

The Digital Economy – Mario Mariniello

Case studies instructions

Dear all

Listed here are **10 case studies**. We will dedicate one hour of discussion to each of them. Each of you has been allocated¹ to two different teams playing different roles (see **table annexed**). In the table you can also find the timing – when you are supposed to present and discuss your case and in which role.

Below you find, for each case, a list of reference that you can use to prepare.

Each case refers to a relevant EU policy in the digital domain. The goal of the session is to understand the background, identify the issues that the policy intends to address, assess whether the policies' goals can be met and discuss it critically (*"in your view, what works, what doesn't?"*).

In the first 20 minutes of the session, the team playing the European Commission role (EC) will make a presentation (with or without slides, your choice). EC will need to explain carefully the background (*"what is the current situation? what are the relative trends? what are other countries doing?"* etc.), what are the problems and what are the solutions that are proposed. EC should also give an indication about the process and its nature (e.g. *"what kind of policy action is that - a regulation, a directive, a communication etc. - and why? were the European Parliament or the European Council supportive? where do we stand now?"* etc.)

In the following 10-15 minutes, the team playing the Stakeholder role (SH) will make a presentation (with or without slides) taking an opposing stance to the approach proposed by EC. Regardless of SH's personal opinions, SH will need to be critical and attempt to identify the weaknesses of EC's proposal, possibly pointing to alternative or complementary actions that could be taken. SH could even take the view that what EC considers a problem, perhaps is not a problem after all... SH should interpret her role with as much creativity as possible, in order to stimulate the debate.

The remaining 25 minutes will be dedicated to open discussion: EC will be given the chance to reply to SH, other students will be welcomed to chip in with their ideas/comments.

The presentations and participation to the discussion during the case study sessions will determine **50% of your final mark** (the other 50% will come from your answers to an open-question test in which you will sit after the end of the course).

Here are a few tips to help you prepare:

- Every case study is different. If you have any doubt on how to structure your presentation, do not hesitate to get in touch with me ahead of the session. Just send me an email (mario.mariniello@gmail.com), and I will be happy to give you feedback on your ideas

- Start your preparation in time! Each case requires quite a bit of reading and background research...

¹ I'm a strong believer in the Coase Theorem: you should feel free to rearrange the allocation of cases and your roles, provided that: (1) everybody is happy, (2) each of you plays at least once the EC role and once the stakeholder role and (3) you do not play EC and stakeholder for the same case study. Condition (1) implies that even if just one of you disagree with a possible new allocation proposed, we revert to the default (the one described in this document).

- Read carefully the main reference document. That should be your starting point. But use also complementary resources: some are suggested, but try to also do some research online. Press articles are particularly good to help you figure out what are the key issues at stake (a good source is politico.eu)

- Avoid getting into the technical/legal nitty-gritty: when you present, you should make your presentation accessible to everybody – even those who do not have a technical or legal background or who have no clue what this policy is about. In fact, you should keep in mind what is the ultimate goal of this course: to acquire the tools to be a ‘digital adviser’ for a policy-maker. Notoriously, policy makers do not possess technical knowledge – and your goal is to reach out to them with accessible but sound explanations and policy suggestions.

- use the ‘force of the group’. Try to allocate tasks efficiently within the group and make good use of your collective resources. It is your individual performance that will be evaluated, but the group context will matter a lot (for example: everybody should be speaking during presentations)

I hope all this is clear. If not, do not hesitate to send me an email – I will be happy to clarify further.

Looking forward to our classes!

CASE STUDIES

1. INDUSTRY 4.0 - Policies for Digitising European Business

Main reference document(s):

Communication "Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery "

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/9ab0244c-6ca3-4b11-bef9-422c7eb34f39_en?filename=communication-industrial-strategy-update-2020_en.pdf

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-industrial-strategy_en

https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-05/swd-strategic-dependencies-capacities_en.pdf

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1593086905382&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0102>

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-214-the-2021-2022-digitalisation-in-europe-report-the-pandemic-has-made-the-digital-transformation-an-integral-part-of-european-society>

<https://www.unleash.ai/hr-technology/eu-falls-behind-the-us-in-workplace-digitalization/>

<https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/securing-europes-competitiveness-addressing-its-technology-gap>

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/eu-may-fall-behind-digital-decade-goals-report-warns-2022-06-16/>

2. DATA MARKETS – EU policies to boost the data economy

Main reference document(s):

Data Act:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A68%3AFIN>

Data Governance Act:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020PC0767>

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-data-strategy_en

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1593073685620&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0066>

https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-07/summary-data-governance-data-policies_en.pdf

<https://www.allenoverly.com/en-gb/global/news-and-insights/publications/the-eu-data-act-what-could-this-mean-for-you>

<https://www.pubaffairsbruxelles.eu/opinion-analysis/the-data-act-six-impossible-things-before-breakfast/>

<https://www.digitaleurope.org/news/data-act-right-ambition-to-unlock-data-potential-but-obligations-would-hold-back-europes-data-driven-recovery/>

<https://datainnovation.org/2022/05/feedback-on-the-data-act-proposal-by-the-european-commission/>

<https://www.pooldata.io/blog/a-comment-on-the-data-act>

<https://www.bruegel.org/comment/timid-start-european-union-data-governance>

[on personal data protection...:]

<https://techcrunch.com/2018/01/20/wtf-is-gdpr/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2018/06/11/a-case-against-the-general-data-protection-regulation/>

3. STRATEGIC AUTONOMY – The Chips Act

Main reference document:

The European Chips Act

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022PC0046>

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-chips-act_en

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0045>

<https://www.eetimes.eu/eu-chips-act-after-theory-practice/>

<https://www.ifri.org/en/publications/briefings-de-lifri/fishing-chips-assessing-chips-act>

<https://www.bruegel.org/blog-post/europes-promised-semiconductor-subsidies-need-be-better-targeted>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/budget-squabbles-put-eu-on-the-back-foot-in-the-chips-race/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-geopolitics-of-ai-and-the-rise-of-digital-sovereignty/>

<https://epthinktank.eu/2022/07/15/the-eu-chips-act-securing-europes-supply-of-semiconductors-eu-legislation-in-progress/>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/european-union-chips-industrial-policy-european-chips-act-semiconductors/>

4. PLATFORMS REGULATION – The Digital Markets Act

Main reference document:

Digital Markets Act :

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R1925>

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/digital-markets-act-ensuring-fair-and-open-digital-markets_en

<https://theconversation.com/can-the-eus-digital-markets-act-rein-in-big-tech-192373>

<https://techcrunch.com/2022/03/25/how-europe-has-expanded-its-bid-to-disrupt-big-tech/>

<https://www.competitionpolicyinternational.com/the-digital-markets-act-the-path-to-overregulation/>

<https://www.bruegel.org/2021/02/regulating-big-tech-the-digital-markets-act/>

<https://voxeu.org/content/what-are-we-regulating>

<https://voxeu.org/article/european-commission-digital-markets-act-translation>

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/summary-report-open-public-consultation-digital-services-act-package>

<https://ec.europa.eu/competition/publications/reports/kd0419345enn.pdf>

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/policies/online-platforms>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2020/12/eus-digital-markets-act-there-lot-room-improvement>

<https://cerre.eu/publications/digital-markets-act-economic-regulation-platforms-digital-age/>

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0288&from=EN>

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1784_en.htm

<https://www.ft.com/content/46434ced-a4c9-47a0-8d78-1f1212ddf0e5>

5. ONLINE ILLEGAL CONTENT – The Digital Services Act

Main reference document:

Digital Services Act

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2065&qid=1666857835014>

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/digital-services-act-ensuring-safe-and-accountable-online-environment_en

<https://www.politico.eu/article/5-things-to-know-about-the-eu-content-moderation-law-digital-services-act/>

<https://techcrunch.com/2022/04/22/google-facebook-apple-eu-lobbying-report/>

<http://competitionlawblog.kluwercompetitionlaw.com/2022/10/19/the-digital-services-act-published-a-good-start-and-yet-just-a-start/>

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/11/28/digital-regulation-must-empower-people-to-make-the-internet-better/>

<https://techcrunch.com/2022/11/30/elon-musk-twitter-eu-dsa-warning/>

<https://www.article19.org/resources/does-the-digital-services-act-protect-freedom-of-expression/>

<https://www.eff.org/it/deeplinks/2022/02/enforcement-overreach-could-turn-out-be-real-problem-eus-digital-services-act>

https://dsa-observatory.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Buri-Van-Hoboken-DSA-discussion-paper-Version-28_10_21.pdf

6.DIGITAL IDENTITY / DIGITAL GOVERNMENT - Policies for a digitised public sector

Main reference document:

Regulation for European Digital Identity

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0281>

The eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52016DC0179>

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-digital-identity_en

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/egovernment-action-plan>

<https://www.raconteur.net/technology/problems-identified-for-new-eu-digital-identity-wallet/>

<https://techmonitor.ai/digital-identity/the-state-of-digital-identity-in-europe>

<https://blog.pwc.lu/eu-digital-identity-why-it-makes-sense-and-the-challenges-ahead/>

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC120865>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0740624X15000775>

<https://www.oecd.org/gov/the-path-to-becoming-a-data-driven-public-sector-059814a7-en.htm>

7 ONLINE PLATFORM WORKERS – Policies to protect workers in the digital economy

Main reference document:

PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE on improving the working conditions in platform work

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=24992&langId=en>

Resources:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/platform-work-eu/>

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6605

<https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-publications/study-to-gather-evidence-on-the-working-conditions-of-platform-workers/>

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC112157>

<https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/2021/lang--en/index.htm>

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2018/employment-and-working-conditions-of-selected-types-of-platform-work>

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652734/IPOL_STU\(2020\)652734_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652734/IPOL_STU(2020)652734_EN.pdf)

<https://www.uber.com/en-BE/newsroom/euplatformwork/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/05/15/is-the-gig-economy-working>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/01/opinion/the-dark-side-of-the-sharing-economy.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/26/nyregion/what-the-sharing-economy-really-delivers-entitlement.html>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vassilis_Hatzopoulos/publication/316094932_Caring_for_sharing_The_collaborative_economy_under_EU_law/links/5bbee34345851572315ed62c/Caring-for-sharing-The-collaborative-economy-under-EU-law

8. DIGITAL SKILLS - Policies to address the shortage of digital skills

Main reference document:

Digital Education Action Plan

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan>

Resources:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en>

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/policies/digital-skills>

<https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/latest/news/eurobarometer-2021-difficulty-learning-new-digital-skills-top-concern-europeans>

<https://www.digitaleurope.org/news/digitaleurope-sets-three-areas-of-priority-for-european-digital-skills/>

<https://www.digitaleurope.org/resources/why-it-is-time-to-move-digital-skills-to-the-top-of-the-eu-agenda/>

http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC117505/the_changing_nature_of_work_online_v5.pdf

<https://www.politico.eu/article/why-europe-still-lacks-silicon-valleys-sex-appeal/>

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/skill-shift-automation-and-the-future-of-the-workforce#>

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/new-skills-youth-succeed-post-covid-world>

9. ONLINE DISINFORMATION – Policies to address the spread of harmful content online
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Main reference documents:

Communication on Tackling online disinformation: a European Approach

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0236&from=EN>

and

The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

Resources:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/online-disinformation>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/media-freedom>

<https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu/article/self-regulation-20-a-critical-reflection-of-the-european-fight-against-disinformation/>

<https://www.cer.eu/insights/will-digital-services-act-save-europe-disinformation>

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/54866/action-plan-against-disinformation_en

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2022/08/05/eu-code-of-practice-on-disinformation/>

https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=56166

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/final-report-high-level-expert-group-fake-news-and-online-disinformation>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/how-anti-vax-went-viral/>

<https://euinternetpolicy.wordpress.com/2019/07/30/the-eu-digital-services-act-what-it-is-and-why-it-shouldnt-happen/>

<https://www.politico.eu/sponsored-content/its-time-to-update-the-eus-internet-rules/>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/fake-news-facebook-hate-speech-google-twitter-elections/>

<https://navigator.oii.ox.ac.uk/>

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=senatedocs>

10. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ETHICS – Policies to foster AI and address AI ethical issues

Main reference document(s):

The Artificial Intelligence Act

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/75788>

Resources:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/excellence-and-trust-artificial-intelligence_en

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-white-paper-artificial-intelligence-feb2020_en.pdf

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/05/13/1052223/guide-ai-act-europe/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/white-paper-artificial-intelligence-public-consultation-towards-european-approach-excellence>

<https://hk.boell.org/en/2022/01/03/eus-artificial-intelligence-act-should-some-applications-ai-be-beyond-pale>

<https://techcrunch.com/2022/09/06/the-eus-ai-act-could-have-a-chilling-effect-on-open-source-efforts-experts-warn/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-eu-ai-act-will-have-global-impact-but-a-limited-brussels-effect/>

<https://techmonitor.ai/policy/meps-are-preparing-to-debate-europes-ai-act-these-are-the-most-contentious-issues>

Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI

https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=60419

https://ainowinstitute.org/AI_Now_2018_Report.pdf

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/china-social-credit>

<https://www.wired.com/brandlab/2018/08/reimagining-business-ai/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/05/14/how-frightened-should-we-be-of-ai>

<https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/the-hidden-costs-of-automated-thinking>