



D9+ Ministerial Declaration – 8 June 2026

Luxembourg Declaration

In light of the evolving geopolitical landscape, EU's decision makers have placed delivery of the **European competitiveness agenda** at the forefront of their political priorities. Specifically, removing barriers in the Single Market, while at the same time avoiding creating new ones; rapidly adopting and implementing concrete measures to simplify the European regulatory landscape; as well as strengthening Europe's digital sovereignty in an open manner, have been identified as main drivers for supporting Europe's long-term competitiveness. The need to urgently deliver and drive an ambitious digital and AI transformation at the EU level is reflected in the One Europe, One Market Roadmap agreed between the Council, European Parliament and Commission on 24 April. It is incumbent upon the institutions to work collectively to advance this work and to achieve the ambitious targets set out therein.

Additionally, the **protection of minors online** has become an increasingly urgent priority for Europe's policymakers. From the Jutland Declaration negotiated under the Danish EU Presidency in September 2025, to the most recent conclusions from EU leaders adopted at the European Council held on 19th of March 2026, Europe's political leadership has been highlighting the need to take concrete action to address the growing risks to minors arising from access to harmful content and practices online.

D9+ ministers have met on 8 June 2026 in Luxembourg to discuss:

- **ambitions to accelerate Europe's digital transition towards becoming a more sovereign continent.** Ministers highlighted the need to maintain a balanced and pragmatic approach avoiding a narrow EU-only vision for intra-European industrial capacities across the digital value chain, while emphasizing the role of international strategic partnerships and cooperation with trusted partners. Ministers exchanged views on introducing measures to decrease critical dependencies, for example by focusing on strategic public-private partnerships and prioritizing EU based companies as suppliers for the public sectors in areas where competitive European solutions are available.
- **keeping the momentum and increasing the ambition of the current simplification agenda.** D9+ ministers showed their support for the ongoing omnibus process allowing for short-term technical adaptations to simplify and further streamline Europe's digital rulebook, while keeping the underlying objectives intact and safeguarding core values. Simultaneously, ministers also reflected on the long-term perspective of a post-omnibus era, allowing for a more in-depth analysis of the Digital acquis. In this context, the "Digital Fitness Check" has been welcomed as a first step towards a more comprehensive evaluation, including some of

the more substantial principles of the digital regulatory framework, its governance as well as articulation and potential overlap between the different legislative instruments.

- **concrete measures to provide a safe and age-appropriate online environment for minors online.** Ministers were provided with a short presentation by Prof. Mark D. Cole and the co-chairs of the Special Panel on child safety online, Dr. Maria Melchior and Prof. Dr. Jörg Fegert gave a brief update on the ongoing work of the panel. During the discussion, ministers emphasized the need for a common and coordinated European solution to this inherently cross-border challenge and reaffirmed that it is essential to safeguard the core principles and the proper functioning of the Single Market. Moreover, the opportunities and challenges regarding the use of the European Commission's age verification blueprint, as well as the possibility to integrate age verification features into the EU Digital Identity Wallet, have been discussed.
- **the priorities for the upcoming proposal of the Digital Fairness Act (DFA).** In this context, ministers reflected on the need for an evidence-based and targeted approach that focuses on addressing possible remaining regulatory gaps, including in relation to dark patterns and the addictive design features of online services, without duplicating existing rules. Finally, they asserted the necessity to invest in education and media literacy measures at EU and national level for both children and adults alike to complement regulatory efforts.

As a result of the discussion, D9+ ministers would like to highlight the following:

On digital sovereignty in an open manner

- ✘ Reducing existing critical dependencies and increasing European digital capacities, while at the same time maintaining an open and pragmatic approach that recognizes the strategic role of international partnerships.
- ✘ Focusing on the development of strategic (public-private) partnerships and supporting EU based companies as suppliers in areas where they are competitive.
- ✘ Increasing investment aimed at scaling up tech companies in sectors with strategic importance.

On Simplification

- ✘ Keep up the momentum of an ambitious and evidence-based simplification agenda and continue to adopt short-term measures through the omnibus process to alleviate administrative burdens on European companies and citizens alike, while maintaining the appropriate levels of safeguards and protections
- ✘ Highlight the importance for co-legislators to adopt a simplification-by-design-and-by-default approach when negotiating and adopting new legislative instruments, including through adequate impact assessments that assess cumulative administrative burden and competitiveness impacts.
- ✘ Keep in mind the long-term perspective – a thorough reflection is necessary to assess the need for a more substantial revision of the Digital acquis. In this context, priority should be given to evaluating the efficiency of the digital governance framework and addressing regulatory consistency and coherence.

On the protection of minors online

- ✦ Make platforms safe by design and age appropriate by default by addressing dark patterns and harmful and addictive features. Platforms must adapt to the age and vulnerability of users, not the other way around.
- ✦ Deliver a truly common European approach to protect minors online, avoiding fragmentation that weakens safeguards and burdens businesses. This includes effective and better coordinated enforcement of EU rules and exploring a common approach for a digital majority across the EU.
- ✦ Combine regulation, technology and education for real impact by encouraging privacy preserving EU wide age verification¹, strengthening enforcement, and investing in digital literacy, parental support and awareness.

¹ Estonia supports young people as full and active members of the information society and places great emphasis on education and the development of digital skills. We do not support horizontal age restrictions on social media, nor do we support disproportionate measures that would require all users to verify their age or identity.

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