Building blocks of the Digital Deal

Technology and digitalization are our best allies to build back better our societies and economies, but a renewed dialogue and cooperation between governments, society and the business community is needed to guide us through these disruptive times and make the digital transition sustainable.

These five pillars of the Digital Deal should guide the digital transition.

1. **Upskill and reskill people**: Creating equality of opportunities by boosting public-private partnerships for the upskilling and reskilling of people (current workforce and adult learners), promoting a life-long learning attitude for all.

2. **Modernize education for a digital society**: Drive digitalization of the educational systems by updating educational content to the digital era and create Public-Private ecosystems to implement new methodologies of education that are open and accessible to provide same opportunities to all.

3. **Support strategic sectors and technologies to reinforce digital sovereignty**: Design long-term plans to support local digital industries creating clusters of excellence for new technologies (e.g. 5G, AI, Blockchain, Open RAN) and promote interoperable digital and data infrastructure projects (e.g. Edge Computing, Cloud Computing) to achieve economies of scale and strategic capacities.

4. **Reform supervision of markets**: Assure contestability and non-discrimination in digital markets dominated by few digital platforms by adequately adopting existing telecom regulation and principles and expand mandates of telecom regulators to supervise such non-competitive markets.

5. **Modernize outdated regulatory and fiscal frameworks**: Create a level-playing field for all market participants and services regarding taxes, privacy, security and consumer protection. Modernize international and national tax rules to assure fair contributions to local communities and abolish unjustified sector-specific taxes and privacy rules for communication services.

6. **Update merger policies**: Competition authorities should allow for more in-market consolidation and network sharing by telecom operators.

7. **Support strategic sectors and technologies to reinforce digital sovereignty**: Design long-term plans to support local digital industries creating clusters of excellence for new technologies (e.g. 5G, AI, Blockchain, Open RAN) and promote interoperable digital and data infrastructure projects (e.g. Edge Computing, Cloud Computing) to achieve economies of scale and strategic capacities.

8. **Reform supervision of markets**: Assure contestability and non-discrimination in digital markets dominated by few digital platforms by adequately adopting existing telecom regulation and principles and expand mandates of telecom regulators to supervise such non-competitive markets.

9. **Modernize outdated regulatory and fiscal frameworks**: Create a level-playing field for all market participants and services regarding taxes, privacy, security and consumer protection. Modernize international and national tax rules to assure fair contributions to local communities and abolish unjustified sector-specific taxes and privacy rules for communication services.

10. **Update merger policies**: Competition authorities should allow for more in-market consolidation and network sharing by telecom operators.

11. **Create a human-centric digital economy**: Develop a “Digital Bill of Rights” to protect peoples’ dignity and fundamental rights in a data-driven society.

12. **Foster digital confidence and use of data**: Improve cybersecurity and cyber resilience with “security by design” along the whole digital value chain, provide people with better choice and control over their data (“Data Ethics”), and define responsibility of intermediaries to fight illegal and harmful contents.

13. **Adopt a risk-based approach for AI usage and foster data-driven innovation**: Create ex-ante certifications for high-risk AI systems (e.g. facial recognition, self-driving cars) and better transparency for less risky uses through voluntary labelling schemes. Modernize data governance rules by fostering voluntary data sharing and regulated access to data lakes of dominant digital gatekeeper that foreclose competition.