Report of meeting with U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 3 March 2020

On the initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Mr Werner Stengg (Cab VESTAGER) met with a delegation of 25 representatives, of the Chamber and its member companies, to discuss upcoming digital priorities.

After a brief overview of the digital package adopted on 19 February 2020 (Al, data, digital strategy) by Mr Stengg, the U.S. Chamber delegation gave a first reaction to the Commission's proposed policy approach. Whilst positive about the risk-based approach to regulating Al, a number of companies had questions about the practical implementation, in particular the ex-ante conformity assessment process and the voluntary labelling for low risk applications. The delegation also raised questions on the implications of the EU's stated objective of technological sovereignty. On data, delegates were particularly positive on voluntary data sharing and on open government data but less certain about setting out data sharing obligations for the private sector, in light of considerations around trade secrets and IPR. Finally, delegates sought reassurance that there was no intention to establish generic data localisation requirements (i.e. for data to be stored/processed in the EU).

Mr Stengg took note of the concerns expressed and reassured delegates that the primary intention around technological sovereignty was to build the EU's digital capacity, based on our own set of rules and values. He further stressed that this was an ongoing process and encouraged the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to send reactions as part of the open public consultation.

