MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Title	Vice-President Ansip meeting Chuck Robbins, CEO Cisco
Date	8 March 2018
Participants	Cisco: ███████████████████████████████ ███████████████ ███████████ COM: Jörgen Gren (CAB-ANSIP); ███████████ (SG).
Issues raised & follow-up	The main topics of the discussion were the privacy shield, free flow of data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), certification, 5G and ePrivacy. VP Ansip noted that the ombudsperson for the privacy shield has still not been appointed in the US. He stressed the importance of this process for US and EU business. Mr Robbins noted that only 40% of the heads of US agencies have been nominated, but agreed on the importance of making progress in that regard. VP Ansip underlined that the free flow of data proposal was important for EU business, including regarding the take up of AI. He noted ethical concerns about AI, even if many companies have established ethical principles for it, and pointed to efficiency gains through AI. AI will also be discussed at the upcoming G7 Innovation and Employment Ministerial meeting on 27 – 28 March. Cisco supports COM's proposal on free flow of data. Cisco mainly uses AI to underpin its capabilities, e.g. regarding detection of cyber incidents (20 billion per day). AI is deployed to detect malware in encrypted traffic without decrypting the traffic. Mr Robbins agreed that positive narratives have to be developed to better explain use cases in health care, social change and education. On certification, Mr Robbins pointed to the need not to reinvent the wheel and to avoid fragmentation. VP Ansip concurred that this was the COM's aim. On 5G, VP Ansip noted the need for execution and sense of urgency. Mr Robbins agreed that telcos were talking about upgrading their networks. For Cisco, the timing was good as they were developing a specialised silicone that would perform better and cut power consumption by half. This would come at a time where the average revenue per user (ARPU) was decreasing and the traffic load was increasing. The core network would also have to accommodate lower latencies in the access layer. Mr Robbins noted that also decisions of service providers can add strain on the network (e.g. automatic start of video content in social media feed). ████████ added that Cisco was also looking into network slicing and discussing with regulators the compatibility with network neutrality. VP Ansip noted the different approaches to net neutrality rules in the EU and the US. On ePrivacy, VP Ansip underlined that the assumption of being able to process data more freely under GDPR rules (which some telcos argued) was a misunderstanding. ████████ explained Cisco's concerns that consent might not work in all cases for Internet of Things and localisation data (routers using localisation data for analytics). Cisco will share concrete examples.
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