



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2020) 7996 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – A European Data Strategy {COM(2020) 66 final}.

It appreciates that the Camera Deputaților decided to analyse this Communication and welcomes the support for its aims. The Commission is committed to the implementation of the European strategy for data in order to create a single European market for data, where data-driven innovation would bring enormous benefits for companies and for citizens, for example by improving public services, delivering personalised medicine, and contributing to the European Green Deal, fostering the twin transition, including in the agricultural sector.

The COVID-19 crisis has reaffirmed the importance of data, which will continue to play an essential role in advancing scientific research on the virus, understanding how the virus is spreading, optimising supply of personal protection equipment and predicting the consequences of the forthcoming economic crisis. In this context, a European health data space will bring significant benefits for both scientific medical research and for the development and testing of innovative digital health technologies.

The Commission is working on a proposal for a horizontal legislative framework for data governance. The proposal would support the roll-out of common European data spaces, including in the fields of health, environment/climate and agriculture by – among other aspects - creating trust in data sharing mechanisms and – where relevant – novel intermediaries. This shall support voluntary data sharing. An implementing act on high-value datasets envisaged to be adopted in 2021 would make available uniformly across the EU high-quality public data for free and in machine-readable formats.

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The implementing act will represent an important ingredient to the application of data technologies in important fields such as agriculture and the environment. A Data Act is also in preparation, which will deal with the issue of fairness in data access and use and the rights and obligations of persons and organisations on data.

The Commission would like to take the occasion to underline the importance of investments in digital and data infrastructures across the European Union, also in the context of the NextGenerationEU recovery plan. The recovery plan and the data strategy have a strong potential for creating synergies. Besides EU level actions, ideally, activities and investments in the different EU Member States will reinforce each other.

The Commission would also like to point to the important role research and innovation have to play in boosting the effective use of data for the society and the economy. In this regard, the Commission has proposed several relevant initiatives under the forthcoming research and innovation programme Horizon Europe.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Camera Deputaţilor in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Thierry Breton
Member of the Commission*