



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,
DES FINANCES
ET DE LA RELANCE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Informal Meeting of European Ministers in Charge of Telecommunications

Paris and Nevers, 8 and 9 March 2022

A Word from the Minister



Cédric O, Minister of State for Digital Affairs and Electronic Communications

On 8 and 9 March 2022, **European Ministers in charge of digital affairs and electronic communications will convene in Paris and Nevers for an informal meeting** hosted by the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In light of recent geopolitical events, we have decided, in consultation with our European partners, to focus on the resilience of our **electronic communications infrastructure and networks** and **the protection of our cyberspace, challenges the European Union has been diligently addressing in recent years.**

Europe's digital infrastructure has never been more at risk of destabilisation. Though we have been aware of this risk and launched initiatives to address it, **the current crisis we are facing is forcing us to make faster progress and to aim higher.** Since the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union kicked off in January, we have been hard at work on reaching an agreement with the European Parliament on the revision of the Network and Information Security (NIS2) Directive. The negotiations must now be finalised so we can rapidly implement **these new measures to strengthen the resilience of European cyberspace.**

In addition to its work on the NIS2 Directive, the meeting of European Ministers in charge of digital affairs and electronic communications will provide an opportunity to step up our collective action with regard to ensuring European cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity is a foundational component of our digital sovereignty and essential for the security of European businesses and citizens. We are determined to continue to build up our cyber capabilities at EU level. I am convinced that this informal meeting will showcase the EU Member States' shared ambitions in the cybersecurity realm.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| A Word from the Minister | 2 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Aims and Issues of the Meeting | 6 |
| Meeting Agenda | 7 |
| Speakers | 8 |
| Nevers, Our Host City | 10 |

Introduction

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 January 2022, for the first time in 14 years, France will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. How does the Council of the EU work and what will France's role be?

What does the Presidency of the Council of the European Union involve?

A rotating Presidency

Each Member State holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months on a rotating basis. **France will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2022.** The Presidency of the Council organises meetings, brokers compromises, submits conclusions and ensures the coherency and continuity of the decision-making process. It ensures good cooperation between all Member States and acts as a liaison between the Council and the European institutions, in particular the Commission and the European Parliament.

What is the Council of the European Union?

The Council of the European Union, also called the Council of Ministers, or simply the Council, brings together the ministers of the EU Member States who meet in configurations by sector of activity. It serves as the co-legislator of the European Union, along with the European Parliament.

Concretely, ministers will chair ten sectors or configurations of the Council of the EU: general affairs, economic and financial affairs, justice and home affairs, employment, social policy, health and consumer protection policy; competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space); transport, telecommunications and energy; agriculture and fisheries; environment; education, youth, culture and sport; trade. Exceptionally, the Foreign Affairs Council is chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, currently Mr Josep Borrell.

The Council also has budgetary powers; it adopts and amends the European budget with the Parliament. Lastly, the Council adopts certain decisions as well as non-binding recommendations, concludes international agreements on behalf of the EU, and appoints members of certain institutions such as the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions. The Council's deliberations and votes on legislative texts are public.

What is the framework for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union?

The PFUE follows the main policy lines that President Macron set out in his speech for a sovereign, united and democratic Europe on 26 September 2017 at the Sorbonne. For the past four years, President Macron and the Government have been working to build genuine European sovereignty, meaning Europe's ability to exist in the world and to defend our values and interests. The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union will continue this work for a more inclusive, sovereign and democratic Europe.

The PFUE coordinates within the trio presidency programme, with which France aligns its action. This system, which has existed since 2009, sets long-term goals and defines the main topics to be addressed over a period of 18 months. After the Slovenian Presidency, France will begin a new cycle and will work as a trio with the Czech Republic in the second half of 2022 and Sweden in the first half of 2023.

Nearly 400 events

A total of nearly 400 events planned in France and the EU will punctuate the Presidency: political meetings, a cultural programme and citizen events open to everyone.

→ Find all information about the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union on the Presidency's official website and social media:

- Website: www.europe2022.fr
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Flickr](#)

The Council of the European Union should not be confused with:

- **The European Council**, which brings together Heads of State and Government of Member States and defines the overall political direction and priorities of the European Union. Its current President is Charles Michel.
- **The Council of Europe**, which is an intergovernmental organisation made up of 47 Member States. Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe promotes human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Its seat is in Strasbourg and its Secretary-General is Marija Pejčinović Burić.

For more information:

- www.touteurope.eu
- www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/

Aims and Issues of the Meeting

On 8 and 9 March 2022, as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, **EU Ministers in charge of digital affairs and electronic communications will convene in Paris and Nevers for an informal meeting also attended by European Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton.** In light of recent geopolitical developments, **the French Presidency has decided to devote the meeting to the resilience of communications infrastructure and networks in Europe and the security of European cyberspace.**

The European Union has always remained vigilant against cyber risks. Since the European Commission published its cybersecurity roadmap in 2017, cybersecurity has become even more of a priority issue: the launch of the CyCLONe network in 2020 has ushered in increased cooperation between Member States; the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) has been given a stronger mandate; and a European Cybersecurity Skills Framework will be adopted later this year.

In December 2021, thanks to the progress achieved during the Slovenian Presidency, **the Ministers in charge of digital affairs and electronic communications established a common position on the revision of the NIS2 Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the EU.** Under the French Presidency, Ministers are continuing to work towards an agreement on the directive with the European Parliament. This informal meeting of Ministers will be an opportunity to advance discussions and make further progress on cybersecurity issues.

Welcome lunch | Combatting online disinformation

On 8 March, EU Ministers will **attend an informal lunch** alongside Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery in Paris. Representatives from big tech companies will also be in attendance for a discussion on combatting online disinformation and information manipulation.

Informal working meeting | Strengthening the resilience of electronic communications infrastructure and networks in Europe

After travelling to Nevers, the Ministers will convene at Nevers town hall for their first working meeting, which will focus on the resilience of the infrastructure vital to Europe's electronic communications networks (terrestrial infrastructure, undersea cables, etc.). Joined by Juhan Lepassaar, Executive Director of ENISA, and Annemarie Sipkes, Chair of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), **the Ministers will discuss Europe's electronic communications infrastructure networks.**

Political plenary | Protecting European cyberspace

On 9 March, **the political plenary, to be held at the Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit, will be dedicated to European cyberspace.** Ministers will discuss **the security of information systems and baseline cybersecurity requirements for Europe.** They will consider **the structure of a resilient and effective European cyber ecosystem** and examine **European cooperation mechanisms**, with input from Juhan Lepassaar, Executive Director of ENISA, and Guillaume Poupard, Director General of the National Cybersecurity Agency of France (ANSSI). **Discussions will also be held on the Cyber Resilience Act**, a legislative initiative announced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union address in September 2021.

The meeting will conclude after a working lunch and press conference.

Meeting Agenda

8

MARCH

- 12pm – 2pm** **Welcome lunch – “The challenges of hybrid war: Combatting online disinformation and information manipulation”** (*Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery, Paris*)
With special guest **Jean-Yves Le Drian**, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- 2pm – 2.30pm** **Press briefing** (*Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery, Paris*)
- 2.30pm – 4.30pm** **Transport of Ministers and delegates**
- 6.30pm – 8pm** **Working session: “Strengthening the resilience of electronic communications infrastructure and networks in Europe”** (*Palais Ducal, Nevers*)
With special guests **Juhan Lepassaar**, Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), and **Annemarie Sipkes**, Chair of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- 8.30pm – 10.30pm** **Informal dinner** (*Palais Ducal, Nevers*)

9

MARCH

- 8.30am – 9am** **Official welcome** (*Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit, Nevers*)
Cédric O, Minister of State for Digital Affairs and Electronic Communications
- 9am – 12.15pm** **Informal meeting of the Council of the EU Working Party on Telecommunications** (*Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit, Nevers*)
Political plenary – Protecting European cyberspace
Working session with **Juhan Lepassaar**, Executive Director of ENISA, and **Guillaume Poupard**, Director-General of France’s National Information System Security Agency (ANSSI)
- 12.15pm – 12.30pm** **Family photo** (*Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit, Nevers*)
- 12.30pm – 2pm** **Working lunch** (*Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit, Nevers*)
- 2pm – 2.45pm** **Press conference** (*Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit, Nevers*)
- 3pm – 5.30pm** **Transport of Ministers and delegates** (*Nevers to Paris*)

Speakers

- **Mark Boris Andrijanič**, Minister for Digital Transformation - Slovenia
- **Ivan Bartoš**, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister of Regional Development - Czech Republic
- **Dilyan Berkovski**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications – Bulgaria
- **Xavier Bettel**, Prime Minister, Minister for Communications and Media, Minister for Digitalisation – Luxembourg
- **Ioan Marcel Bolos**, Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitisation – Romania
- **Thierry Breton**, European Commissioner for the Internal Market
- **Bertel Dons Christensen**, Head of EU Affairs at the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities – Denmark
- **Leonidas Christopoulos**, Secretary General of Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures – Greece
- **Janusz Cieszyński**, Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Cyber Security – Poland
- **Khashayar Farmanbar**, Minister for Energy and Digital Development – Sweden
- **Alen Gospočić**, State Secretary at the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure – Croatia
- **Timo Harakka**, Minister of Transport and Communications – Finland
- **Jan Hjelle**, General Director of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, in charge of ICT Policy and Public Sector Reform – Norway
- **Luukas Kristjan**, Undersecretary for Digital Development, Government Chief Information Officer - Estonia
- **Carmelo Inguanez**, Ambassador of Malta to France - Malta
- **Kyriacos Kokkinos**, Deputy Minister for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy – Cyprus
- **Jean-Yves Le Drian**, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs – France
- **Juhan Lepassaar**, Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)
- **Bernard Maissen**, Secretary of State for Communications - Switzerland
- **Eglė Markevičiūtė**, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation - Lithuania
- **Mathieu Michel**, Secretary of State for Digitalisation, in charge of Administrative Simplification, Protection of Privacy and Building Management – Belgium
- **Cédric O**, Minister of State for Digital Affairs and Electronic Communications - France
- **Artūrs Toms Plešs**, Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development – Latvia
- **Guillaume Poupard**, Director-General of France’s National Information System Security Agency (ANSSI)
- **Veronika Remišová**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Investment, Regional Development and Informatization – Slovakia
- **Roberto Sánchez**, Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure – Spain
- **Hugo Santos Mendes**, Deputy Minister for Communications – Portugal
- **Martine Schommer**, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in France
- **Margarete Schramböck**, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs – Austria
- **Piotr Serafin**, Director "Transport, Telecommunications and Energy" at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

- **Annemarie Sipkes**, Chair of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- **Ossian Smyth**, Minister of State with responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy – Ireland
- **Károly Balázs Solymár**, Deputy State Secretary for Digitalisation, Ministry of Innovation and Technology – Hungary
- **Schnorr Stefan**, State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Digital and Transport – Germany
- **Andres Sutt**, Ministers of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology – Estonia
- **Stefano Verrecchia**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU, Ambassador to COREPER I
- **Focco Vijselaar**, Director General for Business and Innovation, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the Netherlands
- **Roberto Viola**, Director General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology - European Commission
- **Volker Wissing**, Federal Minister for Digital and Transport - Germany

Nevers, Our Host City

Straddling the Loire river in rural Burgundy, the charming town of Nevers has a rich heritage in which you can immerse yourself by following a blue line painted along the city streets. The itinerary will take you on a discovery of numerous buildings such as the Palais Ducal, the Gothic Cathedral of Saint-Cyr and Sainte-Julitte, the Romanesque Church of Saint-Étienne, the remains of medieval ramparts and the more recent Church of Sainte-Bernadette, a major pilgrimage site and the resting place of Bernadette Soubirous.

While Nevers owes a great deal of its charm to the Loire river flowing through it, the town has its own major assets, such as the wealth of its produce and its artistic and artisanal culture (of which the earthenware of Nevers deserves a mention).



The **Magny-Cours Motor-Racing Circuit**, owned by the Nièvre Département Council since 1986, is located 12km south-east of Nevers in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region. An estimated 312,000 visitors come to the raceway each year, making it the region's second most visited tourist attraction, and the facility can host up to 139,112 fans. The circuit features four tracks (Grand Prix, Karting, Club and Park Off-Road), a conference centre and the Conservatoire de la Monoplace Française, a museum devoted to auto racing.





Press contact: medias.europe2022fr@dgtresor.gouv.fr

EUROPE2022.FR