

Presidency summary

- We welcome the call by the European Council on the 30th of January 2012 that it is essential to take the necessary steps to remove the barriers that stand in the way of realising the potential of the Digital Single Market to boost jobs and growth and we welcome the Commissions and the Councils commitment in this regard.
- We support the European Council in their call for rapid implementation of the Commission Action plan for e-commerce as well as an agreement on the Standardisation package and online dispute resolution by the end of June 2012.
- To increase consumer trust in e-commerce we call for initiatives to create an integrated and secure market for online payments.
- We support the objective of doubling the online sales and the share of the internet economy in European Union GDP by 2015 to improve growth opportunities for e.g. entrepreneurs and small- and mediumsized enterprises.
- We also share the view that the revision of the procurement Directives should be agreed before the end of the year in order to further the use of digital solutions to the benefit of European businesses.
- We stress that the procurement Directives must support e-procurement in the European Union. Full transition to e-procurement by 2016 must be pursued for it to generate significant savings.
- We welcome the Commissions proposal and the suggestion from the European Council that a new proposal on e-signature should be submitted before June 2012. We agree that an improved legal framework for e-signatures has the potential to facilitate the implementation of areas such as cross border e-procurement. The potential for both growth and reduced administrative burdens for all European businesses is considerable, for these online tools.
- E-invoicing and e-procurement should be supported through existing initiatives and broadened to all of Europe to ensure that the full potential can be realised. E-invoicing should become the predominant invoicing mode in the EU by 2020.
- Furthermore, we call for fully digitalised Points of Single Contact throughout the Member States as this would be invaluable in ensuring a well-functioning Single Market where businesses can sell and establish themselves in other Member States.

