Dear Commissioner Breton,

On behalf of European Digital Rights (EDRi), a network of 42 NGOs that promote and defend human rights in the online environment, and Access Now, a non-profit organisation that defends and extends digital rights, I am writing to ask whether you might be available for a meeting in early 2020 with EDRi’s Access Now’s.

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on your confirmation as Commissioner for Internal Market. We are looking forward to collaborating with you in the coming years to continue to protect the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, equality and security of people across Europe.

Second of all, we believe that the new Commission’s transformational agenda for Europe’s sustainable digital growth and sovereignty over the next five years represents an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen fundamental rights online. We are looking forward to how the College will tackle key issues such as the exploitation of Europeans’ personal data by disproportionately powerful platforms, the development of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to ensure that they respect fundamental rights and have beneficial societal impacts, and a user-centric cybersecurity strategy. As part of a large network of academics, activists and journalists, EDRi and Access Now would be very pleased to offer our support for your upcoming work across these issues and more. Further information about our work is attached, and our stance on human-centric digitalisation can be found here.

The General Data Protection Regulation has already shown that Europe’s digital single market is a world-class example. The time is right to add an innovative data strategy and develop standards which will further protect the privacy and security of the people of Europe by tackling cybersecurity threats, illegal content, disinformation and media suppression. The EU tech market has many competitive advantages as providers usually offer privacy-friendly services to European users: the EU should support their digital innovation and development. We look forward to the development of a Digital Services Act which will help European digital businesses to flourish in a sustainable, human-centric way. Finally, the swift adoption of a strong ePrivacy Regulation is also a key demand from both EDRi and Access Now.

We look forward to meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss these critical files.

Sincerely,