiatives reflect the different needs, are easily accessible and fit for purpose	DigitalEurope: ● A European skills passport would serve as a powerful tool to support mobility, jobseekers, lifelong learning, transparency, and the recognition of skills and qualifications across Europe. ● Our businesses require various tools to compete globally, including simplified migration rules for highly qualified nonEU professionals and more flexible and attractive options for offering company shares to employees. FI-initiated 15 govts non-paper Jan '24 Incoming EC should renew its effort to address and remove disproportionate requirements for service providers and for regulated professions as well as further develop and extend the European Professional Card and Common Training Frameworks to cover more professions, especially in light of the green and digital transition.

Resources:

DigitalEurope - Europe 2030: A Digital Powerhouse
NL Govt Agenda on Open Strategic Autonomy
Startup ONE24 Manifesto
FI-initiated 15 govts non-paper Jan '24
FI Govt non-paper Jan '24: Digital Growth (attached)
FI Govt non-paper Jan '24: Global Digital Affairs (attached)
Swedish Kommerskollegium /Board of Trade Report on the EU Single Market in the Digital Era
CER brief Helping Europe's digital economy take off