

Commission Presents European Data Strategy



Thomas Wahl

News

On 19 February 2020, the Commission unveiled its plans and actions for a [European data strategy](#). The new Commission under President *Ursula von der Leyen* set the ambitious goal that the EU become the leading role model for a society empowered by data to make better decisions – in business and in the public sector. All European citizens and businesses should benefit from new technologies and the use of data. The digital-agile economy must be boosted. The European Data Strategy aims at creating a single market for data with the following features:

- Data flow within the EU and across sectors, for the benefit of all;
- Full respect for European rules, in particular on privacy and data protection as well as on competition law;
- Fair, practical, and clear rules for access and use of data.

In its [Communication](#) on a European data strategy, the Commission first sets out what is at stake, what its vision is, and what the problems are. Future actions will be based on four pillars:

- A cross-sectoral governance framework for data access and use;
- Investments in data and strengthening of Europe's capabilities and infrastructures for hosting, processing, and using data, interoperability;
- Empowerment of individuals, investing in skills and in SMEs;
- Common European data spaces in strategic sectors and domains of public interest.

The strategy sets out key actions in each pillar. For this year, the Commission announced, *inter alia*, proposals on a Digital Services Act and a European Democracy Action Plan, a review of the eIDAS regulation, and measures to strengthen cybersecurity by developing a Joint Cyber Unit.

The Commission has invited the public to give feedback on its data strategy. The [public consultation](#) is open until 31 May 2020.

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