Lunch Expert roundtable (in-person & online)
Time to build a European digital ecosystem
Recommendations for the EU's digital policy

Tuesday, 14 January 2025, 11:30–13:30
FEPS office, Avenue des Arts 45, 1000 Brussels and online

Despite its role as the frontrunner in regulating Big Tech, through regulations such as the Digital Services and Markets Act and the AI Act, the European Union is at a crossroads in its digital transformation. Geopolitical tensions and growing reliance on foreign tech giants underscore the urgent need for greater technological sovereignty.

During an expert lunch roundtable, we will discuss the recommendations of our policy study ['Time to build a European digital ecosystem'](), which outlines critical steps for the EU to reduce digital dependencies and create a resilient, autonomous, and socially inclusive digital framework. The study emphasises the importance of enforcing existing digital regulations and creating a European Digital Industrial Policy to drive innovation and secure European values.

The new European Commission will have to ensure digital gatekeepers like Google and Meta comply with existing legislation – and enforce them when needed. Critical recommendations for the new EC focus on creating a unified digital industrial strategy, including developing a 'EuroStack', a European technology framework encompassing hardware, infrastructure, AI, data, and governance. Achieving digital sovereignty requires a strategic overhaul.

Agenda:

11.30   Light networking lunch

12.00   **Opening remarks**
                 László Andor, Secretary General of FEPS (tbc)

12.10   **Introduction of the project and setting the scene for the discussion**:
- **Marie Hasdenteufel**, Policy Officer on Digital Policy, FES EU Office
- **Gerard Rinse Oosterwijk**, Policy Analyst on Digital, FEPS

12.15   **Presentation of the FEPS-FES Policy Study**
['Time to build a European digital ecosystem']() by the study authors:
- **Francesca Bria**, Honorary Professor at UCL's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (remote);
- **Johnny Ryan**, Director of Enforce (Irish Council for Civil Liberties), Senior Fellow of Open Markets Institute (tbc);
- **Sophie Bloemen**, Director of Commons Network;
- **Matthias Pfeffer**, Founder of the Council for European Public Space;
- **Leevi Saari**, Researcher at the University of Amsterdam

12.40   **First reactions by:**
- **Cecilia Rikap**, Head of Research and Associate Professor in Economics at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP);
- **Edemilson Paraná**, Associate professor at LUT University;
- **Paul Nemitz**, Principal Advisor on the Digital Transition at DG JUST of the European Commission

13.00   **Q&A and discussion**

13.25   **Closing remarks**
                 Tobias Mörschel, Director of FES EU Office