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**NOTE**

From:	The Slovak delegation
To:	Council
Subject:	Work programme of the incoming Presidency - Information from the Slovak delegation

On 1 July 2016, the Slovak Republic will be proud to take over the rotating Presidency in the Council of the European Union from the Netherlands. It will be for the first time in its history that Slovakia will be at the heart of the events and developments shaping the future of the European Union.

Digitisation has a tremendous effect on the quality of the environment that we live in and does require the EU telecoms framework to be adapted. The Digital Single Market is created for individuals and businesses, irrespective of their nationality or place of residence or establishment, to allow them to seamlessly use electronic services and exercise online activities, while ensuring fair competition and a high level of consumer protection.

Having stated that, and in close cooperation with its trio partners, Slovakia is committed, to continue the intensive work on the implementation of the Digital Single Market strategy, which turned one year on 6th May this year. This anniversary is a good opportunity to assess the state of play of the existing, already presented files, as well as to prepare for those which will be tabled by the Commission later during the Slovak Presidency.

The Digital Single Market is a response to the needs of the digital era. It legitimises online economy as a fully-fledged industrial sector and data as an innovative source of growth whose potential surpasses the traditional means. Digital technologies do not only make our lives easier, including our contacts with public administrations, but they also make various devices, services and things „smart“, thus bringing more effectiveness, efficiency and security.

Thus the Slovak Republic considers the Digital Single Market not only as a unique opportunity but also as a positive agenda serving the objectives of our joint European project. In the area of Telecommunications and Information Society, the Slovak Republic welcomes the adoption, under the Netherlands Presidency, of the General Approach to the Proposal for a **Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union**. This achievement allows the Slovak Presidency to start negotiations with the European Parliament as soon as possible with the view to concluding this legislative file before the end of the year.

The Slovak Presidency aims to put all its efforts in to making progress also in other legislative files, namely on: the wholesale roaming review, the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, and the proposal for regulation on cross-border parcel delivery, all of which are in the interests and to the benefit of the Europe's economy and citizens.

The Slovak Presidency will devote its best efforts to ensure maximum progress in negotiations on the **wholesale roaming review**, which is an essential pre-condition for the abolition of roaming surcharges from June 2017. Its successful conclusion will represent a massive win for the consumers and a big step towards the European Digital Single Market.

Another important legal act, which will be essential for the establishment of the Digital Single Market, is the **new regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services**. The modernization of EU telecommunication regulation is inevitable due to high demand for high speed services, persisting digital divide between urban and rural areas, new technological developments, as well as new players – online service providers – on the market. The Slovak Presidency intends to lead a political debate on the elements of the revision during the Telecom Council which will be held on 2 December.

**Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services** is another important file as it aims at removing some of the existing obstacles to the single market by facilitating cross-border e-commerce. The Slovak Presidency will aim to achieve considerable progress in this legislation, which should improve price transparency and bring better regulatory oversight, thus making parcel market more effective and consistent.

Last but not least, within the Digital Single Market it is crucial to set firm principles for the public administrations in the Member States so they can be *digital by default*, with strong *interoperability links* between them, including cross-border, and where “*once only*” would mean no more additional physical visits to various public offices. The Slovak Presidency is thus ready to seek an agreement among the Member States to swiftly **adopt Council Conclusions on the e-Government Action Plan** put forward by the Commission.

During the Slovak Presidency, we wish to continue with the coordination of the Digital Single Market initiatives within the TTE Council. We will also take stock of the ongoing legislative files which are dealt with in the other ministerial formations of the Council. Moreover, we will ask the European Commission to present the details of the remaining Digital Single Market initiatives with indication of further steps (such as the digital platforms, free flow of data, ePrivacy and ICT standardisation). Our ambition is to make a synthesis report of the overall DSM implementation by the end of our Presidency.

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