



D9+ meeting in Luxembourg Chair's Summary

On 27 October 2021, the group of ministers from digitally advanced EU countries, the so-called “D9+”, met in Luxembourg to discuss the digital and green transition.

Discussions focused on how the use of digital technologies can contribute to Europe’s climate neutrality goals. Ministers also mentioned the urgency to act swiftly in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the digital economy ahead of the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow. In addition, they welcomed the joint statement and input from the D9+ business federations.

In the context of exchanging best practices and use cases, the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) presented their innovative “digital twin” project focusing on the energy sector. Developing digital solutions to better monitor the use and generation of energy is one of the objectives by increasing energy efficiency and reducing emissions.

Ministers underlined the importance of sustainable high-capacity digital infrastructure in Europe, such as high-performance computing, satellites and 5G networks to provide a better understanding of the effects of climate change. *Destination Earth*, an initiative presented by the European Commission, aims at developing a very high precision digital model of the Earth to monitor and simulate the Earth’s system developments to understand and prevent floods for instance.

The circular economy is of crucial importance to support the green transition of the digital economy. The development of products and services that are *durable by design* should be encouraged. It was highlighted that digital product passports may have a great potential to enhance the transparency of supply chains and to trace the use of resources. Such actions are likely to support the change of behavior and mindsets.

Participants highlighted the need and the importance of private investment into the development of sustainable technologies in Europe. Setting the right incentives (for example under the Digital Europe Programme) and framework conditions to generate investment should be a priority. The twin transition has to be made in close collaboration with the private sector, including SMEs that need to be part of the discussions.

For the twin transition to succeed, Europe needs to attract and retain talent and develop the necessary skills. Europe needs a skilled workforce to support the digital, green transition.

Sectoral European data spaces can be a useful tool for informed decision making for the public and private sector alike. Priority should be given to sectors like agriculture, transport, energy and manufacturing.

Participants highlighted the need to strengthen the European single market. Start-ups and scale-ups offering innovative digital solutions can only thrive in a fully operational Single market without barriers.

Finally, participants declared their willingness to cooperate on concrete digital use cases to increase cross-border coordination and to provide a European added-value for citizens. The success of the European COVID certificate was stressed. The D9+ countries, together with the European Commission, should be leading the way towards more digitally sustainable societies.

D9+ countries focus on green and digital transition

D9+ is a ministerial group of digitally advanced EU countries that promote the utilization, implementation and sharing of best practices of digitalization and digital technologies. Hosted by Luxembourg, the meeting was attended by Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Lithuania participated as a guest, as well as Slovenia as the current Presidency of the Council of the EU. The European Commission participated in the meeting as well.