

For a United Digital Europe

Resolution submitted by: Political Commission 2 - Internal European Policies

JEF Europe,

- *Wholeheartedly* embracing technological progress and the digital revolution to serve our society, thus stressing the great potential of a truly Digital Single Market;
- *Having adopted* the resolution on “The Human Right for Privacy in the Digital Age” and reaffirming the therein mentioned digital rights and ideas proposed to strengthen their protection;
- *Deploring* the discriminatory practices Europeans still face e.g. by traders who refuse to provide their services or who apply different access conditions depending on the consumer’s country of residence despite the long-standing efforts for establishing a comprehensive European single market;
- *Alarmed* by the unsustainable disparities regarding broadband internet connections and recognising the equally untenable rate of digital illiteracy in Europe;
- *Observing* changing work patterns induced by telemediated services that allow for increased relocation of work, crowd-working (sharing economy, human cloud, workforce on demand, digital labour etc.) and self-employment which also necessitate worker's rights to be updated so as to face the new challenges posed by the digital age;
- *Believing* that public services should be broadly accessible and meet today's needs by aiming at being digital, open and cross-border by design;
- *Affirming* that the EU's cyber security strategy provides a minimum level of security against disruptions and attacks affecting Europe's telecommunications systems while



- recognising the danger of security incidents, such as technical failures and viruses, for Europe's increasingly interconnected and interdependent citizens and businesses;
- *Acknowledging* the different levels of national capability and the levels of private sector involvement and preparedness between Member States;
 - *Being guided* by the Federalist principle according to which a United Digital Europe can only be created when its diversity and subsidiarity are adequately safeguarded;

JEF Europe, therefore,

Creation of a digital single market:

1. *Urges* the EU to tear down its digital borders by putting an end to exclusive licensing practices which limit the choices of consumers in a highly discriminatory manner. Moreover, fighting the excessively high shipping costs of cross-border delivery must be addressed by a monitoring scheme of the EU-Commission thereby increasing transparency, as well as an equivalent of roaming limits for mail;
2. *Calls upon* the European Council and the European Parliament to push for ending unjustified territory-based discrimination of mobile Europeans in the form of, inter alia, geo-blocking, following Commission's efforts on the topic. Easy and legal access to digital content under fair conditions for consumers and creators alike all over the EU must constitute a main pillar of a United Digital Europe;
3. *Requests* further European harmonisation of digital consumer protection that guarantees the free and equal choice of goods, services and digital content, platforms and traders, payment methods, delivery operators and internet access providers. Digital barriers between countries which unjustly discriminate between consumers living in different Member States must be banned outright;
4. *Encourages* the EU as well as its Member States to increase funding as well as create incentives for private digital infrastructure investments for improved broadband



- infrastructure, helping all citizens, no matter their place of residence and especially those of rural areas, to have access to high-speed broadband internet access;
5. *Invites* the European Commission to come up with a roadmap towards a truly united Telecoms Single Market until the next European Elections in 2019;

e-Governance:

6. *Supports* open, secure and collaborative public services in their relations with citizens and businesses. All institutions of the EU and its Member States should seize the opportunities provided by e-Governance to consistently increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their public administrations, especially by addressing accessibility for cross-border citizens or those with disabilities;

Cyber security:

7. *Endorses* the reinforcement of an EU agency for cyber security to identify and alert for early warnings on risks and incidents and to collect and analyse information on terrorism foreign intelligence threats and incidents.

Digitising the Labour Market:

8. *Recommends* putting basic digital skills as well as privacy awareness at the heart of the life-long learning educational process, starting in preschool, and thereby stimulating a highly skilled digital workforce in order to prevent the marginalisation of people without access to computers in their private life. By putting digital skills at the heart of all educational projects, awareness must be raised that this has to be a lifelong learning-process. A European fund could help to make Europe a global centre of new cultural products and services promoting creativity and self-expression;
9. *Calls upon* EU Member States and EU Institutions to establish a roadmap until the next European Elections to carry European labour rights to the digital age whilst strengthening the right to privacy. This includes adapting health and safety regulations to digital workers' needs concerning ergonomics and physical and psychosocial risks;
10. *Advocate* for a right to telework where possible, be it online or offline, thereby empowering employees with disabilities and parents temporarily focusing on their families, and to encourage and intensify the use of ICT and new forms of e-work;
11. *Solemnly affirms* that the inherently and increasingly homogeneous structures of our digital lives must not threaten the diversity from which Europe draws its whole strength.