**The 2024 edition of the EU Digital Summit focused on the profound impact of digital technology on society and the need for a digital transition strategy. The summit discussed topics like AI, innovation, and the European digital ecosystem. As the European elections approach, these discussions become crucial for shaping the political landscape. The emphasis is on not just regulation, but also the governance of its implementation, with a focus on inclusion, convergence, and ambition.**

## OPENING REMARKS ON EUROPEAN DIGITAL PRIORITIES

There is an increasing necessity to find common ground on a fundamental question we face as the European Union: Is our European model agile enough to tackle today's global challenges? These considerations are essential as Europe aspires to be a digital powerhouse, striving to achieve its objectives for the digital decade.

To truly compete on a global scale, we must overcome the self-imposed boundaries hindering the EU's progress. Embracing international perspectives and fostering partnerships based on Europe's strengths, including the common market and shared values, is essential. Moreover, establishing an industrial policy that fosters support for the European tech industry is vital, as digitalisation holds the key to fostering prosperity.

**"The AI Act shows that Europe can set a standard and lead the way."**
**- Mathieu Michel, Secretary of State for Digitalisation of Belgium**

## TECH TALK: AI AND NEW INNOVATION FOR EUROPE'S AUTONOMY

In the pursuit of sustainability, cybersecurity, and enhancing Europe's competitiveness, it is imperative to recognise that European economies are intricately linked to businesses. This underscores the need for a symbiotic partnership between public authorities and enterprises, leveraging the skills of both sides. Such collaboration will cultivate an optimal environment conducive to fostering and promoting inclusive innovation, ensuring its accessibility to all citizens.

Furthermore, as technology advances, the risk of cyberattacks increases, highlighting the necessity for investments in security. To strike the balance between innovation and security, regulations and legislative frameworks are essential.

**"It is crucial that citizens understand what these digital rules mean and how they affect them. We need to have their trust to proceed with further innovation."**
**- Dragos Tudorache, Member of the European Parliament**

## PROMOTING AI INNOVATION AND TRUST

The discussion underscored a universal concern across societies: the need for sufficient protection in interactions with technology. Emphasising a risk-based approach, it was acknowledged that AI's diverse applications entail varying degrees of risk, necessitating tailored safeguards and recognising the different roles of stakeholders. Rather than viewing compliance with the AI act as burdensome, there was consensus on the opportunity it presents to strengthen protections around AI.

Central to this is fostering constructive dialogues to support providers in navigating compliance requirements. Equally, it is essential to empower users with clear guidance on accessing information and understanding their rights.

**"For OPERA, as a browser company, the DMA represents a great business opportunity. For the first time, we can compete on a level playing field. And what creates this level playing field is the consumer choice."**
**- Cristian Samoilovich , Head of Global Policy and Government Affairs, OPERA**

## COMPETITIVE EU: OPENNESS AND SAFETY IN THE EU'S DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

The panel highlighted Europe's role in exporting innovation, yet emphasised gaps in the implementation of the Digital Markets Act (DMA), particularly from a consumer perspective. However, recognising the groundbreaking nature of the Regulation, the way ahead lays in the swift enforcement on the DMA.

Further, the importance of an open, fair market to foster competition and ensure access was highlighted. To enhance competitiveness, innovation is key, requiring supportive ecosystems and a balance of innovation, regulation, and incentivisation.

### KEYNOTE SPEECH: INNOVATION IN TRANSPORT

Artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a crucial focus in the transport sector, highlighting the imperative to uncover synergies that enhance system resilience and competitiveness. Particularly the AI Act holds promise for transforming the transport landscape. However, to fully capitalise on these opportunities, the transport sector requires an increase in innovation and digitalisation. Therefore it is crucial to encourage more businesses to explore transport-related ventures and to increase funding in the sector. In essence, embracing AI and fostering innovation are essential in driving the transport industry into a more competitive and efficient future.

**"Innovation and digitalisation are making transport more efficient. When it comes to AI, we need to understand how it can increase resilience in transport, allowing it to make the transport industry even more competitive."**
**- Adina Valean, European Commissioner for Transport**

### FIRESIDE CHAT: JUDICIAL COOPERATION INTO THE DIGITAL AGE

In today's digital age, the potential for transformation within the justice sector knows no bounds, according to Ana Gallego, Director General of DG JUST of the European Commission. Whether it is streamlining processes or enhancing communication across borders, the digital sector offers boundless opportunities. Not only can the justice system boost economic competitiveness in Europe by reducing administrative costs and facilitating interactions between companies and authorities, but it also creates a multilingual certificate across the European Union. However, to ensure justice remains fair and transparent it is crucial to uphold compliance and procedural rights.

### BREAKING DIGITAL BARRIERS: MAKING EUROPE A GLOBAL INNOVATION LEADER

This panel delved into innovation, AI and regulatory challenges, emphasising the potential and challenges inherent in these areas.
While emerging technologies present essential opportunities, it is pivotal to ensure that digital solutions and regulatory frameworks are not only robust but also user-friendly and easily navigable. Concurrently, fostering a feeling of security and trust among users emerged as a central aspect.

To fully realise the benefits of technological innovations, it is therefore imperative to address concerns related to privacy, security, and ethical considerations.

**"Biometrics technology is essential to what we do, it's the core data that provides our services and ensures that security is there. In this context, cybersecurity is critical to what we do because we seek to protect the foundations of our democracy."**
**- Agnes Diallo, Executive Director EU-LISA**

### REIMAGINING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES

The digital transition is an essential step towards innovation, opening up new avenues for efficiency, connectivity, and transformative change across industries. Not only does it enable more efficient energy usage, but it also goes hand in hand with the green transition, fostering sustainability. However, a challenge lies in the absence of a precise framework to measure the impact of this transformation. Looking ahead, the momentum for accelerating the development of a strategic and secure digital infrastructure is now- ensuring the sovereignty of the EU.

### KEYNOTE SPEECH BY COLIN SCICLUNA, HEAD OF CABINET, EU COMMISSIONER ŠUICA

European societies are undergoing a significant demographic shift, with people living longer and healthier lives. Europe finds itself amidst a digital transition, leveraging technology to tackle pressing issues like depopulation. While a longevity society and digital innovation is not contradictory; ensuring universal accessibility requires investment in the digital infrastructure. This investment will facilitate inclusive access to digital solutions across European Member States and beyond, ensuring that all individuals can benefit from technological advancements.