



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Ms Laura BOLDRINI
President of the
Camera dei Deputati
Piazza Montecitorio
IT – 00100 ROMA*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Communication "A Digital Single Market for Europe" {COM(2015) 192 final}. Creating a truly connected Digital Single Market (DSM) is one of the top priorities of the Commission. The Commission welcomes the overall support expressed for its strategy including the importance of fostering EU competitiveness and promoting growth and jobs. The Commission has already presented a number of proposals on DSM and work will continue according to the plans.

For instance, proposals on Digital Contracts and a copyright communication with a proposal on cross-border portability to ensure better access for consumers and businesses to online content, goods and services, issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati, were presented in December 2015. In February 2016 followed a proposal to coordinate the use of the 700 MHz band for mobile services to improve internet access.¹ With the support of Member States and industry, the Commission has already invested more than EUR 200 million over the last seven years on research and innovation in language technologies that have the potential to break through language barriers, supporting the infrastructure that paves the way to the smooth deployment of language technologies.

Furthermore, the Commission launched in April 2016, the first industry-related initiative of the DSM package, outlining its strategy for Digitising the European industry, the European Cloud Initiative, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) standards and an e-Government Action Plan. The Commission aims to propose a Single Digital Gateway in 2017 to give citizens and businesses better access to reliable information and on-line procedures.

Regarding cybersecurity, the Network and Internet Security (NIS) Directive, adopted in July 2016, is the first comprehensive piece of EU legislation in this area. The Commission

¹ COM(2016) 43 final

launched a contractual public-private partnership on cybersecurity (cPPP) on 5 July 2016. On personal data protection, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)², adopted in April 2016, enhances citizens' fundamental rights and lays down conditions for children's consent, given their need for specific protection. A review of the e-Privacy Directive will follow by the end of the year. As part of the e-Commerce and content initiative, the Commission adopted in May 2016 proposals to tackle geoblocking, facilitate cross-border parcel delivery and promote customer trust through better enforcement, along with a communication on online platforms and an update of the Audio Visual and Media Services Directive, addressing the concerns of the Camera dei Deputati. The Small Business Act (SBA) aims to improve the regulatory and policy environment for SMEs and bring down remaining barriers.

Italy is the leader among Member States for mobile phone users watching video on their phone³. Mobile video traffic is forecast to grow by around 55 % annually through 2021, and broadcasters will find new opportunities to distribute their content through mobile broadband, in particular in Italy, as long as there is available spectrum to cater for that demand. Considering eBooks, the Commission aims at providing regulatory and policy frameworks in order to support a wide, diverse and competitive offer across Europe, improving the cross-border distribution and portability of eBooks and assessing the discrepancies between VAT rates for paper and digital books.

Later in 2016, the Commission intends to present a further copyright proposal on availability of content and modernising the exceptions and limitations framework. The Commission will also review the Satellite and Cable Directive and the Telecoms regulatory framework, improving connectivity and promoting the development of the digital infrastructure, as raised by the Camera dei Deputati, and present the "Free Flow of Data" initiative tackling restrictions on free movement of data for reasons other than protection of personal data within the EU and unjustified restrictions on the location of data. The Telecoms regulatory framework and EU co-investment under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) address barriers to investments in digital infrastructure and create incentives for long-term investments.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Member of the Commission

² Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1.

³ See more at: <http://www.emarketer.com/Article/Italy-Leads-EU-5-Mobile-Video-Viewing/1011914>.