



07.11.2018

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027  
(COM(2018)0434 – C8-0256/2018 – 2018/0227(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Paul Rübig

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## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 18

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(18) For the high performance computing specific objective a joint undertaking is deemed the most suited implementation mechanism, in particular to coordinate national and Union strategies and investments in high performance computing infrastructure and research and development, pool resources from public and private funds, and safeguard the economic and strategic interests of the Union<sup>63</sup>. Moreover, high performance computing competence centres in Member States will provide high performance computing services to industry, academia and public administrations.

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<sup>63</sup> Impact Assessment accompanying the document "Proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking"  
(<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/proposal-council-regulation-establishing-eurohpc-joint-undertaking-impact-assessment>)

*Amendment*

(18) For the high performance computing specific objective a joint undertaking is deemed the most suited implementation mechanism, in particular to coordinate national and Union strategies and investments in high performance computing infrastructure and research and development, pool resources from public and private funds, and safeguard the economic and strategic interests of the Union<sup>63</sup>. Moreover, high performance computing competence centres in Member States will provide high performance computing services to industry, ***including SMEs and start-ups***, academia and public administrations.

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<sup>63</sup> Impact Assessment accompanying the document "Proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking"  
(<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/proposal-council-regulation-establishing-eurohpc-joint-undertaking-impact-assessment>)

### Amendment 2

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 39 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(39a) Blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies can significantly enhance access to distributed datasets across the Union, facilitate notarisation of documents, and enable traceability of transactions or movement of products in a way that is secure and compliant with the EU acquis. They reinforce trust in applications involving multiple stakeholders, enhance collaborative models and enable the defragmentation of distributed datasets. This will lead to quality and efficiency gains, reducing administrative burden, in particular for regulatory reporting and auditing, combating and limiting fraud, incentivising the adoption of best practices and ethical behaviours. Moreover strengthening capacities in Europe to develop and exploit Blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies will reinforce digital innovation ecosystems in Europe and help position European actors amongst the leaders of a new internet economy.*

### **Amendment 3**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 39 b (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(39b) At the European Council meeting on 19 October 2017 Member States concluded the Union needs a sense of urgency to address emerging trends: including blockchain technologies, while at the same time ensuring a high level of data protection, digital rights and ethical standards. The European Parliament resolution on "Distributed ledger technologies and blockchains: building trust with disintermediation" (2017/2772(RSP)) passed on 16 May 2018, recognises the role of blockchain in enhancing innovation in Europe and*

*around the world.*

#### Amendment 4

##### Proposal for a regulation Recital 39 c (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(39c) At the second Digital Day on 10 April, 2018, European countries committed to working together in the development of advanced trusted solutions for public services (e.g. through the development of a European blockchain infrastructure for services) and invited the European Commission to support the development and deployment of blockchain and distributed ledger technology through its digital programmes.***

#### Amendment 5

##### Proposal for a regulation Recital 43

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(43) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate actions and lead to the achievement of an overall target of **25%** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives<sup>74</sup>. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

(43) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate actions and lead to the ***swift*** achievement of an overall target of ***at least 25%*** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives<sup>74</sup> ***over the MFF 2021-2027 period and 30% as soon as possible at the latest by 2027.*** Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes. ***It is imperative that the EU delivers on its commitment to be a***

*frontrunner in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) although there is a lack of a clear and visible commitment to that end in the MFF proposals, therefore, the mainstreaming of the SDGs should be present in all EU policies and initiatives of the next MFF.*

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<sup>74</sup> COM(2018) 321 final, page 1

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<sup>74</sup> COM(2018) 321 final, page 1

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 3 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The Programme will have **five** specific objectives:

*Amendment*

2. The Programme will have **six** specific objectives:

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(ea) Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies**

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) support the design and delivery of short-term trainings and courses for entrepreneurs, small business leaders and the workforce;

*Amendment*

(b) support the design and delivery of short-term trainings and courses for entrepreneurs, small business leaders, **including start-uppers** and the workforce;

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point e

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(e) support the uptake of advanced digital and related technologies, including in particular high performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and future emerging technologies by the Union industry, notably SMEs;

*Amendment*

(e) support the uptake of advanced digital and related technologies, including in particular high performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and future emerging technologies by the Union industry, notably SMEs **and start-ups**;

## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 8 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

#### **Article 8a**

#### **Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies**

***The financial intervention by the Union under Specific Objective 6: Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies, shall pursue the following operational objectives:***

***(a) Build up and strengthen core Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies capacities in the Union, connecting national / regional blockchain infrastructures and establishing a governance model that can support the development and deployment of new digital services enabled by Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies in accordance with the Union's legal framework;***

***(b) Make those capacities accessible to businesses, [in particular SMEs], public administrations or other organisations in order to support development of innovative cross-border applications of those technologies that will benefit European citizens and the digital***

*economy [in Europe];*

*(c) Further develop, deploy, coordinate and operate at the Union level a European Blockchain Services Infrastructure meeting the highest global standards of cybersecurity, energy efficiency, privacy-compliance and accessible on a non-commercial basis to public and private users to support the delivery of services of public interest;*

*(d) Support the deployment of ready to use/operational technology resulting from research and innovation strengthening an integrated Union innovation ecosystem on Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies, offering testing and experimentation facilities in Member States.*

#### *Justification*

*Blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies can significantly enhance access to distributed datasets across the Union, facilitate notarisation of documents, and enable traceability of transactions or movement of products in a way that is secure and compliant with the EU acquis. They reinforce trust in applications involving multiple stakeholders, enhance collaborative models and enable the defragmentation of distributed datasets. This will lead to quality and efficiency gains, reducing administrative burden, in particular for regulatory reporting and auditing, combating and limiting fraud, incentivising the adoption of best practices and ethical behaviours.*

#### **Amendment 11**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021–2027 shall be EUR 9 194 000 000 in current prices.

###### *Amendment*

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021–2027 shall be EUR **8 192 391 000 in 2018 prices** (EUR 9 194 000 000 in current prices).



## Amendment 12

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) up to EUR 2 698 240 000 for Specific Objective 1, High Performance Computing

*Amendment*

(a) up to **EUR 2 404 289 438 in 2018 prices** (EUR 2 698 240 000 **in current prices**) for Specific Objective 1, High Performance Computing

## Amendment 13

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) up to EUR 2 498 369 000 for Specific Objective 2, Artificial Intelligence

*Amendment*

(b) up to **EUR 2 226 192 703 in 2018 prices** (EUR 2 498 369 000 **in current prices**) for Specific Objective 2, Artificial Intelligence

## Amendment 14

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point c

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) up to EUR 1 998 696 000 for Specific Objective 3, Cybersecurity and Trust

*Amendment*

(c) up to **EUR 1 780 954 875 in 2018 prices** (EUR 1 998 696 000 **in current prices**) for Specific Objective 3, Cybersecurity and Trust

## Amendment 15

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point d

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(d) up to EUR 699 543 000 for Specific Objective 4, Advanced Digital skills

*Amendment*

(d) up to EUR **623 333 672 in 2018 prices** (EUR 699 543 000 **in current prices**) for Specific Objective 4, Advanced

## Amendment 16

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point e

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(e) up to EUR 1 299 152 000 for Specific Objective 5, Deployment, best use of digital capacities and Interoperability

*Amendment*

(e) up to EUR **1 157 620 312 in 2018 prices** (EUR 1 299 152 000 **in current prices**) for Specific Objective 5, Deployment, best use of digital capacities and Interoperability

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 13 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**1 a. The Commission shall ensure that procedural requirements for application and participation in programmes relevant for the Digital Agenda are harmonised.**

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 14 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, including notably procurement as a primary form as well as grants and prizes. **It** may also provide financing in the form of financial instruments within blending operations.

*Amendment*

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, including notably procurement **by the Commission or funding body, by grant beneficiaries individually or jointly** as a primary form **of the action** as well as grants and prizes. **Procurements may authorise the award of multiple contracts within the same procedure and may provide for place of performance conditions in line with applicable international procurement**

**agreements. The Programme** may also provide financing in the form of financial instruments within blending operations.

### *Justification*

*The amendment aims at allowing the use of procurement in the most effective way by clarifying the provision on how the EC or EU funding bodies themselves can be involved as procurers in DEP funded public procurements. Also one procurement can award contracts to multiple vendors or multiple sourcing ensuring better value for money and assuring continuity of supply and service especially for digital technologies.*

## **Amendment 19**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 16 – paragraph 6 – point a**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) provide digital transformation services - including testing and experimentation facilities - targeted towards SMEs **and midcaps**, also in sectors that are slow in the uptake of digital and related technologies;

##### *Amendment*

(a) provide digital transformation services - including testing and experimentation facilities - targeted towards SMEs, **midcaps and start-ups**, also in sectors that are slow in the uptake of digital and related technologies;

## **Amendment 20**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 16 – paragraph 6 – point b**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) transfer expertise and know-how between regions, in particular by networking SMEs **and midcaps** established in one region with Digital Innovation Hubs established in other regions which are best suited to provide relevant services;

##### *Amendment*

(b) transfer expertise and know-how between regions, in particular by networking SMEs, **midcaps and start-ups**, established in one region with Digital Innovation Hubs established in other regions which are best suited to provide relevant services;

## **Amendment 21**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 16 – paragraph 6 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) provide thematic services, including services related to artificial intelligence, high performance computing and cybersecurity and trust to the administrations, public sector organisations, SMEs *and midcaps*. Individual Digital Innovation Hubs may specialise in specific thematic services and do not need to provide all thematic services mentioned in this paragraph;

*Amendment*

(c) provide thematic services, including services related to artificial intelligence, high performance computing and cybersecurity and trust to the administrations, public sector organisations, SMEs, *midcaps and start-ups*. Individual Digital Innovation Hubs may specialise in specific thematic services and do not need to provide all thematic services mentioned in this paragraph;

**Amendment 22**  
**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Article 20 – paragraph 1 – point d**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(d) the need to overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance;

*Amendment*

(d) the need to overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance *in particular for young entrepreneurs and SMEs*;

**Amendment 23**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Article 29 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article [3].

*Amendment*

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. *It shall also ensure integrated information and access to potential applicants to Union funding in the digital sector.* Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article [3].

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Title</b>	Establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027
<b>References</b>	COM(2018)0434 – C8-0256/2018 – 2018/0227(COD)
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	ITRE 14.6.2018
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	BUDG 14.6.2018
<b>Rapporteur</b> Date appointed	Paul Rübig 28.6.2018
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	26.9.2018
<b>Date adopted</b>	5.11.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 27 –: 2 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, André Elissen, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, John Howarth, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken, Marco Zanni
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Karine Gloanec Maurin, Alain Lamassoure, Janusz Lewandowski, Andrey Novakov
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Michael Detjen

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

27	+
ALDE	Jean Arthuis, Gérard Deprez
ECR	Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk
PPE	Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, Alain Lamassoure, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Inese Vaidere
S&D	Michael Detjen, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Karine Gloanec Maurin, John Howarth, Vladimír Maňka, Manuel dos Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken
VERTS/ALE	Indrek Tarand

2	-
ENF	André Elissen
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos

1	0
ENF	Marco Zanni

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention