Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade

We aim to promote a European way for the digital transformation, putting people at the centre built on European values and EU fundamental rights, reaffirming universal human rights, and benefiting all individuals, businesses, and society as a whole.

We therefore declare:

Chapter I: Policy Programme 2030

1. People are at the centre of the digital transformation in the European Union. Technology should serve and benefit people living in the EU and empower them to pursue their aspirations, at full security and respect for their fundamental rights.

1. a. strengthening the democratic framework: for a digital transformation that benefits everyone and improves the lives of all people living in the EU.

1. b. taking into account the Member States’ needs and possibilities. It should be a digital revolution that is inclusive, with an emphasis on equality, and the opportunities of the digital environment are accessible to all people, in all public and private sectors.

1. c. actively promoting the vision of the digital transformation, also in our international relations.

Chapter II: Solidarity and inclusiveness

2. Technology should be used to innovate, not to divide people. The digital transformation should contribute to further innovation and society and empower all.

2. a. ensuring that the digital environment respects and provides for the equal opportunities of all people, including women, men, persons with disabilities, and children.

2. b. ensuring that everyone can access high-quality connectivity, with different Internet access, for everyone whenever in the EU for the provision of their basic income, and free and fair competition.

2. c. ensuring that, in the working environment, digital tools do not put workers’ physical and mental health at risk in any way.

2. d. ensuring respect for workers’ fundamental rights in the digital environment, including their right to information and consultation.

2. e. ensuring the provision of training and education to enable all to acquire new skills and competences.

Digital education, training and skills

3. Everyone has the right to education, training and lifelong learning, and the opportunity to acquire skills and competences.

3. a. ensuring high-quality, digital education and training, including with a view to bringing the digital gender divide.

3. b. ensuring that all of labourers and teachers in schools are trained for the necessary digital skills and competences, including media literacy, and critical thinking, to take active part in society.

3. c. ensuring that educational opportunities are available to all people, and providing them with the necessary digital tools.

Paper and just working conditions

4. Everyone has the right to a fair and just workplace, with working conditions and appropriate protections in the digital environment as in the physical world, irrespective of their employment status, mobility or disability.

4. a. ensuring that workers’ rights are protected in all working conditions in the digital environment.

4. b. ensuring that the workplace environment in digital technology is safe and without hazardous substances.

Chapter III: Freedom of interaction

5. Artificial intelligence should serve as a tool for people, with the ultimate aim of enhancing human well-being.

5. a. everyone should be empowered to benefit from the advantages of artificial intelligence, strengthening public accessibility and use in public-service information.

5. b. facilitating and supporting openness, secure and interoperable access across the EU to public digital services, design of digital public services, and to promote an open and participatory approach to the digital environment, while benefiting all people and their health, safety and fundamental rights.

Chapter IV: Participation in the digital public space

6. Everyone should have access to a trustworthy, diverse and digital media environment across diverse channels that are content-rich public debate and effective participation in democracy in the digital environment.

6. a. ensuring that everyone has free access to information on who owns or controls the media services they are using.

6. b. ensuring the possibility of everyone to determine their digital legacy, and decide what happens with their personal information.

6. c. ensuring that everyone has the right to privacy and to the protection of their personal data. The latter right includes the right to the confidentiality of their communications and the information on their electronic devices.

Chapter V: Safety, security and empowerment

7. Everyone should have online access to key public services in the EU, liability being to be solved in a manner that respects and ensures digital public services.

7. a. ensuring that everyone living in the EU and offered the possibility to an accessible, voluntary, secure and trusted digital identity that goes across a wide range of services.

7. b. ensuring that digital identity is protected against unauthorized use and exploitation.

7. c. ensuring that everyone is empowered to take climate action and protect the environment.

7. d. ensuring that the use of artificial intelligence in the workplace is transparent and follows a risk-based approach.

7. e. ensuring that everyone is enabled to take informed and safe choices.

Chapter VI: Sustainability

8. To do significant harm to the environment and to promote a circular, digital and physical environment, and to ensure that sustainable, affordable digital products and services, and the digital transformation, benefit the environment and society, and in democratic processes.

8. a. ensuring that all citizens and young people have access to high-quality digital skills and competences.

8. b. ensuring that everyone has the right to privacy and to the protection of their personal data. The latter right includes the right to the confidentiality of their communications and the information on their electronic devices.

8. c. ensuring that everyone has the right to privacy and to the protection of their personal data. The latter right includes the right to the confidentiality of their communications and the information on their electronic devices.

8. d. ensuring respect for workers’ fundamental rights in the digital environment, including their right to information and consultation.

8. e. ensuring the provision of training and education to enable all to acquire new skills and competences.

8. f. ensuring that everyone has access to high-quality connectivity, with different Internet access, for everyone whenever in the EU for the provision of their basic income, and free and fair competition.

8. g. ensuring that, in the working environment, digital tools do not put workers’ physical and mental health at risk in any way.

8. h. ensuring respect for workers’ fundamental rights in the digital environment, including their right to information and consultation.

Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission solemnly proclaim the following joint Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade.