

# Digital Agenda

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## for Europe



# Manufacturing industry: interoperable economy

**The ICT sector contributes dramatically to overall productivity growth in the European economy as a whole (half of European productivity growth over the past 15 years was already driven by information and communications technologies and this trend is likely to accelerate).**

In an ideal world, digital services and devices would work together and communicate with each other perfectly. However, this is not the situation today. We have many devices and software interfaces that do not interoperate as well as they could, leading to fragmented markets and a lack of competition. We also have standardisation processes that do not always keep pace with technological change.

Together, these problems make the integrated use of technologies very difficult and mean that online services, including public services, still often force users to work with specific software or devices, leading to a risk of lock-in and higher prices.

Such barriers also prevent manufacturing industry from developing innovative products and services and potentially block badly-needed economic growth and jobs.

To tackle these problems, the Digital Agenda foresees a review of EU standardisation policy by 2010 that will in particular address the need of European ICT standardisation to keep pace with fast-moving technology markets. Furthermore the Commission will issue guidance on the rules for standard-setting, public procurement of ICT solutions and interoperability.

**Want to know more? Check [http://europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda](http://europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda)**

**Any comments or questions? Send an e-mail to [INFISO-DIGITAL-AGENDA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFISO-DIGITAL-AGENDA@ec.europa.eu)**