The Communication on a European strategy for data adopted by the European Commission in February 2020 stressed that further EU actions could be taken forward in a Data Act, inter alia, to foster business-to-government data sharing for the public interest, support business-to-business data sharing, and evaluate the IPR framework with a view to further enhance data access and use.

In May 2021, the Commission published its Inception Impact Assessments on the forthcoming Data Act. This legislative initiative will aim at facilitating data access and use and review the rules on the legal protection of databases. The initiative is about ensuring fairness in the allocation of data value among actors of the data economy, including in business-to-business and business-to-government situations. The Commission is conducting a public consultation until 25 June 2021 on its Inception Impact assessment. Furthermore, the Commission is gathering the views of all interested parties to shape the Data Act until 3 September 2021. Feedback will be taken into account for further development and fine tuning of the initiative to be tabled in Q3-Q4/2021.

In parallel, on 25 November 2020, the Commission unveiled the proposal for a Data Governance Act (see separate fiche). Furthermore, in her State of the Union address, Commission President Von der Leyen stressed that the EU will build a European cloud (NB: This initiative has been announced by the European Commission in the SOTEU. For the purposes of the Legislative Train Schedule we have therefore tentatively assigned it to the current priority pending future clarification by the European Commission).

In the European Parliament, the Industry, Research and Energy committee (ITRE) adopted an initiative report on a European strategy for data (rapporteur: Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, S&D, Finland) which calls the European Commission to submit legislation to foster data access and interoperability in the forthcoming data act.

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