**Position Paper of the parliamentary monarchy of Denmark**

The current development towards a more digital and connected world is more profound and unpredictable than ever. The digitization gives state and society new opportunities in economy, welfare and the public sector. The evolution of the digital networks enables a more flexible and mobile progress in private and public sector.

Denmark has the most advanced digital economy in Europe and in general the Danish digital performance and evolution is far above average in the European Union.[[1]](#footnote-1) In comparison Denmark has the highest scores in the Digital Economy and Society Index.[[2]](#footnote-2) The Danish people have good digital competences and are already embracing digital technologies due to the secure and robust digital infrastructure.[[3]](#footnote-3) Nevertheless Denmark and the European member states as a Union face challenges of digital security, the risk of cyber attacks and the widespread use of Big Data, endangering the fundamental rights of the European citizens on the Internet.

Jointly with businesses and public institutions at European and national level a common strategy on digital development and secure digitization will establish the basis for an adaptive and secure European society and economy.

Being confronted with the need for a common digital strategy the parliamentary monarchy of Denmark hereby states its position concerning the draft of a Charta of Digital Fundamental Rights of the European Union introduced by a group of ‘interested European citizens’.

**1. Implementing Digital Identities and rights management**

In 2016 71% of European Internet Users provided personal information online, including contact details, payment, location, health, employment or income, but only 37% read the privacy policy statement before providing personal informations. [[4]](#footnote-4) These numbers demonstrate the lack of awareness throughout European Internet users. In order to prevent misuse and exploitation of Data the European Union must provide secure and approved assignment of digital identities and rights.[[5]](#footnote-5) Stricter requirements of acceptance of digital identities must be met.

Implementing a common system on digital identities would ease the use of encryption as it is designated in article 12 (2) (Information self-determination) of the Charta of Digital Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CDFR) and promote the combat on identity theft an identity forgery (article 13 (2) CDFR).

**2. Information**

Security and confidence must be in focus at all times. It is an obligation to the European Union to constantly improve on security in the public sector and enable the European citizens to use their data mindfully. The CDFR refers to the rights of information multiple times. Bearing in mind that for example over 40% of European Internet users are unaware of that Internet cookies are being used to trace online behaviour for advertising purposes and even less citizens know any methods to take control on online tracking,[[6]](#footnote-6) the information provided by the EU does not seem to reach its goal. Giving Internet users easier access on the data about themselves held by a specific authority would hopefully counteract the situation.

**3. Education**

Article 20 of the CDFR deals with the fundamental right to an education for everybody. But currently 44% of European Internet users still do not have basic digital skills.[[7]](#footnote-7) A worrying number facing a work market, which increasingly requires advanced technical skills. Consequently the European citizens do not only need to learn about taking autonomous life decisions in the digitalised world, as it is referred to in article 20 CDFR, but actually be acquainted with digital tools, materials and practices. It is crucial for a successful digitization to enhance the digital competences of citizens.[[8]](#footnote-8)

In Europe especially the middle-aged population with lower income is a group of concern in the field of digital education.[[9]](#footnote-9) Incorporation digital education in the curricula of public educational establishments is not reflecting the actual need. The European Institution should closely work together with businesses to guarantee to equal access to digital education, effectuating article 3 CDFR and the aim of article 20 CDFR.

**4. Sharing Data**

Frequently criticised weaknesses of the European Union are the high bureaucratic obstacles. Double registration in the different member states and high expenditure of administration are hindering efficient improvements in the use of digital technologies. To be enabled to protect the citizens and enforce security transnational cooperation’s is an urgent need.. In addition to the foreseen measures in article 11 CDFR sharing data among European Union member states under strict control will contribute to an improved collaboration. The Exchange of Data will provide individuals with more efficient case processing procedures and more tailored interaction.[[10]](#footnote-10) As a result the unified ambitions of the European member states would be reflected adequately.

Altogether the parliamentary monarchy of Denmark supports and promotes the draft of the Charta of Digital Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Denmark acknowledges the moral basis of the draft and assures conformity with the general principles of the Charta of digital fundamental rights.

As part of a more widespread digital strategy Denmark furthermore directs the European attention to the general improvement of access to the Internet, good conditions for growth and the overall security and confidence.

Bibilography

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| *European Commission* | European Digital Progress Report, 2017, https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-digital-progress-report. |
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1. Human Capital: Digital Inclusion and Skills, page 2; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Human Capital: Digital Inclusion and Skills, page 2; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. We must seize the digital opportunities, page 6; A stronger and more secure digital Denmark. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Use of Internet and ePrivacy, page 10, 12; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The public sector protects data, page 49; A stronger and more secure digital Denmark. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Use of Internet and ePrivacy, page 15, 16; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Human Capital: Digital Inclusion and Skills, page 8; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Digital learning materials and tools, page 29; A stronger ans more secure digital Denmark. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Digital Public Services, page 5; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Public Data must be shared and reused, page 8; European Digital Progress Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)