

2030 policy programme: 'Path to the digital decade'

The proposed 'Path to the digital decade' policy programme sets out a governance and funding framework to help achieve the 2030 digital decade targets. This includes a digital compass to measure progress, and multi-country projects and cooperation mechanisms between the Commission and Member States. Parliament is scheduled to vote on the decision establishing the policy programme during its November II plenary session.

Background

The pandemic accelerated the use of digital devices, demonstrating the opportunities they offer while also exposing society's vulnerability to new digital divides. The pandemic also highlighted our dependency on non-EU digital players and platforms. Given the economic and societal importance of the digital transition, the EU has put forward a number of instruments to support its acceleration, including a [new strategy](#), the 'digital decade', with targets to be met by 2030. The aim is to prepare the EU for the roll-out of broadband infrastructure with gigabit speeds, secure the digital transformation of the public and private sectors, reduce the digital divide, and advance technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

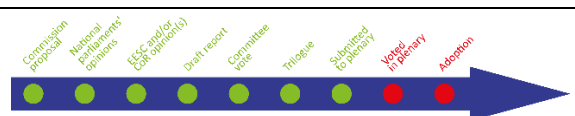
The proposal

In order to implement the digital decade strategy, on 15 September 2021 the Commission published a proposal for a [decision](#) to establish the 'Path to the digital decade' policy programme. It sets out a governance framework, cooperation mechanisms and funding to help achieve the related 2030 targets. To measure progress, the Commission proposes a 'digital compass', with indicators based on the existing Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), considering four main dimensions: improved digital skills, secure and sustainable digital infrastructure, digital transformation of businesses, and digitalisation of the public sector. The policy programme will also include multi-country projects by means of a European digital infrastructure consortium (EDIC) to achieve progress in areas where Member States could not manage alone. An annual 'state of the digital decade' report will measure progress in all Member States.

European Parliament position

In Parliament [the file](#) was allocated to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), which [adopted](#) its report on 16 May 2022 and agreed to enter into negotiations with the Council in June. A trilogue agreement [was reached](#) on 13 July 2022, and endorsed by the ITRE committee on 1 September 2022. The provisional agreement clarifies several definitions of the programme's general objectives, including multi-country projects. The Commission will develop EU-level trajectories for each of the EU's digital targets, together with the Member States. The latter will draft national trajectories and strategic roadmaps to attain these targets until their expected review in 2026. During negotiations, MEPs secured a strong scrutiny role for Parliament in the process of achieving the digital targets. The Parliament is expected to vote on the agreed text in November 2022. Once formally adopted by the Parliament and Council, the decision will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal.

First-reading report: [2021/0293\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ITRE; Rapporteur: Martina Dlabajová (Renew, Czechia). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



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