Европейски парламент  Parlamento Europeo  Evropský parlament  Europa-Parlamentet  Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament  Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο  European Parliament  Parlement européen  Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament  Parlamento europeo  Eiropas Parlaments  Europos Parlamentas  Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew  Europees Parlement  Parlament Europejski  Parlamento Europeu  Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament  Evropski parlament  Euroopan parlamentti  Europaparlamentet

Directorate-General for Communication
Directorate for Media
Media Services Unit

# European Parliament Press Seminar

European elections
23 - 26 May 2019

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## Connecting lives
### The Digital Single Market -  achievements and challenges
Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 February 2019
European Parliament, Brussels

## Programme

*Altiero Spinelli Building, room ASP 5E2*

**Tuesday 5 February 2019**
Interpretation available in EN, FR, DE, ES

12.30 - 13.30   **Registration**

13.30 - 14.15   **Opening**
*Introduction to the Seminar and practicalities by Eva EGIDO (Media Services Unit)*
- Jaume DUCH GUILLOT, Director General for Communication and
European Parliament Spokesperson

**DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET - ACHIEVEMENTS (2014-2019)**
*Moderated by Teresa KÜCHLER*

14.15 - 15.25   **Round-table debate with MEPs**
- Evelyne GEBHARDT (S&D, DE), Vice President of the European Parliament, member of IMCO
Committee, Rapporteur on "Towards a Digital Single Market Act"
- Pilar DEL CASTILLO (EPP, ES), Rapporteur on the review of the Electronic Communications
Code and Shadow Rapporteur of Digital Europe programme, member of ITRE Committee
- Morten LØKKEGAARD (ALDE, DK), Shadow Rapporteur of the directive on contracts for
supply of digital content, member of IMCO Committee

*Introduced by Thomas HAAHR, Press officer for ITRE*

15.25 - 15.45   **Copyright - Latest news**
- Axel VOSS (EPP, DE), Rapporteur on Copyright, member of JURI and LIBE committees

15.45 - 16.00   BREAK - SLOT FOR POSSIBLE INTERVIEWS

16.00 - 17.45     **Stories of real life: 4 testimonials**
- Albstadt (Germany)
- Agroknow (Greece)
- Inception (Italy) - introduction to VR experience

18.00 - 20.00     COCKTAIL and Virtual reality tour + visit to audiovisual facilities

*Altiero Spinelli Building, room ASP 5E2*

**Wednesday 6 February 2019**
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**DIGITAL CHALLENGES AHEAD (2019-2024**)
*Moderated by Teresa KÜCHLER*

9.00 - 9.45     **Focus - Artificial Intelligence**
- Mady DELVAUX (S&D, LU), Rapporteur of the Resolution on Civil Law Rules on Robotics and opinion rapporteur on the EP INI Report on Artificial Intelligence, member of JURI and LIBE Committees
- Reinhard BÜTIKOFER (Greens, DE), Shadow Rapporteur of INI Report on Artificial Intelligence, member of ITRE Committee

*Introduced by Tambiama MADIEGA, policy analyst from the European Parliament Research Service*

9.45 - 11.00     **Stories of real life: 3 testimonials**
- Mario (Ireland)
- Odilo (Spanish)
- Pollenity (Bulgaria)

11.00 - 11.30     BREAK - SLOTS FOR POSSIBLE INTERVIEWS

11.30 - 12.00     **European Elections 2019 - 100 days ahead: European Parliament tools for elections**
**What Europe does for me?**
- Sarah SHEIL, European Parliament Research Service, Head of Unit
**Media Toolkit and polls ahead of the elections and on the election night**
- Raffaella de MARTE, European Parliament Head of Media Services Unit

12.00 - 12.30     **What the EU does to protect EU Elections in this digital era?**
High Level speaker TBD - maybe EEAS (being checked with SPOX unit)

Q&A

**Contacts in the EP press service**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET - ACHIEVEMENTS (2014-2019)**

As European citizens, no matter where we live or how we make our living or spend our time, the EU has an impact on our daily lives. In this seminar, we will hear testimonials from citizens and stakeholders involved in digital projects in different parts of the EU, on how EU funding has contributed to supporting citizens, creating jobs, rebuilding regions and adapting in general to the digital age.

During the first day, Members of the Parliament will explain which are the achievements on this area of this legislative term.

Links of the adopted initiatives:
- European interoperability framework
- Identification and trust services for electronic transactions
- E-invoicing in public procurement up to ( €100bn )
- Connected continent telecom package ( €12bn )
- Interoperability programme (ISA2)
- Network and information security
- Public-private partnerships for cybersecurity
- Accessibility of public sector websites
- Portability of online content
- Wholesale roaming regulation
- Spectrum coordination
- The Marrakesh Treaty implementation framework
- WIFI4EU
- Consumer protection co-operation (CPC) regulation
- Geo-blocking
- Cross-border parcel delivery
- JD - Free flow of non-personal data
- European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking
- JD - Audiovisual media framework
- JD - BEREC
- JD - Electronic Communications Code

Some of the initiatives need still to be adopted before the end of the term. It is the case of the **Copyright** directive. Axel Voss, Rapporteur, will explain which is the situation at this stage.

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**DIGITAL CHALLENGES AHEAD (2019-2024)**

During the second day of the seminar, the focus will be put on the next term of the European Parliament. In May 2019, Europeans will go to vote and elect a new European Parliament. What political priorities, challenges, visions and needs do Members of this Parliament see for the coming years?

One of the  biggest challenges in the Digital sector is **Artificial Intelligence**. Leading the debate at EU level, in January 2017, the European Parliament called on the European Commission to assess the impact of Artificial Intelligence and made wide-ranging recommendations on civil law rules on robotics. The Parliament is also working on a an own-initiative-report on a Comprehensive European industrial policy on artificial intelligence and robotics.

During the morning roundtable, two members of the Parliament, Mady Delvaux and Reinhald Bütikofer, together with some experts on the field will try to answer some questions: Do we need to regulate it? How to support Europe's competitiveness in this area, including in robotics, 5G or big data for example? But also, could AI endanger the European values? What about data privacy and risk of discrimination? Should Europeans fear for their jobs?

**Some References:**
- EP Legislative Observatory, Artificial intelligence for Europe, COM(2018)0237
- European Parliament, Comprehensive European industrial policy on artificial intelligence and robotics, 2018/2088(INI)
- European Parliament, Resolution on Civil Law Rules on Robotics, 27 January 2017

**Further reading:**
- European Parliament, EP, European Artificial Intelligence (AI) leadership, the path for an integrated vision, September 2018
- European Parliament, EPRS, *Understanding artificial intelligence*, Briefing, January 2018
- European Parliament, EPRS, *Should we fear artificial intelligence?*, In-depth analysis, March 2018
- European Parliament, EPRS, *A common EU approach to liability rules and insurance for connected and autonomous vehicles*, Study, February 2018
- European Commission, Communication on Artificial Intelligence for Europe, 25 April 2018
- European Commission, Commission appoints expert group on AI and launches the European AI Alliance, 14 June 2018
- European Commission, Commission Communication on Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence, 7 December 2018

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PROJECTS:

**First block**

1) **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE INDUSTRY - Albstadt technology workshop** is a technology workshop in Albstadt, **Germany** provide support for start-ups and networking opportunities. Together with local universities and medium-sized companies, the workshop helps entrepreneurs turn ideas into successful businesses. Through its training offer, it is tackling the dearth of technology specialists and encouraging lifelong learning. Received around €2.9 million from the EU 50 jobs and a regional venture capital network have been created and more than 500 events are organised each year and 350 students have taken up technical training. Coordinator: City of Albstadt. Timeframe 2013-2019. Website: https://www.technologiewerkstatt.de/startseite.html (in German only).

2) **AGRICULTURE - Greek Agroknow.** Agroknow collects, manages and organizes agricultural information digitally; this makes it easier to provide farmers with knowledge to enable them to improve crop quality. EU funding was vital in getting the company started in 2008. The open data movement, which promotes free use, distribution and sharing of data, has helped Agroknow to grow. It now supplies know-how to customers around the world, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Timeframe: 2008 - 2018. Website: http://agroknow.com/what-we-do

3) **E-GOVERNMENT - E-Residency** is a new digital nation for global citizens, powered by the Republic of **Estonia**. Estonia is the first country to offer e-Residency, a government-issued digital ID available to anyone in the world. E-Residency offers the freedom to easily start and manage a global business in a trusted EU environment.
The EU financed the project with the European Regional Fond. They have a very active Showroom focused on explaining how e-residence works (here is the site). For instance, they hold **interactive presentations** where they explain how a person can register for e-residency.
E-Residency has been proved to help startups to set up their businesses.

4) **CULTURAL HERITAGE - Inception** realises innovation in 3D modelling of cultural heritage through an inclusive approach for time-dynamic 3D reconstruction of artefacts, built and social environments. It enriches the European identity through understanding of how European cultural heritage continuously evolves over long periods of time.
They have a virtual reality experience showing how the Istituto degli Innocenti in Florence (Italy) used to be 500 years ago.
Their website Coordinator: Prof. Roberto Digiulio

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**Second block**

5) **HEALTH AND ROBOTICS - Mario Project**, **Ireland** – the robot MARIO addresses the difficult challenges of loneliness, isolation and dementia in older persons through innovative and multi-faceted inventions delivered by service robots. The effects of these conditions are severe and life-limiting. **National University of Ireland is the project coordinator with partners from UK, Italy, Greece, and Germany. Website:** http://www.mario-project.eu/portal/

6) **EDUCATION - Odilo is a Spanish firm** specializing in providing digital content from companies and public bodies, mainly to libraries and the education and tourism sectors. Numerous institutions have made digital documents available via its platform, encouraging people to read them and broaden their knowledge.
Thanks to an agreement with the Extremadura regional government and EU funds, Odilo will make its educational platform available to all of Extremadura's public schools.
Pupils will be able to access around 8,000 digital publications, including written and audio books. Using digital content cuts expenditure on books for the schools by 30-60%. Primary school children were the first to test the platform and their experience was very positive. http://www.odilo.us/

7) **ENVIRONMENT - Pollenity (Bulgaria)** gathers vital information about the change of temperature, humidity and acoustics inside your beehive and allows you to track the health and productivity of your bee colonies remotely. It saves you time, efforts and money and helps you take better care of your most important asset – the bees. https://beesmarttechnologies.com/

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