

## **Granada Ministerial Declaration on the European Digital Agenda: Agreed on 19 April 2010**

**We, the ministers responsible for the Information Society Policy of the European Union Member States, and the European Economic Area, under the Chairmanship of Mr Miguel Sebastián Gascón, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade, and in the presence of Vice President Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, on the occasion of the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Granada Spain 18-19 April 2010, have agreed on the following:<sup>1</sup>**

Whereas:

1. The EU2020 Strategy calls for the European Union to find a fast and effective road to recovery following the recent economic downturn based on smart sustainable and inclusive development.<sup>2</sup>
2. The ICT sector is a crucial driver of growth and jobs in the EU economy, ICT is contributing 50% to productivity growth<sup>3</sup> and a key source of innovation and new business opportunities.
3. The start of the recovery phase of an economic cycle is the most effective moment to undertake the restructuring of services and renewal of infrastructures that are needed to set the stage for long term growth.
4. Europe could put itself onto a fast track to growth by raising its global competitiveness in the Digital Economy, notably in respect of the market for information and communication technologies, very high speed broadband, and on-line dissemination of knowledge and online distribution of goods and services,
5. To be effective a smart, sustainable growth strategy must also be inclusive so that all Europeans are given the opportunities and skills to participate fully in an Internet-enabled Society.

The following actions should be considered:

### **Infrastructures**

1. Take concrete steps to overcome the digital divide by meeting the target of 100% coverage of basic broadband to all citizens by 2013 and promote wide take-up of high speed broadband by 2020.
2. Provide a strong impulse to the roll out of competitive next generation high speed networks through promotion of competition between broadband providers and by implementing a predictable regulatory regime for the promotion of efficient investment in high speed broadband infrastructure and related services, based on swift implementation of the revised EU e-communication services framework.
3. Boost competition and financing of the networks of the future by encouraging efficient and sustainable private long term investments and providing public support for open networks where needed and appropriate.
4. Promote the rapid development of innovative digital wireless services and the adoption of the future EU radio spectrum policy programme, with the objective of an efficient use of radio spectrum.

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<sup>1</sup> Switzerland agreed on the principles of this Declaration.

<sup>2</sup> Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, COM(2010) 2020

<sup>3</sup> European Commission estimate based on data from EU KLEMS, see: [The economic impact of ICT](#), i2010 High Level Group paper 2006

### **Advanced use of the open internet, security and trust**

5. Safeguard the openness of the internet through implementing and monitoring of the new EU electronic communications rules on network provision.
6. Increase the strength of a smart, sustainable and inclusive European Digital Economy especially by promoting:
  - a. the extensive use of ICT in education and learning, for example the widespread take-up of mobile computers and digital interactive content and tools, as well as digital literacy amongst citizens & e-skills for businesses, especially SMEs;
  - b. smart and open public services such as e-health and e-government;
  - c. systematic deployment of ICT to address key societal challenges such as ageing and climate change.
7. Explore ways to seize the opportunities of cloud computing to provide productivity and efficiency gains as well as environmental gains especially for European public bodies, small businesses and communities.
8. Promote data protection, network and information security and trust through concerted EU actions on e-authentication for consumers and businesses online, especially on e-signatures, e-ID cards, e-payments, and internet safety.
9. Raise public awareness of online security risks to achieve a culture of data protection and privacy; coordinate EU-wide measures to increase network & information security, in particular through ENISA; diffuse best practices; and invest in R&D on cybersecurity and privacy-enhancing technologies.
10. Empower citizens to play a full part in the digital environment by strengthening their confidence and ability to buy goods and services online.
11. Promote equal use and access to the information society in particular for citizens with special needs by measures on e-accessibility, usability, better design, promotion of ICT-enabled self-employment and generally fostering the take-up of digital services.

### **Digital User Rights**

12. Promote awareness of current EU rules protecting users of electronic communications and online services by the preparation and dissemination of an easily available and understandable "Code of Digital Rights of e-Communications and online services".
13. Reinforce data protection and privacy for users of social networking services and in key fields such as online health and e-government services.

### **Digital Single Market**

14. Foster a pan-European digital market place for content and e-commerce, inter alia, by eliminating regulatory obstacles, notably regarding cross-border access and transactions.
15. With regard to intellectual property rights, actively promote the development of European digital content markets through practical solutions to promote new business models and concrete measures to reduce market fragmentation for the reuse and access to digital content, while protecting and assuring the fair remuneration of rights holders.
16. Provide support for the digitisation and dissemination of European cultural heritage through a systematic development of Europeana and other public private partnerships.
17. Encourage the supply and access to the legal offer of high-quality content and respect of copyright on the internet through easing the complexity of multiterritorial licensing.

18. Stimulate transborder e-commerce by the promotion, and government adoption, of interoperable e-procurement, e-invoicing and e-payment systems based on open and flexible technologies.

### **Public Digital Services**

19. Respond to the Malmo Declaration on eGovernment by developing more effective and efficient interoperable public services that emphasise open and transparent government and active participation, that promote the reuse of public sector information and thus potentially very important new user-driven service innovations, that increase the efficiency of government and lead to a measurable reduction in administrative burdens on citizens and businesses as well as contribute to a low-carbon economy.
20. Ensure the implementation of eGovernment strategies at an organisational, legal and technical level including e-ID and e-signatures.
21. Embed innovation and cost effectiveness into eGovernment through the systematic promotion of open standards and interoperable systems, development of EU wide e-authentication schemes and proactive development of e-invoicing, e-procurement (and pre-commercial procurement).
22. Deploy eHealth and ICT assisted elder care services systematically across the EU in order to reduce costs while raising efficiency and the quality of care.

### **Strengthening the Competitiveness of Europe's ICT sector**

23. Reinforce and better targeting of EU ICT R&D and Innovation efforts through more coordination of research and targeting in areas of potential strategic advantage.
24. Increase the opportunities for European ICT firms including high-tech SMEs to grow by reducing the bureaucratic barriers to research funding and enhancing access to risk capital. Also to use public procurement, notably pre-commercial procurement for promoting growth opportunities.
25. Support ICT innovation through R&D in areas where Europe has a lead market potential, e.g. health, green mobility, smart grids & meters and energy efficiency; or which are strategic such as Future Internet or cloud computing.

### **International dimension of the Digital Agenda**

26. Seek to strengthen the role of the EU in international fora through effective coordination of EU positions in areas such as ICT standard setting, audiovisual policy, digital rights and e-accessibility; through a greater coordination between Member States in areas such as spectrum issues relevant for the EU and internet governance; and through improved communication of EU information society and ICT R&D policy approaches at the international level.
27. Ensure that Internet Governance continues to evolve in line with the principles established in the Tunis Agenda<sup>4</sup>, such as transparency, multilateralism, democracy and the full involvement of all stakeholders; and that the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) develops as an open place for meeting, policy dialogue and exchange of best practices between governments, civil society and the private sector.

### **Measuring progress**

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<sup>4</sup> WSIS (World Summit on Information Society) **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society** WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6 (rev. 1), Nov. 2005

28. Track policy implementation and key targets through a regular reporting of progress, and where appropriate provide benchmarks against international performance.
29. Benchmark progress annually through harmonised methodologies and indicators, adaptable to the evolution of technology and its use by citizens, enterprises and public administrations, allowing for a robust and comparable measurement of ICT use and impact on sustainable economic growth and social welfare.