

Numeum's priorities for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

November 2021



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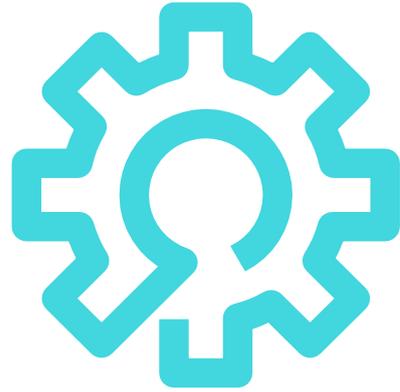
Between January and June 2022, France will hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union. This will be a key moment for France's Europe policy, expressed in its motto of "recovery, power and belonging".

From the environment to regulating digital services and technologies to cybersecurity, digital is – more than ever – a decisive issue for Europe, as evidenced by Ursula von der Leyen's State of the Union speech.

Of the French presidency's digital-related priorities, three major focuses stand out:

- ▶ **More effective regulations: Make progress on legislation currently under review.**
- ▶ **Accelerate technological rollout: Improve the conditions for the development of artificial intelligence, cloud technology, the data economy, etc.**
- ▶ **Strengthen the ecosystem: Improve the conditions for business growth in the digital sector in France and in Europe.**

Numeum and its members would like to make their input available to the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (FPEU)'s teams and to contribute to the success of these initiatives, as well as across all digital-related topics (ecological transition, lifelong education and training, digitalisation of micro-enterprises and SMEs, digital transformation of government, health, etc.).



MORE EFFECTIVE REGULATIONS: OFFERING A HARMONISED, COMPREHENSIBLE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

→ *Update the regulatory framework for the digital single market*

The single market is one of the European Union's greatest assets, and its regulatory framework should be consolidated to make it a reality across all sectors. The digital single market must be furthered and strengthened to benefit public and private organisations as well as European consumers. A number of initiatives have already been published and many others are being discussed. The DSA and DMA draft regulations are an important step forward in the process to regulate digital services and markets; in particular, they allow new rules to be established, ensure rules are harmonised across the European Union and avoid the risks of internal market fragmentation that would result from the application of national legislation. These proposals help to re-establish fair competition between economic players, regardless of their size or sector. The draft regulations appear to have the necessary potential to create a regulatory environment that is well-adapted to the new ecosystem of online governance. In response to these major challenges, the FPEU will attach special importance to ensuring work on these regulations progresses smoothly.

Numeum contributed to the European consultations on the draft [DSA](#) and [DMA](#).

Our three recommendations:

- *specify the scope of both regulations;*
- *ensure consistency with the European regulatory framework;*
- *ensure clear, transparent governance.*

A European initiative on freelance work will be presented at the end of the year. The FPEU will be an opportunity to pave the way for a balanced European regulatory framework for relationships between the self-employed and platforms. Firstly, it will aim to help increase legal predictability for parties regarding the status of workers, and secondly, it will aim to clarify the conditions for collective negotiations by self-employed workers as well as to build a shared, strengthened social protection framework for the self-employed.

Our three recommendations :

- *ensure parties are given legal predictability by giving a positive definition of self-employment;*
- *create and enable an innovative model for social dialogue;*
- *strengthen social protection for self-employed workers.*



→ *Support Member States' cybersecurity measures*

Cybersecurity efforts will also be at the heart of the FPEU's work, and will help to reinforce the harmonisation of cybersecurity measures between Member States. The project to review the NIS directive is a key element in making Europe more resilient and responding to current cyber threats. ENISA is working in parallel on a draft cloud certification scheme, which will harmonise requirements across Member States. Creating a strategic cyber vision that is harmonised with the work being carried out at the European level is a necessity, both for the private sector and the public sector, and helps to protect EU citizens and businesses from cyber threats, promote secure IT systems, and protect a global, open, free and secure cyberspace.

Numeum contributed to the European Commission's consultation on proposed revisions to the [NIS directive](#).

Our four recommendations:

- *specify the scope of application;*
- *ensure regulatory consistency;*
- *clarify the obligations of ESOs and important entities;*
- *support harmonised European cloud certification that guarantees the highest level of protection.*

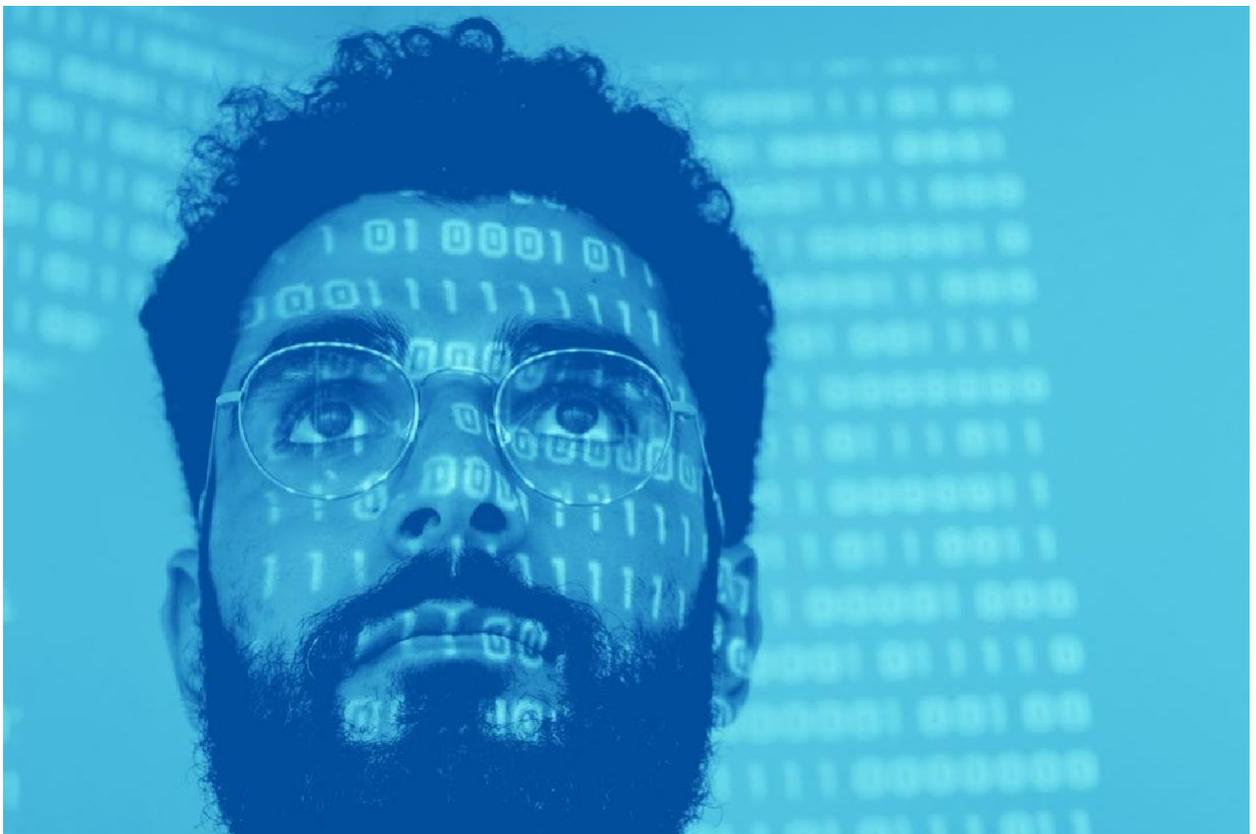
→ *Harness digital to help the environment*

The Commission has made the Green Deal one of the pillars of its roadmap, in particular with a Climate Law, an action plan for the circular economy, and a review of the CSR directive. The digital sector is at the heart of the Green Deal's goals, both in that it must reduce its environmental footprint and in the solutions that it offers to help with ecological transition. The Fit for 55 plan and the review of the energy efficiency directive (EED) will help to meet the goal of reducing the digital sector's environmental footprint, in particular by strengthening the methodologies used and commitments made for infrastructure such as data centres (the Commission's Code of Conduct and the industry-driven CNDPC).

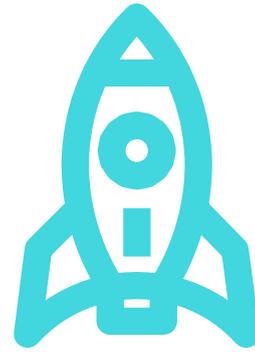
In October 2020, Numeum launched the [Planet Tech' Care](#) platform, which aims to unite the ecosystem around companies that are committed to reducing their environmental footprint and contributes to legislative discussion currently in progress in France.

Our three recommendations:

- *build a shared methodology for measuring environmental footprints and practical commitments to reduce them;*
- *deliver awareness-raising and training on how digital can be responsible;*
- *encourage the development of innovative solutions to help the environment.*



ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGICAL ROLLOUT: INDUSTRIALISING WITH DIGITAL



→ *Establish a dynamic data economy*

The European Commission's data strategy is focused on infrastructure, protecting data and privacy, developing data spaces, sharing data, and data security. As part of this approach, establishing a data ecosystem will play a decisive role in allowing Europe to successfully shape the digital transformation of the economy. It is crucial that this work is founded on an open, inclusive model to encourage greater access to, sharing of and use of data while ensuring a greater level of legal certainty for all stakeholders involved. The various stakeholders, the European Union and Member States all have a role to play to bring about the transition to a data economy, which has become an essential growth driver. The work and discussions initiated by the Commission on the DGA, the Data Act, and the European health data space will continue throughout the FPEU.

Numeum contributed to European consultations on the drafts of the [Data Governance Act](#) and the [Data Act](#).

Our three recommendations:

- create an incentive framework for data-sharing;
- specify the role of the various stakeholders;
- finalise a framework that ensures legal certainty for data transfers outside the EU.

→ *Make Europe a trusted global AI marketplace*

Artificial intelligence and data are at the heart of digital transformation and their effects can be felt across all economic sectors, as well as in Europeans' everyday lives. The European Union aims to position itself as a leading international player in the fields of AI and data. AI is a key technology that offers extraordinary potential for value creation. It is therefore essential to continue to create an open and inclusive European approach to AI that encourages innovation while ensuring fundamental rights are protected. The smallest companies will require advice, financial support, and simple, streamlined processes in order to be able to meet requirements. AI opens up multiple possibilities for innovation and growth, and it is crucial to seize its potential for businesses and their activities while maintaining the trust of citizens and consumers and while ensuring that its use brings benefits to all of society. The future regulation governing AI (the AI Act) must ensure that AI solutions developed at the European level: respect fundamental rights; are robust; and are founded on high-quality databases. In terms of consumers, it is important that providers

of solutions are transparent when they use this technology.

Numeum contributed to the European Commission's consultation on the [AI Act](#).

Our three recommendations:

- create an ecosystem of excellence and provide large-scale training;
- encourage trust in AI;
- promote innovation and self-regulation approaches.

→ *Create the conditions for a European cloud market*

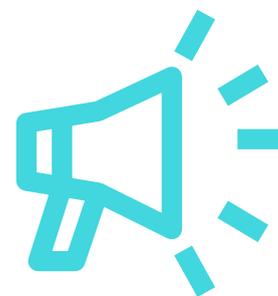
The European Commission's data strategy includes a focus on creating the conditions for developing a cloud services market in Europe. As a general rule, the fragmentation of rules and certifications and the existence of national standards create barriers to the digital single market, and have a particular impact on small companies that are trying to scale up. To create the necessary conditions, it is essential to lift restrictions on the use of these services, as they shackle companies' ability to innovate, and to help create a robust, dynamic data economy based on sector-specific data spaces, ensuring businesses are involved.

Alongside some of its founder members, or day-one members, Numeum has joined Gaia-X, which intends to take part in this process.

Our three recommendations:

- ensure an open approach that includes all stakeholders (users, integrators, suppliers, etc.);
- ensure fair, clear rules in keeping with European values;
- ensure consistency between EU initiatives and those of Gaia-X.

STRENGTHEN THE ECOSYSTEM: SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE EU'S DIGITAL STRATEGY



→ *Strengthen strategic autonomy on digital matters*

On 19 July, the European Commission [launched](#) two new industrial alliances: the Alliance on Processors and Semiconductors, and the European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud. [The Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud](#) aims to encourage the emergence of breakthrough cloud and edge technologies that are highly secure, energy- and resource-efficient, and fully interoperable.

It is crucial that the EU has a regulatory environment that is conducive to the development of global technological leadership while remaining attractive to foreign investments. Collectively, we must continue to invest in new technologies (the role of Member States and of Europe is central in this regard), promote and support the transformation of all sectors, focus on the next major societal challenges (inclusion, ecological transition, etc.), and provide training on a massive scale. If these conditions are met, Europe's technological autonomy will be ensured, and new stakeholders or European alternatives will emerge and establish themselves in Europe.

Our three recommendations:

- *encourage businesses to invest in and transition to edge technologies and digital solutions;*
- *provide a stable regulatory environment that reflects Europe's strategic autonomy;*
- *and provide training on a massive scale.*

→ *Accelerate the emergence of European technological leaders*

Launched in March 2021 by Cédric O and Mariya Gabriel, the Scale-Up Europe initiative is designed to draw up a series of recommendations for companies with a growth acceleration strategy. The aim is to scale up the dynamic created in France around the French Tech ecosystem and to coordinate with approaches put in place by other European countries to make the European Union an appealing space for innovative companies and ensure it remains so.

On 12 October, Emmanuel Macron presented the "France 2030" plan – an investment plan to bring out "the future technological champions of tomorrow" in the next 10-15 years.

Numeum contributed to the work of Scale-Up Europe, particularly on the topics of attracting and training talent, and collaboration between start-ups and large groups.

Our recommendations:

- *organise a major summit to encourage coordination between other Member States;*
- *continue work to ensure this collaboration.*



Numeum is the first professional association of digital companies in France. It brings together digital services companies (DSCs), software publishers, platforms and technology consulting firms in France. Numeum represents more than 2,300 companies, which account for 85% of the sector's turnover in France (over €60bn in turnover and 530,000 employees). Numeum has been chaired by Godefroy de Bentzmann and Pierre-Marie Lehucher since it was set up in June 2021. Our founding goal is to support responsible digital services for businesses, society, people and the planet.

Numeum's commitments are based on four key areas: defending its members' interests, embodying digital France in Europe, leading the digital ecosystem to encourage synergies and innovation, and improving service to all digital companies. Making digital training more widespread and available to all private organisations, public organisations and citizens remains one of the association's primary means of achieving its goals.

For more information, visit: www.numelum.fr