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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Digital Decade Policy Programme is the Union's monitoring framework for the EU's digital transformation, and thanks to the deployment of funding programmes such as Digital Europe Programme (DEP)¹, Connecting Europe Facility², Horizon Europe and the Recovery and Resilience Facility³ the EU has achieved significant milestones. For instance, under DEP, a network of supercomputers⁴ has been deployed and Digital Innovation Hubs⁵ have been established. Moreover, testing and experimentation facilities⁶ and AI factories⁷ have been set up to support the uptake of digital technologies by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

Building on the Competitiveness Compass, the Economic Security Strategy, and responding to insights of the Draghi, Niinistö, and Letta reports, the Commission is committed to advancing the EU's tech sovereignty and competitiveness with initiatives such as the AI Continent Action Plan, the Quantum Europe Strategy, the upcoming Cloud and AI Development Act, the Chips Act 2.0 and Quantum Act. In line with the Protect EU Strategy⁸, the Commission looks at the Information and Communication Technology supply chains security to avoid and de-risk critical dependencies.

The Startup and Scaleup Strategy⁹ aims to boost EU's ecosystem for tech-driven companies, focusing on innovation-friendly regulation, access to finance, talent, and infrastructure. The Lab to Unicorn Initiative of the Startup and Scaleup Strategy will support leading European startup and scaleup hubs rooted in strong university ecosystems. Moreover, the proposed Horizon Europe¹⁰ fosters university-industry collaboration, strengthens innovation in SMEs and research centres, and through a streamlined approach with the European Competitiveness Fund, it covers the continuum from research to market.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/digital-europe-programme_en.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/cef-digital>.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

⁴ https://www.eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/jupiter-launching-europes-exascale-era-2025-09-05_en.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/edihs>.

⁶ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/testing-and-experimentation-facilities>.

⁷ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-factories>.

⁸ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-presents-protecteu-internal-security-strategy-2025-04-01_en.

⁹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en.

¹⁰ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/horizon-europe-2028-2034-twice-bigger-simpler-faster-and-more-impactful-2025-07-16_en.