



From Ambition to Action: Building Europe's Digital Strategic Autonomy

A joint statement by European Tech Organisations
on the occasion of the Franco-German Summit on Digital Sovereignty

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Digital strategic autonomy has become a cornerstone of Europe's future. It embodies our shared ambition to ensure that Europe remains a trusted, innovative, and competitive actor in the global economy.

Innovative companies are cross-border and European by design. Digital sovereignty does not mean isolation or protectionism. What Member States and European businesses alike are calling for is not full independence, which would be unrealistic and undesirable, but for the **ability to choose with confidence and autonomy**, while remaining open to trusted international partners.

In the current geopolitical and economic context, **strengthening European digital capacities, actors and growth** is essential. Our ambition is for public and private entities in Europe to rely on credible, competitive, and trusted technological alternatives developed within our own digital ecosystems.

We must act decisively and together to reinforce our capacity to act independently across the entire digital landscape, spanning from infrastructure to software and applications.

We therefore call for an unprecedented mobilisation of both public and private stakeholders to build a truly sovereign, open, and ambitious European digital model.

To realise this vision, we need to:

1. Foster a European Preference in Public Procurement

We call for the introduction of a European preference in public procurement, understood as an incentive – not an obligation – to prefer European digital solutions in public tenders.

This preference must be applied to the entire value chain, from hardware to applications, in order to foster the EU's competitiveness and resilience. Such a preference would help sustain local innovative ecosystems, reinforce trust in European technologies, and support fair competition on the global scale.

2. Enable Corporate Consolidation and the Emergence of Globally Competitive European Leaders

Europe must empower its digital actors to scale globally. This requires enabling cross-border consolidation of innovative companies, under a reviewed M&A framework that authorises the creation of European digital competitors on the global scene. The concretisation of the Savings and Investments Union should also be a priority as a key enabler for corporate consolidation and significantly increase liquidity.

The current fragmentation of national tech ecosystems has led to the coexistence of many promising yet isolated startups. These competing or complementary actors would gain

more strength on the Single Market by merging, rather than each running their own separate race to expand across different EU countries.

By facilitating mergers within the continent, the EU can accelerate the emergence of globally competitive leaders, reduce duplication, and strengthen its position in strategic and innovative sectors.

3. Build a Coherent and Future-Proof Digital Rulebook

The EU's digital autonomy also relies on a regulatory framework that simultaneously fosters trust in digital tools and promotes innovation.

We call for a **streamlined, consistent, and future-proof digital rulebook** that supports innovation while maintaining trust and fairness in the digital economy. The objective should be better articulation and coherence of digital rules.

Simplification should not result in weakening key legislative achievements such as the Digital Services Act (DSA) or the Digital Markets Act (DMA), but should ensure true, fair and global competition.

If we want European tech to matter, to become a real alternative to non-European solutions, we must also make it easier for startups to expand across borders within the EU. Today, 27 different legal frameworks create heavy barriers to entry for small companies, while large corporations can easily absorb the costs. We therefore need to simplify scaling across Europe, through a **28th regime** that offers a unified set of rules for startups to scale.

Conclusion: Building Europe's Digital Future Together

As representatives of the tech ecosystem, we call for a strong action, at European level, to foster our businesses' and users' strategic autonomy in the digital landscape.

This requires coordinated efforts to introduce a European preference in public procurement to support own-grown digital solutions; to enable corporate consolidation that allows the emergence of European digital champions; and to establish a coherent and innovation-friendly regulatory framework that ensures trust without stifling growth.

The time to turn ambition into action and make Europe's digital strategic autonomy a reality is now.

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