

Commitments

made at the hearing of

GÜNTHER OETTINGER

Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 29 September 2014 before the Committee in Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education, commissioner-designate Günther Oettinger made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Culture and Education and to the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy are presented in this document¹.

Culture and Education

Cooperation with Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship

"I will ensure, in close cooperation with my colleague in charge of Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship, that the variety of instruments under my responsibility are mobilised in favour of both the cultural sector and the cultural and creative industries."

Support for culture

"Also in the Digital Internal Market the multitude facets of culture and languages of Europe should be preserved. For me, the Digital Internal Market does not mean the harmonisation or unification of language, music, or literature culture, but their preservation and protection. I think the European Film, as much as I see the US as a partner, should maintain a high level of content of pictures of Europe, of European languages, of the history of our society, of ...therefore, support for European films is needed. I will work closely with my colleagues responsible for cultural policies, in order to award European movies, support European film festivals and training in our tertiary institutions. We should preserve our claim that the music and movie offer will have even in the future a strong European background."

"I will see that my services will contribute to our overall cultural goals through instruments and policies such as CEF - the Connecting Europe Facility, Europeana, copyright and other Intellectual Property Rights rules, tools supporting cultural SMEs, the Nexus prize, the Open Disruptive Innovation scheme under Horizon 2020 also meant for SMEs, Horizon 2020 Creativity, Media support and policy etc."

Creative Europe

"Regarding Creative Europe's cross-sectorial strand, my services and those of my colleague responsible for Education, Culture, Youth and

Citizenship are already putting in place the necessary arrangements for its effective delivery."

Copyright

"I will steer through a reform of the EU copyright rules to ensure that they enable and incentivise content providers and distributors and unlock the creativity of content creators.."

Trade negotiations

"In the negotiation mandate with which the Commission was entrusted and which was agreed with you, too, culture is not an object, because we do understand as culture something which cannot be measured only by economic means. I assume that also the forthcoming Commission will maintain this mandate. There are fields on which the American partners do not want to negotiate, and other fields which we do not want to negotiate. Culture belongs to these."

Media

AVMS Directive

"I will be guided by the results of the recent consultation on the Green Paper "Preparing for a Fully Converged Audio-visual World".

WEB-accessibility Directive

"The final on-going piece of legislation on which I will be looking forward to making progress is the proposed Directive on Web accessibility."

Media Programme, Euronews

"I can say that I understand the requirements of the cultural and creative industries. I am therefore glad that my portfolio brings together the tools to help foster world-class content for the digital world, be it through such tools as the MEDIA programme, our support for Europeana and Euronews, or the huge possibility offered by Horizon 2020. My focus will not be on the protection of vested interests - the digital world

moves too quickly for that - it will be on promoting good content."

Europeana

"My ambition is that Europeana becomes the major European digital cultural platform for borderless access and use of all types of cultural content (text, visual and audio-visual)."

Network and Information Security Directive

"Citizens expect the same level of protection from cyber-threats as they do from public health threats – neither respects national borders..... I therefore support the early adoption of the Network and Information Security Directive (NIS)."

Investment package, Juncker's proposal

"The first two elements of the strategic agenda outlined by President-elect Juncker in his political guidelines are ambitious Jobs, Growth and Investment Package and a connected digital single market. As Commissioner for the digital economy and society, I have a contribution to make to both of these priorities."

Digital Agenda

Public sector modernisation

"I am fully committed to making full use of digital technologies to drive public sector modernisation and promote greater transparency, more participation, better interoperability and more openness in the way we work with our stakeholders".

Innovation

"I will set long-term strategic goals to offer legal certainty to the telecom sector and create the right regulatory environment to foster investment and innovation."

"I will seek to promote digital industrial innovation aiming at a wider and faster integration of digital innovations in all types of products, processes and services across Europe with a focus on non-tech sectors and SMEs."

Data Protection Regulation and e-privacy

"Looking to 2015, my legislative priority will be to support the Vice-President for the Digital Single Market and the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality in finalising the negotiations on an ambitious Data Protection Regulation in 2015. This will allow preparing a reform of the e-Privacy Directive".

Net Neutrality

"The principle of net neutrality could be derogated from only reasons of public interest, but not for commercial interests".

Review of telecoms regulatory framework

"Once completed, a telecom single market should have a single European telecom regulator".

Investments in ICT infrastructures

Mr Oettinger supports the need to create the right environment for private investment and also the need to use Public- Private financing where private investment is not fully available.

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 29 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.



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