

Developments at EU level December 2011 – March 2012

December 2011

Mobile internet increasingly available, but EU still missing out on growth-creating potential of high speed broadband

21 December 2011 — Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, welcomed figures just released which show a solid increase in the availability of both mobile internet and basic quality fixed broadband lines. At the same time the Commissioner warned that Europe risked missing out on badly needed economic growth if it does not step up a gear and increase the capacity of its broadband networks. Studies show that a 10 percentage point increase in broadband take-up boosts annual GDP growth by 1 to 1.5%.

Digital Agenda Progress Report 2011

22 December 2011 — The annual report provides an overview of progress on the actions of the Digital Agenda for Europe, updating the list of completed actions since the Digital Agenda Scoreboard in May 2011, and outlining the work ahead. This document is part of the efforts of the European Commission on the implementation and governance of the Digital Agenda, further to other activities in 2011 including the Digital Agenda Scoreboard, the Digital Agenda Assembly, and the Digital Agenda Going Local. The overall aim of the Digital Agenda is to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market based on fast and ultra fast internet and interoperable applications. The Digital Agenda is a key component of the Europe 2020 strategy to provide growth and jobs in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

See also: **Digital Agenda for Europe: key publications**

January 2012

Guide to broadband investment

3 January 2012 - How can EU regional funding best promote the roll-out of broadband? The European Commission has published a guide for public authorities managing EU funds on the strengths and weaknesses of different models of investment in high speed internet infrastructures. It provides advice to managing authorities and project promoters on the issues that should be considered when planning a public sector investment in broadband infrastructure. The guide is based on a detailed review of several broadband investment projects (mostly co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund). It includes messages on success factors and lessons learned. The Digital Agenda for Europe aims to ensure that by 2020 all Europeans have access to the Internet at speeds above 30Mbit/s and 50% or more of European households should have subscriptions above 100 Mbit/s. The guide has been co-signed by Commissioners Hahn, Kroes, Ciolos and Almunia. It complements other activities by the Commission services such as the European Broadband Portal and the Bottom up Broadband initiative.

Breaking down barriers to secure and innovative card, internet and mobile payments

11 January 2012 — Carrying a virtual train ticket or repaying a friend with your mobile phone, buying your groceries online, paying with your debit card abroad – the way European citizens shop and pay is radically changing. A secure and transparent integrated payments environment throughout the EU could create more efficient, modern and safer means of payments – for the benefits of consumers, merchants and payment providers. Based on the Green Paper consultation adopted today, the Commission is seeking the views of stakeholders as to which obstacles hinder further market integration and how these could be resolved. The deadline for submitting contributions to the consultation is 11 April 2012.

See also: **Green Paper 'Towards an integrated European market for card, internet and mobile payments' — Frequently Asked Questions**

Stimulating growth and employment: an action plan for doubling the volume of e-commerce in Europe by 2015

11 January 2012 — The development of electronic commerce and online services offers enormous potential for beneficial economic, social and societal change. The Internet economy creates 2.6 jobs for every "off-line" job lost, and offers a better choice to consumers, including those in rural and isolated areas. The gains brought by lower online prices and a wider choice of available products and services are estimated at EUR 11.7 billion, equivalent to 0.12 % of European GDP. If 15 % of retail sales were e-commerce and the

obstacles to the internal market were removed, the gains for consumers might be as much as EUR 204 billion, or 1.7 % of European GDP. The European Commission finds, however, that there are many obstacles preventing consumers and businesses from investing fully in online services: ignorance or uncertainty about the applicable rules, offers that lack transparency and are hard to compare, and payments and modes of delivery that are often expensive and unsuitable.

See also: **[Communication on e-commerce – frequently asked questions](#)**

**Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda
Making online transactions easier, more trustworthy and more transparent**

Remarks at Press Conference on eCommerce Action Plan Communication, Brussels, 11 January 2012

23 January – 17 February 2012 – WRC-12

February 2012

15 February 2012 – 47th COCOM meeting

23 February – 24 February 2012 – BEREC Plenary

€110bn jackpot on offer for completing e-Communications Single Market

28 February 2012 — The answers to Europe's search for new economic growth may be closer to home than expected. The European Commission today released a study showing that, if the internal market for electronic communications were completed, the EU gross domestic product (GDP) could grow by up to 110 billion euros a year, or more than 0.8% of GDP. e-Communications is a critical part of overall efforts to build a digital Single Market. This "digital bonus" for EU growth would result from more competition, increased economies of scale for telecom operators, and the chance for every European to access all online content and services throughout the EU, such as music, movies and video games. For example, new and more efficient economic activity could arise from the ability to subscribe to TV from your home country when living abroad, the possibility of receiving healthcare monitoring from your local physician while on holiday, or a business using a single Cloud computing provider for offices in many EU countries.

29 February 2012 - RSPG

March 2012

21 – 22 March 2012 - RSCOM