

Meeting between Digital Europe (DE) Executive Covid-19 Advisory Group and Commissioner Breton

Webex, 21/04/2020, 16:00 – 17:15 CET

Participating (outside the Commission): [REDACTED] (DE), [REDACTED] (DELL), [REDACTED] (Amazon), [REDACTED] (Nokia), [REDACTED] (Cisco), [REDACTED] (Samsung), [REDACTED] (Siemens), [REDACTED] (Johnson & Johnson), [REDACTED] (Schneider Electric), [REDACTED] (Celonis).

Digital Europe

- Proposed one-stop-shop on financing for SMEs as financing and liquidity are the major concerns and venture capital running out
- Tracing/tracking apps need to respect privacy. Working for a standard that can be used for many different tools.

DELL

- Welcome European Commission's actions in particular in the free movement of workers / goods. COM to continue to make sure MS follow the recommendations. ICT professionals should continue to be exempted from lockdown measures.
- Need to keep distribution centres open to supply IT equipment (particularly for critical infrastructure providers).

Amazon

- The private sector could play a role in mass testing of employees to help both the public response to the health crisis and to the economy.
- Encourage the European Commission to support the movement of SMEs to go online (ongoing examples of Germany, Spain)

Nokia

- Prioritize investment in connectivity also in the next MFF
- Need to address the digital divide (infrastructure, skills)
- Call for consistent legislation to keep the single market

CISCO

- Need to roll out high capacity and secure networks, including resuming spectrum auctions
- Need to favour digitization (sectors like Government, manufacturing, ...)
- Need to educate and incentivize SMEs to digitize

Samsung

- Importance of security and keeping data safe (reference to the recently adopted toolbox)
- Industry to become a source of knowledge in the current crisis (e.g. on security)

Siemens

- Pooling of data is very important for health
- Tele-medicine is particularly important to tackle COVID19
- Pooling of data is particularly relevant for AI-driven health solutions for infectious diseases but also for cancer and cardiovascular diseases.
- Call for implementation of the European health record and the health data space

Johnson & Johnson

- Stress the relevance of data and the importance of interoperability and the standardization of collection.

Schneider Electric

- In the long term, leveraging the green deal and digitization together is an opportunity. Such an approach in the construction sector would 1) favour long-term support of construction sector, 2) move to low carbon buildings, and 3) reinforce the European software industry in construction.

Celonis, European SME

- Key elements: having an insight into the supply chain, favour transformation of companies around customer centric processes, and the use of data (big data / analytics) is essential to optimize processes.
- The MFF should drive the stimulus to the economy. It has to be connected to the sustainable development goals.

Commissioner Breton

- Crisis is likely to accelerate existing trends:
 1. In Europe, the green deal is very important, not so much in other geographies. Companies need to adapt to this approach.
 2. Digitization of the economy
 3. Before the crisis, tensions between US, China, and to some extent the EU have appeared. After the crisis these tensions may increase
- After the crisis Europe will be more autonomous and companies like those in Digital Europe need to adapt to address our citizens' concerns.
- Need to find a new way of working together, maybe with more cooperation and solidarity
- The Commissioner's first option is not regulation, but it is not excluded.
- Issued a call for smart ideas. Digital Europe promised to bring forward 5 to 6 concrete ideas. Next call in 3-4 weeks. Put Digital Europe member in touch with CONNECT on eHealth.