Time to Build a Dynamic, Resilient, and Sovereign Technology Ecosystem in Europe

Joint Statement to the EU Presidency, EU Digital Summit – Gdańsk, June 2025

As Europe's digital leaders gather in Gdańsk for the 2025 EU Digital Summit, civil society organisations across the continent welcome the opportunity for Europe to lay the foundations of a digital ecosystem that is open, sovereign, resilient, and contributes to Europe's prosperity.

Digital technologies are the backbone of our economies and democracies—shaping public discourse, enabling civic participation, and driving innovation and productivity. But the infrastructure underpinning Europe's digital sphere is still dominated by a handful of providers, often operating in ways that are opaque, extractive, and misaligned with European values and economic interests.

2025 must serve as a turning point: a moment when Europe commits to bold, long-term investments in strategic digital infrastructure, tackles entrenched monopolies, and reorients its policies to put openness, interoperability, and democratic accountability at the core of its technological future.

A Call to Action: Investing in Europe's Digital Future

We call on the EU Presidency and Member States to align investment, regulation, enforcement, and public procurement around the shared goal of building resilient, open and sovereign digital foundations for Europe.

This effort includes:

1. Directing Significant Investment Towards an Open, Interoperable Ecosystem

Public investment, procurement, and industrial policy must prioritise alternatives to today's closed, monopolistic systems in core digital technologies such as:

- Cloud infrastructure
- Web search and browsers
- Social media and digital communication platforms
- Mobile operating systems and app ecosystems
- Components along the AI stack, such as open-source AI models, datasets, or software libraries

This ecosystem should be built on interoperable standards, open protocols, and modular, privacy enhancing technologies (PETS) that foster competition, resilience, and user choice. This will require billions of Euros in investment and strategic procurement over the coming years.

2. Leveraging the Digital Markets Act to Address Cloud, Social Media and Technical Interoperability

The DMA is a powerful tool that has made important strides forward, but its potential to create opportunities for European innovators remains unfulfilled. We urge policymakers to:

- Designate the major cloud providers as core platform services and apply the relevant obligations to ensure that European businesses have fair access to the computing resources they need;
- Use the powers granted by Art. 53 of the DMA to extend interoperability requirements to social networking services, thus opening the social graphs and content feeds of the gatekeepers to independent providers and putting citizens in control of their digital identities and connections;
- Ensure robust enforcement against anti-competitive practices including tying, bundling, self-preferencing and data lock-in, particularly where gatekeepers are leveraging existing core platform services to dominate AI
- Ensure that interoperability obligations are properly enforced to allow access and encourage innovation from SMEs, start-ups and others;
- Conduct an urgent assessment to determine whether new AI services, such as AI chatbots, should be included in the revision of the DMA.

3. Developing European Cloud Infrastructure to Achieve Global Competitiveness

Complete the following steps within reasonable and realistic timeframes:

- Accelerate the emergence of sovereign, high-performance European cloud services aligned with EU rules and standards that can underpin cutting-edge European innovation while giving governments the autonomy and security they require;
- Ensure fair cloud access for SMEs, startups, and public sector users through binding rules on non-discriminatory access, fair and transparent terms and pricing, interoperability and data portability, and open APIs;
- Coordinate investments across the EU via the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) mechanisms;
- Leverage procurement at the EU and Member State levels towards this goal.

4. Backing an Independent European Social Web Based on Open Protocols

Europe should champion the creation of independent, democratically governed social media alternatives, underpinned by protocols such as ATProto and ActivityPub. Within the next two years, the EU should:

- Fund the development and deployment of an independent social web infrastructure based on open protocols, to enable the emergence of interoperable European alternatives to today's monopolistic and harmful social networking, microblogging, photo and video sharing platforms;
- Ensure that this infrastructure is resistant to corporate capture and promotes healthy democratic discourse and media plurality, including eliminating the ability of individual platforms or platform owners to arbitrarily amplify or suppress speech;

- Promote adoption of these social media alternatives by public organizations, broadcasters, educational institutions, and ultimately society at large.

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Europe has the research capabilities, the technical talent, the institutions and the economic scale to shape a new kind of digital future—one where citizens have real autonomy and choice, where their rights are protected, where innovation thrives on a level playing field, and where democratic governments are free to take sovereign decisions in the public interest. But this vision requires decisive, coordinated action.

We are at a fork in the road. Europe can either continue to rely on a handful of U.S. monopolies for its digital infrastructure, or it can invest in the next generation of resilient, competitive and sovereign digital infrastructure and services that will power its economy and protect its democracies. We are committed to working with the EC and Member States to help realise this vision.

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