

AGENDA
3rd Broadband Platform Meeting 2021
Hybrid meeting on *Interactio* or in room JDE 51
Wednesday, 27 October 2021
10.00-12.30

10.00 Opening

10.00-10.15 **Welcome** by **Michael Murphy**, Chair of the ECON Commission, European Committee of the Regions and **Franco Accordino**, Head of Unit – Investment in High Capacity Networks, European Commission

Moderated by Michael Murphy, Chair of the ECON Commission, European Committee of the Regions

10.15-10.30 **The 2030 Policy Programme: "Path to the Digital Decade" and the Digital principles**
Carlota Reyners Fontana, Head of Unit, and **Philippe Gerard**, Advisor, Electronic Communications Policy, European Commission

A proposal for a "Path to the Digital Decade" Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council aims to set out concrete digital targets which the EU is expected to achieve by the end of the decade, as first defined in the Digital Compass communication put forward in March 2021. Achieving the ambitious targets set in the Digital Compass requires a joint effort by all Member States and at the Union level, with, where necessary, joined up investments. This item will focus on the presentation of the Commission proposal and on how local and regional authorities could be actively involved in achieving the Digital Compass targets concerning digital skills, digital transformation of businesses, secure and sustainable digital infrastructures and digitalisation of public services.

To follow up on the Digital Compass Communication, the Commission is also preparing a Proposal for a Declaration of Digital Principles. This initiative proposes a set of principles that should define the 'European way' for the digital society. The goal is to inform people and provide a reference for policymakers and digital operators in their actions in the digital environment.

Followed by a 5 mins Q&A session

10.35-10.50 **Green Deal – leveraging the potential of digital transformation**
Rafal Trzaskowski, CoR Rapporteur on The European Climate Pact

Smart use of clean digital technologies can serve as a key enabler for climate action and environmental sustainability. The digital transition and a smarter and greener use of technologies can help make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, a key goal of the European Green Deal. Technology can improve energy and resource efficiency, facilitate the circular economy, lead to a better allocation of resources, reduce emissions, pollution, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. At the same time, the ICT sector must ensure the environmentally sound design and deployment of digital technologies. This item should shed light on how local and regional authorities can foster digital transformation and how digital transformation fits with the Green Deal objectives.

Followed by a 5 mins Q&A session



Commission for Economic Policy (ECON)



10.55-11.15 Recovery and Resilience Plans funding Connectivity and 5G Communities
Guido Acchioni and Eric Gaudillat, Investment in High Capacity Networks,
European Commission

The European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) supports longer-term reform and investments, notably in digital technologies, with a lasting impact on the productivity and resilience of the economy of the Union. In order to support these policy objectives, the EU has dedicated 20% of funding from the NextGenerationEU budget to digitalisation. NextGenerationEU includes a budget to support an infrastructure capable to deliver fixed and wireless gigabit services including investments for 5G, 6G through the mechanism of the 5G Communities. This presentation will provide an overview of the Member States RRP commitments to the EU' targets and the 5G objectives in particular where the involvement of local and regional authorities is absolutely critical.

Followed by a 5 mins Q&A session

11.20-11.35 5G developments and the security dimension
Wide Hogenhout, Cybersecurity and Digital Privacy, European Commission

The European way for the digital decade, adopted in 2021, sets the target to cover all populated areas with 5G by 2030. While operators are largely responsible for the secure rollout of 5G, and Member States are in charge of national security, network security is an issue of strategic importance for the entire EU. A coordinated approach based on robust security measures at national and EU level will help Europe to remain one of the leading regions in 5G deployment. The Committee of the Regions calls for a comprehensive and joint EU approach to boost the security and resilience of 5G networks. This presentation will discuss how this can be achieved.

Followed by a 5 mins Q&A session

11.40-11.55 Digital Innovation Hubs in support of digital transformation
Anne-Marie Sassen, Acting Head of Unit for Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems, European Commission

Digital Innovation Hubs 'help companies improve their processes, products and services through the use of digital technologies' and are boosters for the digital transformation of businesses. The recent CoR study 'The state of digital transformation at regional level and COVID-19 induced changes to economy and business models, and their consequences for regions' showcases some good practice examples of Digital Innovation Hubs cooperating with local and regional authorities. Under the new Digital Europe Programme, the EU will support the creation of a European network of co-funded digital innovation hubs (EDIHs), with one hub per region (as a proxy), that will work towards the digital transformation of industry and of public services in coordination with territorial stakeholders such as local and regional authorities, SMEs associations and others. This presentation will cover the latest state of play of initiatives under this new programme.

Followed by a 5 mins Q&A session

12.00-12.30 Discussion about the concerns and involvement of local and regional authorities between the Broadband Platform Members/Experts and the speakers

*Moderated by **Franco Accordino**, Head of Unit CNECT B5, Investment in High Capacity Networks, European Commission and **Thomas Wobben**, Director, Committee of the Regions*

Followed by closing remarks