

ONLINE EVENT, 7 DEC 2022, 15:00 CET

# DATA ACT:

REGULATORY OVERREACH  
OR APPROPRIATE?

# 2022 EVENT

The European Committee for Interoperable Systems (ECIS) is pleased to invite you to its annual event, which will focus on **the European Commission's Data Act proposal**.

This is shaping up to be a cornerstone of regulation in the technology sector – a potential global benchmark for data and cloud, comparable to GDPR for data privacy in terms of its likely impact.

We will focus on cloud interoperability, both in terms of software and data and will discuss the provisions in the proposal concerning switching and interoperability. In the first part, we will look closely at the Data Act and its provisions. In the second part, the focus will be on the proposed Act within the broader landscape of technology regulation and its likely global impact on international trade and cybersecurity.

## ABOUT ECIS

ECIS is an international non-profit association founded in 1989 that endeavours to promote a favourable environment for interoperable ICT solutions. It has actively represented its members on issues relating to interoperability and competition before European, international and national fora, including the EU institutions and WIPO.

ECIS' members include large and smaller information and communications technology hardware and software providers. The association strives to promote market conditions in the ICT sector that ensure that there is vigorous competition on the merits and a diversity of consumer choice.

Any individual or organisation may apply to be admitted as a member of ECIS. In order to be admitted as a member, the applicant must show that it shares ECIS' philosophic views and aims, and that its conduct reflects this. Interested member candidates should contact the ECIS Secretariat at [info@ecis.eu](mailto:info@ecis.eu).





# AGENDA

Welcome and opening remarks by

**Jonathan Sage**

Chair of the EU Public Affairs Group, ECIS

Discussion chaired by moderator

**Lara Natale**

Senior EU Advisor – Data Economy, Vodafone

**Topic 1: the Data Act provisions, a framework for  
effective switching and efficient data  
interoperability**

**Pierre Chastanet**

Head of Unit Cloud & Software, European Commission

**Filip Swiderski**

Principal Policy Advisor ECR Group in the  
European Parliament's IMCO Committee

**Emilie Petras-Sohie**

Senior Legal & Policy Manager, IBM

**Topic 2: the wider implications of the Data Act on,  
for example, cybersecurity and international trade**

**Hannah Bracken**

Policy Analyst, U.S Department of Commerce

**Paul Timmers**

Professor, European University Cyprus,  
University of Oxford, Cybersecurity,  
strategic autonomy and sovereignty

**Jonathan Sage**

**Q&A for the general audience**

Closing remarks by **Lara Natale**

# BIOGRAPHIES



**PIERRE CHASTANET**

Pierre Chastanet is Head of the Unit for Cloud and Software in the European Commission and oversees the development and implementation of the European policies on Cloud and Free Flow of Data. Mr. Chastanet has been working for 16 years at the European Commission in various management and policy development assignments, in the areas of cybersecurity, digital privacy, ICT for societal challenges, green ICT, and telecom innovation. Prior to that, Mr. Chastanet gained more than 11 years of ICT experience, mostly in various IT management positions in a large multinational company. He holds an MSc in Telecommunication Engineering from Telecom ParisTech, an M.A. in International Politics from the Free University of Brussels (ULB), and a BSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



**FILIP SWIDERSKI**

Filip Swiderski is the principal policy adviser in the ECR Group in the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee. Mr. Swiderski is active across all areas of single market regulation, with a particular emphasis on digital policies. Since joining the ECR Group he has prepared the Group's positions on several digital initiatives, including the Digital Services Act and Digital Operational Resilience Act. He is currently leading the work on the Data Act, for which Mr. Bielan, ECR Group Coordinator in IMCO, is the rapporteur on provisions affecting cloud switching. Prior to joining the European Parliament, Mr. Swiderski gained professional experience in IT services and project management.



**EMILIE PETRAS-SOHIE**

Emilie Petras-Sohie is a lawyer with great expertise in the IT industry. She is a Senior Legal and policy Manager at IBM, where she has been working for more than 14 years, first supporting the business in negotiating transactions, before joining the Brussels Government and Regulatory Affairs team. Emilie previously worked providing legal advice to ING. She holds a Master's degree in Law from Université Libre de Bruxelles and is a graduate from Universidad Pontificia Comillas.



# BIOGRAPHIES



**HANNAH BRACKEN**

Hannah Bracken is a Policy Advisor focused on data flows in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Digital Services Industries. Hannah previously worked on digital policy at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels and before that was part of the digital economy team at Cullen International, where she focused on cybersecurity policy. Hannah received her Master's degree from Sciences Po in Paris and worked as a trainee lawyer in Paris for a year. Hannah obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago.



**PAUL TIMMERS**

Prof. Dr. Paul Timmers is a research associate at the University of Oxford, Oxford Internet Institute, professor at European University Cyprus, visiting professor at KU Leuven and the University of Rijeka, senior advisor EPC Brussels, President of the Supervisory Board Estonian eGovernance Academy, member of the EU Cyber Direct Advisory Board, and CEO of iivii. Previously, he was Director at the European Commission/DG CONNECT where has held responsibility for legislation and funding programmes for cybersecurity, e-ID, digital privacy, digital health, smart cities, and e-government. He was also a cabinet member of European Commissioner Liikanen. He worked as manager of a software department in a large ICT company and co-founded an ICT start-up. He holds a physics PhD from Radboud University (Nijmegen, NL), MBA from Warwick University (UK), EU fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill (US), and a cybersecurity qualification from Harvard. His main interests are digital policy, geopolitics, and Europe. He frequently publishes and speaks on digital developments, sovereignty, cybersecurity, industrial policy, and sectoral policies such as digital health and is regularly advising governments and think tanks.



**LARA NATALE**

Lara Natale is an expert in tech and digital policy and most recently joined Vodafone as Senior EU Affairs Advisor. Before that, Lara directed the Tech, Media, Telecom and Mobility activities at the Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE). Lara also co-led the Tech, Media, Telecoms practice at FTI Consulting EU, providing strategic EU public policy and regulatory counsel to global businesses and served as Attaché at the (then-named) UK Permanent Representation to the EU, negotiating digital, culture, skills and other legislation.

# BIOGRAPHIES



**JONATHAN SAGE**

Jonathan is a leading practitioner in cloud computing and cybersecurity policy. He is a special policy advisor at Portland Communications and Chair of the Policy Group at ECIS Brussels (European Committee for Interoperable Systems).

Until recently he led IBM's cloud computing and cyber security policy in the EU, developing IBM's response to EU cyber security regulatory interventions such as the NIS 2.0 Directive and the Cyber Security Act. He also led IBM's policy engagement in GDPR implementation and related Data Protection measures such as Codes of Conduct and is currently chair of the leading GDPR compliance mechanism for cloud services under GDPR, the EU Cloud Code of Conduct. He was the advocacy and communications lead in the Charter of Trust for Cybersecurity, for the leading global initiative on building digital trust which IBM co-founded in 2018. Other areas of expertise where Jonathan has played a leading role in formulating public policy strategies with a proven track record are Artificial Intelligence including the likely AI regulation at EU level, Intellectual Property in particular patent strategies, open source and open standards, data transfer mechanisms post Snowden, competition policy – both mergers and antitrust complaints, and technical standards and certification in software.

In previous roles, looking back, he was a managing consultant in the strategic change practice in IBM Global Business Services. Before the acquisition by IBM, in PricewaterhouseCoopers he led the EMEA internal knowledge management team. Jonathan was marketing director for a UK software start-up, which pioneered the first eCommerce applications in the mid 90's. In public sector, he served as the Commercial Attache for the British Embassy in Vienna responsible for trade in the capital goods. He was Assistant Professor at the University of Business Administration and Economics in Vienna. He was also on the faculty of the Open University Business School tutor in Strategy. Jonathan is currently an external lecturer at the College of Europe in Bruges in technology and law and visiting professor at the University of Babes Bolyai, Romania.

Jonathan holds a degree in modern languages from the University of Oxford and an MBA from Henley Business School, UK. He is a fluent German and French speaker and has worked in Germany, Austria, France and Belgium as well as the UK.



**ECIS** European Committee  
for Interoperable Systems

