

Digital Single Market

Committee Meeting with EU Commission Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, Mr. Andrus Ansip, at 12.00 noon on Thursday 8 September 2016

This note includes an overview of the Commission policy in this area and links to different resources / publications on the Digital Single Market.

European Commission policy

The Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy aims to open up digital opportunities for people and business and enhance Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy.

A Digital Single Market is one in which the free movement of persons, services and capital is ensured and where the individuals and businesses can seamlessly access and exercise online activities under conditions of fair competition, and a high level of consumer and personal data protection, irrespective of their nationality or place of residence.

The European Commission has identified the completion of the Digital Single Market as one of its 10 political priorities. Vice-President Andrus Ansip leads the project team "A Connected Digital Single Market".

The Digital Single Market Strategy sets out 16 key actions it aims to deliver by the end of 2016. The actions are built on three pillars:

- to provide consumers and businesses with better access to digital goods and services;
- to create the best conditions for digital networks and services to flourish;
- and to maximise the growth potential of the Digital Economy.

It is estimated that the Digital Single Market could contribute €415 billion to the European economy.

Ireland currently ranks 8th out of the 28 Member States in the European Commission [Digital Economy and Society Index \(DESI\) 2016](#). While Ireland is performing better than the EU average, it is said to be improving at a slower rate than the EU as a whole.

Selected resources on the Digital Single Market

1. A (January 2016) [briefing](#) by the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) on the *European Commission's 2016 Work Programme* describes this Commission priority as follows.

The key initiative in this field consists of the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy, covering a Communication on copyright – subsequently adopted in December 2015 – along with a legislative proposal on portability and proposals on digital contract rights.

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Further initiatives on copyright, geo-blocking, free flow of data, the cloud, and VAT for electronic commerce will follow. Following agreement on the Connected Continent proposals, the Commission is also working on a comprehensive review of the telecoms regulatory framework.

It plans to revise the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the Satellite and Cable Directive, and the Regulation on Consumer Protection Cooperation. It aims to present all proposals relevant to the Digital Single Market before the end of 2016.

One currently pending item under this heading, flagged as priority, is the proposal on a high common level of network and information security across the Union.

2. European Commission main webpage on the [Digital Single Market](#) which outlines the policy and contains links to all related documents. There is also a [webpage](#) on the Digital Single Market as one of the Commission's priority areas.
3. European Commission Representation in Ireland webpage on [The Digital Single Market](#).
4. Country information on [Ireland](#) from the Digital Scoreboard is available [here](#) (as referenced above), including this useful 8 page [country profile](#).
5. EPRS [briefing on the Digital Single Market](#) (4 pages) provides extracts from a compilation of papers prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policies. These provide useful sources for further reading into particular aspects of the policy.
6. EPRS [briefing A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe](#) (8 pages) provides a useful overview of the policy background, Commission initiatives including a roadmap to achieving the Digital Single Market, and views of selected stakeholders (September 2015).
7. EPRS one page summary [At a glance publication on Towards a Digital Single Market Act](#) (January 2016).
8. European Parliament [EU Fact Sheet on The ubiquitous digital single market](#) (June 2016).

Information on Vice-President Andrus Ansip

European Commission [webpage](#) on Vice-President Andrus Ansip, including his [Curriculum Vitae](#).

Committee Secretariat

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