

# GERMAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

# THE DIGITAL AGENDA



## THE CONTEXT

The COVID-19 crisis has reinforced the importance of digital transformation at European level. With the global competitiveness of the EU being at stake, Germany assumes the Presidency with a renewed sense to drive Europe's digital future forward.

In the upcoming months, the German government's key priority will be to strengthen the EU's 'digital sovereignty'. With this leitmotiv, the Presidency will focus on rolling out a resilient European digital and data infrastructure ecosystem, implement several steps of the EU's strategy for "A Europe Fit for the Digital Age" and boost competencies in key digital technologies through coordinated R&D and investment efforts.

An important challenge will be to ensure effective cross-ministerial coordination on digital policies affecting the European Green Deal, health, transport, and consumer protection policies.

## KEY INITIATIVES AND FILES

- Strengthen the EU's digital sovereignty following lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic by laying the groundwork for the roll out of the European cloud project GAIA-X.
- Support the implementation of the EU's strategy for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age with a focus on data availability and security, AI, and digital skills. This includes achieving progress on the European Data Strategy with the launch of guidelines for the governance of Common European Data Spaces, promoting a human-centred and ethical approach to AI at EU level and discussing the European Commission's Digital Education Action Plan.
- Ensure a rapid adoption of the regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online and progress on the ambitious negotiations on the ePrivacy regulation.
- Support efforts towards OECD-led negotiations on a digital tax and press ahead with the implementation of their outcome at EU level.
- Consolidate the EU's efforts in the fight against online dis- and misinformation by promoting Council discussions on the European Democracy Action Plan and advances on the Digital Services Act.

## CONTACT

**David Morgen**, Public Affairs Digital Transformation, Germany  
[david.morgen@edelman.com](mailto:david.morgen@edelman.com)

**Rowan Emslie**, Head of Digital, Belgium  
[rowan.emslie@edelman.com](mailto:rowan.emslie@edelman.com)

**Celine Van Den rul**, Digital Account Executive, Belgium  
[celine.vandenrul@edelman.com](mailto:celine.vandenrul@edelman.com)

## THE KEY HUB

### Peter Altmaier

- Born in 1958
- Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy
- Member of Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)
- Presiding over the Ministerial Council for telecommunications / digital affairs and key initiator of Gaia-X, Altmaier will pull the strings in advancing the EU's digital economy.
- Due to the cross-sectoral nature of digital policies, Altmaier will be surrounded and partly outweighed by agenda-setters including Federal Ministers Hubertus Heil (Labour), Christine Lambrecht (Justice and Consumer Protection), Anja Karliczek (Education and Research) and Jens Spahn (Health).
- As Head of Federal Chancellery and close confidant of Chancellor Merkel, Helge Braun will be key in steering the German Government's digital agenda.
- Federal Minister Andreas Scheuer (Transport and Digital Infrastructure) and Dorothee Bär (Minister of State for Digitalization) are attributed more formal roles than real clout on.



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# TIMELINE



SEPTEMBER 2020

**Telecom Directors Meeting**  
1 September 2020

**High-level Conference “European competition Day”**  
7-8 September 2020

**Informal meeting of EU Minister for Telecommunications and Digital Policy**  
14-15 October 2020

OCTOBER 2020

NOVEMBER 2020

**Informal Meeting of the Minister for Consumer Protection — “Digital Transformation”**  
2-3 November 2020

**Ministerial conference on the european Research Area**  
20 October 2020

**EOSC (European Open Science Cloud) Symposium 2020**  
19-20 October 2020

**High-level Conference “Digital Health 2020 — EU on the move”**  
11 November 2020

**High-level Conference “Open Data and Smart Mobility in Europe”**  
17 November 2020

**High-level Conference “ICT 2020 — Leading the Digital Age”**  
1-3 December 2020

DECEMBER 2020

**21st century challenges for the eHealth National Competence Centers in Europe**  
17 December 2020

**Formal meeting of the Telecommunications / Digital Council**  
7 December 2020

2021