Lunch Expert roundtable

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

Despite its role as the frontrunner in regulating Big Tech, through regulations such as the Digital Services and Markets Act (DSA and DMA) 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 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 (EDIP) 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. Legislative measures must be paired with capacity building to advance a digital future that reflects European values of fairness, sustainability, and innovation.

Agenda:

11.30	Light networking lunch
12.00	**Welcoming words/opening remarks** Maria Joâo Rodrigues, president of FEPS (TBC)
12.10	**Introduction of the project setting the scene for the discussion** Gerard Rinse Oosterwijk, Marie Hasdenteufel and Justin Nogarede
12.15	**Presentation of the study FEPS-FES Policy Study** 'Time to build a European digital ecosystem - Recommendations for the EU's digital policy' by;

- Francesca Bria (remote);
- Johnny Ryan (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 (TBC)

12.35	Discussion with all the participants
13.25	**Closing remarks by** Tobias Mörschel, Director of the FES EU Office (TBC)