Democratic Tech Alliance

Concept note for event on Tuesday 2 September

Matching funding and ambition: investment and industrial strategy for European public digital infrastructure to foster democratic resilience

Time: 12.00 to 14.00 Location: European Parliament - Room ASP 5E2

Sponsors Alex Agius Saliba MEP and Axel Voss MEP

The Democratic Tech Alliance brings together policymakers, civil society and industry representatives to identify the actions the EU needs to take to create a values-based tech ecosystem for European society, individual citizens and businesses alike.

The current technology ecosystem with several dominant foreign owned platforms is having a direct impact on the democratic processes in the EU and its Member States. For enhancing democratic resilience under the proposed European Democracy Shield the tech infrastructure on which our digital lives play out are an important factor.

During a two-hour expert meeting in the European Parliament, we will discuss the different proposals and the expertise on Public Digital Infrastructure also in relation to the proposed MFF, the competitiveness fund and upcoming Procurement Directive revision,

After this meeting will put together a white paper by Democratic Tech Alliance with concrete actions to be undertaken by the European Commission in this regards. With the support of the MEPs in the alliance will present those ideas to Commission EVP Virkunnen and or the DG Connect leadership.

Draft agenda

12h00 Welcome and opening statements by Alex Agius Saliba MEP

12h10 Introduction on behalf of the Democratic Tech Alliance by
- Wouter De Iongh, president of Commons Network
- Sebastiano Toffaletti of Secretary General of Digital SME

12h20 Keynote speech by Marietje Schaake, *Stanford Cyber Policy Center* (Remote)

12h30 Short Q&A

12h40 Panel discussion with experts and industry, moderated by Martin Hullin of Bertelsmann Foundation:

- Robin Berjon, Free our Feeds
- Francesca Bria, Mercator Foundation
- Cristina Caffarra, Centre for Economic Policy Research
- Robert Jozic, Member of the Executive Board of Schwartz Digits

- Clark Parsons, European StartUp Network
- Andreas Rode, CCO of Nextcloud

13h10 Respondents from different politcal groups:
- Aura Salla (EPP)
- Elena Sancho Murillo (S&D)
- Michal Kobosko (Renew) (tbc)
- Alexandra Geese (Greens) (tbc)

13h30 Reaction on behalf of the European Commission by representative of DG Connect (tbc)

13h40 Discussion with the other participants

13h55 Conclusions and closing remarks on behalf of the Democratic Tech Alliance by Axel Voss MEP

14h00 End of meeting