

## Dublin Presidency Summit 6-7 May 2026 – Joint industry statement

### Cut the red tape, unleash Europe's tech innovation

DIGITALEUROPE and European national trade associations strongly support the Irish Presidency's focus on strengthening Europe's competitiveness, fostering innovation and advancing digital transformation.

Europe is already delivering on these ambitions through concrete investments and initiatives. DIGITALEUROPE's **2026 Future Unicorn winner [Quandela](#)** just inaugurated **[Lucy](#)**, the EU's most powerful photonic quantum computer, funded via joint pre-commercial procurement. The European Defence Industry Programme (**[EDIP](#)**) launched €1.5 billion in funding calls, including a dedicated instrument to support Ukraine. The EU programme for Agile and Rapid Defence Innovation (**[AGILE](#)**) committed to fostering the deployment of defence-tech, from emerging defence and dual-use players at record speed, and the **[SNS Joint Undertaking](#)** committed €116 million to 20 new 6G projects, advancing Europe's leadership in next-generation connectivity.

The next step is clear, as set out in the [AI and Critical Tech Declaration](#), Europe must now focus on two priorities: cut and simplify the regulatory framework, and scale investment and demand to compete globally.

#### 1. CUT

Fragmented rules and duplicative procedures can slow deployment, raise costs and make it harder for innovative companies to scale across Europe. A more coherent digital framework would therefore support not only competitiveness, but also Europe's security, defence resilience and preparedness.

Delivering on these priorities requires a regulatory environment that enables European companies to [scale, lead, succeed](#) in Europe and beyond. Today, however, Europe's digital framework is increasingly complex, fragmented and costly. Overlapping requirements, legal uncertainty and disproportionate obligations are undermining the very industrial base that Europe seeks to strengthen.

Key legislative initiatives, including the AI and the digital omnibuses, must actively reduce fragmentation and regulatory burden.

The implementation of the AI Act must avoid overlapping requirements and ensure coherence with existing sectoral legislation, as stated in [our joint industry statement](#). Sectors already regulated under product safety frameworks should be moved from Section A to Section B of Annex I to eliminate double or triple layers of compliance.

The digital omnibus represents a critical opportunity to address these challenges and ensure that Europe's rules work in practice for its businesses. In today's geopolitical environment, this also means strengthening Europe's security of supply and enabling innovative European SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups to scale dual-use and defence innovation more effectively.

In particular, current provisions on mandatory B2B data sharing risk exposing Europe's sensitive know-how. B2B data sharing should remain voluntary and based on contractual

freedom, ensuring that companies are not forced to disclose core intellectual property or trade secrets.

At the same time, diverging GDPR interpretations are limiting companies' ability to use data effectively, including for AI and advanced analytics. Greater clarity on definitions and legal bases for data use, and more consistent application across Member States, are essential to unlock innovation.

Overlapping cybersecurity frameworks are creating duplicative reporting and diverting resources away from actual risk mitigation. Establishing a single EU cybersecurity incident reporting platform covering all relevant legislation and harmonised timelines, definitions and thresholds would reduce friction while strengthening security, particularly for critical infrastructure and defence-relevant sectors.

Finally, Europe is a global leader in connectivity, but the sector is undergoing a critical transition. It is essential that the evolving framework supports the infrastructure that forms Europe's digital backbone (5G, 6G, satellite connectivity, Wi-Fi). New rules should not introduce additional burdens or duplication but instead promote a coordinated approach to enable the rollout of next-generation networks. Ireland's position as a leading digital hub in Europe makes it well placed to drive meaningful simplification across the EU's digital framework.

Therefore, we encourage the Irish Presidency to translate its ambitions into concrete action by prioritising the digital omnibus to ensure that EU legislation supports competitiveness in practice.

Simplification alone will not be enough. Europe must also scale investment and create demand.

## **2. INVEST AND PROCURE**

The support by the European Innovation Council, the European Investment Bank Group and the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking needs to be rapidly expanded to help companies scale in Europe. What companies need is demand for their technologies, which can be kick-started by [joint, pan-European procurement](#), buying together on a continental scale, to turn these breakthroughs into industrial capability. In this context, initiatives such as the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), with its focus on common procurement and capacity building in dual-use and defence technologies, should serve as a pilot to shape the next generation of European tech champions.

Europe will not lead in the global digital economy by adding layers of complexity, but by enabling its companies to scale, innovate and compete.

We count on the Irish Presidency to drive this shift and deliver a regulatory environment that truly supports Europe's industrial and digital ambitions.

## SIGNATORIES

