

PRESS RELEASE

Vestager: “Spain’s Recovery Plan shows the level of seriousness and ambition of its digitalization”

- **The European Commission vice-president has highlighted Spain will dedicate 28% of the funding from Next Generation EU to digital transformation**
- **“There is no going back to the world as we knew it before” -she remarked at DigitalES Summit 2021, Spain’s most relevant annual event on digitalization**
- **Margrethe Vestager has also pointed out Spain’s good performance on digital public services, and its “excellent” fibre optic communications**

Madrid, 9th July 2021.- European Commission executive vice-president and commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager, has opened today’s DigitalES Summit 2021 congress, the most relevant annual event for the digital transformation sector in Spain. In her speech, she has expressed her support for the Spanish Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. She has highlighted that Spain plans to allocate 28% of the financing it will receive from the Next Generation EU mechanism to the country’s digital transformation, well above 20% minimum required for member states. “This shows the seriousness and ambition that you are giving to digitization”, she asserted.

“This isn’t just about money -this is also about making the right reforms”, she added. Europe’s commissioner has also recognized the 3.6 billion euro budgeted for digital skills training, the 3 billion euro targeted to supporting the digital transformation of SMEs and self-employed people, the “excellent” fibre optic network in the country and Spain’s good performance on digital public services. Likewise, she has described the Spanish Government’s action in the protection of rights in the digital sphere as “pioneering”.

“There is no going back to the world as we knew it before. On the contrary, new booming technologies like connected objects, upcoming innovations in Artificial Intelligence, or high-performance computing means digital will play an even bigger role in our everyday lives; and a bigger role in securing our competitiveness as a continent”, she said.

Next, Vestager has reviewed the major objectives of Brussels for the next decade, collected in the so-called “Digital Compass 2030”. By 2030, at least 80% of all adults

should have basic digital skills, and there should be 20 million employed ICT specialists in the EU – while more women should take up such jobs.

Second, 2030, all EU households should have gigabit connectivity and all populated areas should be covered by 5G; the production of cutting-edge and sustainable semiconductors in Europe should be 20% of world production; 10,000 climate neutral highly secure edge nodes should be deployed in the EU; and Europe should have its first quantum computer.

Regarding digital transformation of businesses, by 2030, three out of four companies should use cloud computing services, big data and Artificial Intelligence; more than 90% SMEs should reach at least basic level of digital intensity; and the number of EU unicorns should double.

Last, by 2030, all key public services should be available online; all citizens will have access to their e-medical records; and 80% citizens should use an eID solution.

“Together, those four priorities will enable a successful European digital transition”, said Vestager. The ambition is to build a digitally sovereign Europe in an open and interconnected world, and to implement public policies for a human-centered digital future. This humanistic orientation, together with the European regulatory strength, constitute the main differential aspects of the EU. “Europe has what it takes to make it happen, but it will need all of us -European and national levels, public and private sectors, all of which are taking part in this conference today”, she concluded.

ABOUT DIGITALES SUMMIT 2021

- ❖ **7, 8 & 9th July**
- ❖ **9.30h to 13.00h CEST**
- ❖ Where: Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid. Also streaming (**invitation only**)
- ❖ **#DigitalES2021**

All videos are available for registered users at www.digitalesummit.es

DigitalES, the Spanish Association for Digitalization, represents more than 60 leading technology and digital innovation companies in Spain. Together, these entities' turnover is equivalent to more than 3.4% Spain's GDP. Our goal is to foster the digital transformation of citizens, companies, and public authorities, thereby contributing to the economic and social growth of our country. More information: www.digitales.es

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