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SUPPORTING ANALYSES

Access all Studies, In-depth analyses, Briefings and At a glance notes produced by the Policy Departments.

All Fact Sheets: www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

Pol dep-panel-policies@ep.europa.eu

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BRIEFING

DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

BACKGROUND

The completion of a Digital Single Market for all citizens and sectors, across all of Europe will boost productivity and contribute directly to the development of the European economy. The Digital Agenda for Europe is a roadmap for bringing the benefits of a digital society and economy to Europe’s citizens. Legislative work is being carried out in order to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market and create a legal framework for all data processing activities in the EU for the years to come.

INSIDE

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As a result of technological progress in the area of cloud computing and mobile connectivity, Internet is increasingly offering an omnipresent and interactive - ubiquitous - access to information and content. This improved access is, in turn, leading to efficiency, innovation and a significant reduction of the environmental footprint through dematerialisation of consumption, with potential changes in the economic and societal landscape. However, the current legal and economic setting in Europe is leading to a partitioning of mobile Internet access and Internet content along national borders, significantly affecting benefits that could be derived by Europeans from the Digital Single Market (DSM) and preventing Europe from consolidating its comparative advantage on the global ICT market.

Streaming and online access to content and services – March 2014

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All Fact Sheets: www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

All publications: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy
European Parliament
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November 2014

(Available in EN)
Discrimination of consumers in the Digital Single Market - November 2013

The study collates information on discrimination against consumers on grounds of place of residence or nationality in the Digital Single Market. Collected evidence indicates such practices as refusals to sell or discriminatory conditions depriving consumers of access to goods and services on DSM or obliging consumers to pay higher prices. The study assesses discrimination from the perspective of different areas of EU law including Article 20 (2) of Services Directive, Private International Law, Competition Law and Intellectual Property Law, and provides for policy recommendations. (Available in EN)

Ubiquitous developments of the Digital Single Market and e-Commerce - October 2013

Ubiquitous solutions providing access from anywhere at any time are a next step for government and commercial services, and are expected to result in lower costs, increased flexibility, and an enhanced user experience. These solutions, based on modern cloud technologies, may facilitate re-use across borders, avoid duplication and achieve scale economies as well as cross-border interoperability for e-government services. (Available in EN)

Performance-based full policy cycle for Digital Single Market - October 2013

A benchmarking exercise of a number of Digital Single Market policy initiatives recently proposed by the European Commission against the performance-based policy model shows that the current policy development and assessment process could be improved markedly by following the performance-based policy model set out in the present study. The key features of a performance-based full policy cycle are a clear articulation of policy objectives, the identification and use of quantitative indicators of expected short-term and longer-term policy impacts, the identification of synergies between policies, a much greater use of quantitative data in ex-ante impact assessments, the implementation of robust, data-based, independent ex-post assessments of the performance of policies relative to their expected impacts and a wide dissemination of lessons learned in such ex-post performance assessments. (Available in FR, EN and DE)

European Single Point of Contact - July 2013

The objective of this research study is to discuss the features and value added of a European single point of contact. The large number of European level online services combined with an extensive range of services at national level generates complexity in identification of the most appropriate services, and in understanding their different competencies. Such complexity leads to low levels of awareness, with 91.6% of consumers and business not knowing of any online European level they could turn to in case of problems. This study analyses the possibility of introducing a European single point of contact and the benefits that may accrue to European citizens and businesses of improved access to online services. (Available in EN)

Ubiquitous Digital Single Market - June 2013

The last decade marked a move from electronic, through mobile to ubiquitous services, defined as intelligent services providing users with real-time access to collaboratively generated information, everywhere, at any time and on any device. The workshop presents leading examples of ubiquitous government services applied in South Korea, Japan, Canada, Estonia, the UK and the Netherlands, as well as ubiquitous market services, with the objective of considering how Europeans could benefit from ubiquitous government and market solutions. (Available in EN)

Reforming the Data Protection Package - September 2012

This study aims to provide background information and advice on priority measures and actions to be undertaken in the reform of the data protection package. The study is based upon four aspects: mapping new technologies and services; analysing the internal market dimension; strengthening the rights of the consumer; and international data transfers. (Available in FR, EN and DE)

Simplifying and modernising VAT in the Digital Single Market for e-Commerce - September 2012

E-commerce is a large and growing business and a key part in the digital economy. To reap the full potential, a number of barriers needs to addressed, not the least the obstacles that the current VAT system presents to cross-border sales of physical and in particular digital content e-commerce products. This report lists shortcomings in the present VAT set-up, evaluates policy options put o n the table by inter alia the European Commission and provides a range of recommended policy options that should be reviewed in more detail. (Available in EN)

Roadmap to Digital Single Market - August 2012

This note reviews the state of play of the actions promoting the Commission's Digital Single Market within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Europe and the Single Market Act. It identifies priority actions according to economic growth potential, the rationale and overtime variation of EU legislation, and the degree of consensus or lack thereof. Finally, it highlights synergies and interdependencies between the various actions and offers a rough estimate of the time schedule for their implementation and expected impact. (Available in FR, EN and DE)

State of the art mobile Internet connectivity and its impact on e-Commerce - July 2012

Mobile broadband usage is growing thanks to the popularity of Internet-enabled smartphones and tablets. Mobile data networks are becoming faster and more capable. Europeans increasingly depend on mobile data applications, when at home and when under way. This briefing note considers whether the high price of mobile data roaming inhibits the use of mobile applications; the degree to which the 2012 Roaming Regulation addresses these concerns; and what further measures if any should be taken. (Available in EN)

Cloud computing - April 2012

Cloud computing is a new model of computing that could bring substantial benefits to consumers, businesses and administrations, while also creating new risks and challenges. This study provides an overview on cloud computing and how it relates to EU consumer protection and the EU digital single market goals. It demonstrates that cloud computing could induce savings and facilitate innovative online services. However, it finds that barriers to take-up of cloud computing are manifold. It concludes that in order to seize the benefits of cloud computing, priority actions for EU policymakers are addressing legislation-related gaps, improving terms and conditions for users, tackling stakeholder security concerns, encouraging the public sector cloud, and promoting further research and development in cloud computing. (Available in PL, FR, EN, ES, DE and IT)
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