

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004609/25
to the Commission
Harald Vilimsky (PfE), Georg Mayer (PfE)
(19 November 2025)**

Subject: Digital sovereignty and competitiveness of the EU

By its own accounts, the European Union is pursuing ambitious goals in the areas of digitalisation and digital sovereignty. At the same time, there has been an increasing focus on regulation for years, while concrete measures to strengthen European competitiveness have been lacking. Numerous new pieces of legislation, such as the Digital Services Act and the Artificial Intelligence Regulation, are creating increasing bureaucratic burdens, which are placing a massive strain on small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. While international competitors are asserting themselves through rapid implementation and technological innovation, the EU seems to be primarily preoccupied with itself.

1. What measures are being taken to ensure that digital regulation does not become an end in itself and that existing regulations are reviewed for actual effectiveness and feasibility, for example in the context of the announced Omnibus proposal?
2. How does the Commission view the risk that the increasing digitalisation of administrative services will de facto prevent older citizens or those who are not digitally literate from accessing public services, and are there any specific provisions for maintaining analogue alternatives?
3. Why is there still no coherent European investment and action plan for achieving digital sovereignty, even though it has repeatedly been declared a priority?

Submitted: 19.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 February 2026)**

In the communication on a Faster and Simpler Europe ⁽¹⁾, the Commission put forward an ambitious regulatory simplification agenda to support the EU's competitiveness, as announced in the communication on a competitiveness compass for the EU ⁽²⁾.

The Commission proposed on 19 November 2025 a Digital Omnibus ⁽³⁾ to simplify a series of rules on AI, cybersecurity, and data to cut red tape and foster innovation while maintaining high standards and safeguards. Small and medium-sized enterprises will be the first to benefit from these changes.

The Commission also launched a digital fitness check ⁽⁴⁾, to further stress the cumulative impact of a wider set of digital rules. The Commission also analysed in the Digital Services Act (DSA) Article 91 Report ⁽⁵⁾ the complementarity between the DSA and 54 other pieces of legislation.

These measures need to be coupled with an ambitious investment agenda, in strategic areas such as AI, cloud, chips, and quantum. Europe is already supporting the development and uptake of key technologies through various instruments such as Horizon Europe ⁽⁶⁾, the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), and the Connecting Europe Facility. The Commission's proposals for the future Multiannual Financial Framework have a clear focus on strategic technologies.

The EU's digitalisation efforts will leave no one behind. The principles endorsed in the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles underline that Member States must provide analogue alternatives for those who are not digitally literate. The DEP and national recovery plans also include investments in digital skills.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/8556fc33-48a3-4a96-94e8-8ecacef1ea18_en?filename=250201_Simplification_Communication_fr.pdf.
⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en.
⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/digital-omnibus-regulation-proposal>.
⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15554-Digital-fitness-check-testing-the-cumulative-impact-of-the-EUs-digital-rules_en.
⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-evaluates-digital-services-acts-interaction-other-eu-laws-and-its-designation-threshold>.
⁽⁶⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.