OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the European Cloud Initiative
(2016/2145(INI))

Rapporteur: Eva Paunova
The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission’s European Cloud Initiative as part of the implementation of the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy and the Digitising European Industry Package, thus fostering the growth of the European digital economy, contributing to the competitiveness of European businesses and services and enhancing global market positioning; calls on the Commission by means of clearly defined measures to ensure that this initiative is fit for purpose, outward looking, future proof and does not create disproportionate or unjustified barriers;

2. Welcomes the Open Science approach and the role it plays in building a European knowledge economy, and in further stimulating the quality of research and its development in the European Union; stresses that currently the value of collected research data is not being optimally utilised by the industry, especially by SMEs, due to the lack of free cross-border data flow and access to a single platform or portal, and notes that the Commission aims to make all scientific data produced by H2020 Programme open by default;

3. Supports the European Open Science Cloud as part of the European Cloud Initiative which will create a virtual environment where scientists and professionals from all regions can store, share, manage, analyse and reuse their research data, including publicly funded research data, across disciplines and borders, thus helping remove fragmentation of the Single Market; urges the Commission to apply a comprehensive approach towards Open Science that is inclusive towards the open science community and independent scientists, to provide more clarity on the definitions used in the Communication and in particular to create a clear distinction between the European Cloud Initiative and the European Open Science Cloud, and to accordingly update legislation to facilitate the re-use of research results;

4. Supports the Commission’s intention to remove barriers, especially technical and legal ones, to the free movement of data and data services and disproportionate data localisation requirements, and to promote the interoperability of data by linking the European Cloud Initiative to the Free Flow of Data Initiative; considers that, in order to achieve a digital society, the free flow of data must be regarded as the fifth freedom within the Single Market; notes that a clear legal framework, sufficient skills and resources related to the management of Big Data as well as the recognition of relevant professional qualifications are prerequisites to unleash the full potential of cloud computing; urges the Commission to engage with stakeholders, especially the industry, in identifying Big Data and coding-related training opportunities also in the scope of the New Skills Agenda and create incentives for stakeholders, in particular SMEs and start-ups, to use, open and share data in the Single Market;

5. Calls on the Commission to ensure that concerns with regard to fundamental rights, privacy, data protection, IPR and sensitive information are dealt with in strict compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Directive; stresses that security threats to cloud infrastructure have become more international, diffuse and
complex, are hampering its more intensive use, and do require European cooperation; urges the Commission and the Member States’ national authorities, in consultation with the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), to cooperate in establishing a safe and trustworthy digital infrastructure and to build up high levels of cybersecurity in compliance with the Network and Information Security Directive;

6. Recalls the positive results achieved by existing pan-European structures and the open data available in the national data storage facilities; acknowledges that there are still many barriers in the Single Market that prevent the full deployment of this initiative; calls on the Commission and Member States to examine the potential of already available data and to ensure a coherent strategy on open data and the reusability of this data across Member States; notes that the Commission and Member States must explore the need for further investments in cross-border physical infrastructure with special focus on combining high performance computing, high speed broadband networks and mass data storage facilities in order to realise a thriving European data-driven economy; calls on the Commission to analyse global industry-led and other international partnerships regarding this matter;

7. Stresses the importance of basing the European Cloud Initiative on the Connecting Europe Facility building blocks, in particular eIDs and e-signatures, in order to reinforce users’ trust in secure, interoperable and seamless electronic communications across Europe;

8. Recognises that standards should respond to a demonstrated need from the industry and other stakeholders; stresses that it is essential to develop and agree on common high standards to ensure access to the efficient use and sharing of data going beyond individual disciplines, institutions and national borders; calls on the Commission to identify the best certification schemes across Member States where appropriate, to lay out a demand-driven pan-European set of standards, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, facilitating data sharing, and based on open and global standards whenever justified; underlines that actions taken with regard to the European Cloud Initiative must ensure that the needs of the Single Market are reflected and that it remains globally accessible and responsive to technological evolution;

9. Highlights that at present only 12 % of the financing committed under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) goes to digital-related actions; urges the Commission to present targeted steps which could genuinely enhance the involvement of all EU Funds, and particularly the EFSI, in DSM-related projects, including data-sharing initiatives, digital accessibility, infrastructure and Europe-wide digital connectivity, and to direct more resources towards boosting European research, development and innovation, including among other things, in the field of privacy enhancing technologies and open source security; believes that this Initiative should be developed in synergy with other Horizon 2020 programmes, including on private cloud computing and e-government services;

10. Notes the under-representation of key stakeholders in the discussions and in Large-Scale Pilot projects; considers that, while avoiding administrative burdens, active involvement of public and private sector stakeholders and civic society at local, regional, national and European levels must be a precondition for an effective exchange of information; stresses that the European Cloud Initiative should meet the needs of and benefit not only the scientific community but also the industry, including SMEs and start-ups, public
administrations and consumers.
# RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date adopted</th>
<th>29.11.2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result of final vote</td>
<td>+/-0: 30-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members present for the final vote</td>
<td>Dita Charanzová, Carlos Coelho, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Daniel Dalton, Dennis de Jong, Pascal Durand, Vicky Ford, Ildikó Gáll-Pelecz, Evelyne Gebhardt, Maria Grapini, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Robert Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Morten Løkkegaard, Marlene Mizzi, Jiří Pospíšil, Virginie Rozière, Christel Schaldemose, Olga Sehnalová, Igor Šoltes, Ivan Štefanec, Mylène Troszczyński, Mihai Țurcanu, Marco Zullo</td>
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<td>Substitutes present for the final vote</td>
<td>Lucy Anderson, Anna Hedh, Kaja Kallas, Roberta Metsola, Dariusz Rosati, Adam Szejnfeld, Theodoros Zagorakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</td>
<td>Bill Etheridge, Andrey Kovatchev</td>
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