

Note of video call between Anthony Whelan and DigitalEurope, 4 July 2022

Participants

[REDACTED] ([REDACTED] DigitalEurope), [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] DigitalEurope)

Anthony Whelan (President's Cabinet), [REDACTED] (SG D1)

The meeting took place at the request of DigitalEurope, to convey concerns raised by its members with regard to the Commission's approach to the participation in EU standardisation work and expert groups of entities not headquartered in the EU.

[REDACTED] indicated that concerns had been raised within [REDACTED] membership over the increasing occurrence of restrictions on non-EU companies' participation in various European bodies and activities. Examples cited were the Radio Equipment expert group, ETSI, ENISA and the Cloud Alliance. While understanding the need for certain restrictions in areas of high security sensitivity, there was a concern that the extension of restrictions to wider areas of activity, such as industry and standardisation bodies, could run counter to the policy interest in ensuring cooperation with like-minded nations (such as in the TTC and dialogue with Japan). There was a need for clarity on the criteria used to determine when restrictions should apply and when free market principles should prevail. DigitalEurope was working with its membership to explore how these issues were dealt with in other jurisdictions and trading partners, and would share the results of this work when it was ready.

Mr Whelan gave his perspective on this issue as it arose in various areas, including the legislative initiatives under the new Standardisation Strategy, the Data Governance Act and the Data Act and the ongoing work by ENISA with regard to certification schemes. He recognised the need to maintain a balance between security and sovereignty considerations on the one hand and free market principles on the other, and welcomed any further input from DigitalEurope.

[REDACTED] (SG D1)