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.

Building an inclusive and sustainable connectivity

1. **Abolish all policies that inflate spectrum and other costs for infrastructure investment:** Prioritize coverage, expand licence terms at no additional cost, assign abundant spectrum in awards for 5G, and fund Universal Service from public budgets instead of industry contributions to increase operators' financial leeway for network investment.

2. **Support innovative policies and technologies for a fast and efficient roll-out of advanced broadband networks (4G or 5G and fibre):** Facilitate network deployments by streamlining administrative processes for civil works; allow for more network sharing of operators and support roll-out of networks in rural and remote areas with regulatory decisions and public funds as part of national social cohesion policies and foster innovation in network technology (e.g. Open RAN).

3. **Consider modern communication networks as green infrastructure** aligned with climate change objectives in Sustainable Finance Taxonomies.

Making societies and economies more sustainable through digitalization

1. **Use digitalization to achieve the green transition:** Digitalization can link the economic recovery plans for growth with the green agenda and be a key driver of decarbonized development.

2. **Foster innovationa and accelerate digitalization of companies and public administration:** Create massive public funding programs and financial incentives to support the developement of start-ups and the digitalization of business, esp. SMEs. And design and implement digital transformation strategies of public administrations to include the use of technology (e.g. health, education, justice).

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.

Ensuring fair competition

1. **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.

2. **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.

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

Tackling inequalities by investing in digital competences and updating welfare systems

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. **Reform social protection and labour frameworks** to bring obligations and rights in line with realities of a digital and platform-driven economy.

Improving confidence by an ethical and responsible use of technology

1. **Create a human-centric digital economy:** Develop a "Digital Bill of Rights" to protect peoples' dignity and fundamental rights in a data-driven society.

2. **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.

3. **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.