

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000117/26
to the Commission
Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR)
(14 January 2026)**

Subject: Insufficient ambition in the Digital Omnibus for Europe's digital and industrial competitiveness

The Digital Omnibus was presented as a key tool to streamline and modernise the EU's digital regulatory framework. However, stakeholders across Europe's digital economy have repeatedly warned that the current proposal lacks the ambition necessary to support innovation, competitiveness and growth, particularly when global technological leadership is increasingly contested.

The digital sector continues to be burdened by fragmented implementation, legal uncertainty and administrative complexity. Rather than accelerating Europe's ability to innovate and scale up digital solutions, the proposal as it stands offers only some relief to the industry but without addressing existing structural obstacles.

Businesses — especially small and medium-sized enterprises and emerging technology firms — require clear incentives, supportive governance and regulatory flexibility. The Digital Omnibus falls short in providing these elements. It does not sufficiently reduce complexity, nor does it leverage Europe's industrial strengths or reflect lessons learned from recent digital legislation on how to avoid disproportionate burdens.

1. How does the Commission plan to address the widespread concerns from industry that the Digital Omnibus lacks the ambition required to truly enhance Europe's digital competitiveness?
2. What concrete steps will the Commission take to ensure that the Digital Omnibus brings positive changes to the AI Act?
3. How will the Commission ensure that future updates to the EU's digital rulebook prioritise an environment that supports innovation and the growth of European companies in global markets?

Submitted: 14.1.2026

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

The proposal for a Digital Omnibus ⁽¹⁾ is a first step in the simplification agenda for the digital rulebook, expected to cut at least EUR 5 billion of administrative costs for enterprises.

The proposed amendments seek to give legal predictability and make it more cost-effective to address policy objectives — in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small mid-caps (SMCs). The proposal focuses on the areas most strategic to Europe's digital competitiveness: data and artificial intelligence.

It clarifies data rules, bringing four legal frameworks into one coherent Data Act. It simplifies and gives legal certainty that the rules on personal data are applied in a coherent way across the entire Single Market, clarifying for instance the application for pseudonymised data, based on recent Court of Justice rulings.

It also simplifies how companies report cybersecurity incidents, and reflects lessons learnt from the early implementation of the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) ⁽²⁾ — notably through a proposed revision of the timeline for high-risk rules, streamlined procedures and reduced governance fragmentation.

The Commission is actively supporting the enforcement of the AI Act, for instance through the AI Act Service Desk ⁽³⁾.

The Commission proposed further simplification measures through the Digital Networks Act ⁽⁴⁾ and the revision of the Cybersecurity Act ⁽⁵⁾. The Tech Sovereignty Package will be an additional means to enhance Europe's digital competitiveness.

A Digital Fitness Check ⁽⁶⁾ was launched on 19 November 2025 to stress test the EU digital *acquis* and the cumulative impact of current rules.

⁽¹⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/digital-omnibus-regulation-proposal>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>.

⁽³⁾ <https://ai-act-service-desk.ec.europa.eu/en>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-networks-act>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-regulation-eu-cybersecurity-act>.

⁽⁶⁾ 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.