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‘If we can’t learn from our history, then we are almost condemned to repeat it.’

— **Stella Kyriakides**, European commissioner for health and food safety, speaks at the High-Level Roundtable on Coronavirus: Next Steps

COVID-19: Next Steps in Europe’s Battle



Andreas Schleicher



Victor Negrescu

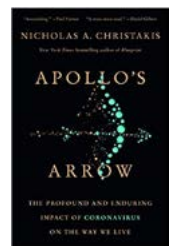


Silvia Merisio

Amid a high-level audience of scientists, top policymakers, hospital administrators and concerned citizens from 16 European Union member states, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Roundtable on Next Steps in Europe’s COVID-9 Battle: How You Fight Pandemics – and How You Can Ultimately Win](#).

Stella Kyriakides, European commissioner for health and food safety, delivered a blistering keynote, calling on all Europeans to rally behind the [European health union](#) proposals. Nicholas A. Christakis, Sterling professor of social and natural science, internal medicine and biomedical engineering and director of the Human Nature Lab and the Institute for Network Science at Yale University, gave a withering assessment of the battle still ahead of us and used the occasion to launch the European editions of [Apollo’s Arrow: The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live](#), his new and highly-rated book, which was [excerpted last summer in The Economist](#). The Lisbon Council also looked at the crisis transversally, posing questions not only about the evident economic and public health effects but also about the readiness of the population to thrive under an intense and prolonged lockdown. Andreas Schleicher, director for education and skills and special advisor on education policy to the secretary-general at the Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development (OECD), spoke at the [Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Education at a Glance: Building a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Society](#), an online meeting convened by the Lisbon Council to serve as the European launch of [Education at a Glance 2020: The Impact of COVID-19 on Education](#), the OECD flagship report. Silvia Merisio, policy officer at the communications networks, content and technology directorate general of the European Commission; and Victor Negrescu, vice-president of the culture and education committee in the European Parliament and rapporteur of the shaping digital education in Europe initiative, gave ringing interventions. [Watch the Full Debate at Coronavirus: Next Steps Roundtable](#); [Watch the Full Debate on Building a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Society](#).



Nicholas Christakis presents *Apollo’s Arrow*

‘When we speak about democracy, the question is whether we need to digitalise democracy or democratise digital. I think we have to do both.’

– Věra Jourová, vice-president for values and transparency at the European Commission, speaking at the Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Democracy on the Line

Strengthening Democracy: **New Initiatives, New Tools**



Raphaël
Glucksmann



Paolo
Celot



Marisa
Jimenez Martín



Hans
Martens

The Lisbon Council convened the [Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Democracy on the Line](#), a unique gathering of citizens, platform representatives, senior policymakers and digital aficionados to discuss the upcoming democracy action plan proposed by the European Commission. Věra Jourová, vice-president for values and transparency at the European Commission, keynoted, laying out key themes and priorities. Raphaël Glucksmann, chair of the special

committee on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation, in the European Parliament, highlighted areas he would like to see strengthened and defended. Later, Paolo Celot, founder and secretary-general of the European Association for Viewers Interests (EAVI); Marisa Jimenez Martín, deputy head of European Union affairs at Facebook; and Hans Martens, head of digital citizenship at European Schoolnet, Europe’s leading network of education ministries and teachers, also intervened.



Vice-President Jourová

The Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Transformation



Markus
Richter



Eileen
Fuchs



Paolo
Schiavo



Jonas Slørdahl
Skjærpe

The Lisbon Council took a prominent role in the roll-out of [The Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government](#), a 16-page manifesto conceived and executed by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Paul Hofheinz, president and co-founder of the Lisbon Council, spoke at the Declaration launch conference alongside German State Secretary Markus Richter, who spearheaded the German Presidency’s efforts to unite Europe’s 27 digital ministers and government

chief information officers (CIOs) behind this far sighted declaration. To begin the crucial work of adoption and implementation, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Roundtable on Human-Centric Digital Government: The Berlin Declaration in Practice](#). Eileen Fuchs, head of the EU digital policy division at the federal ministry of the interior in Germany; Francesco Paolo Schiavo, director general of the ministry of economy and finance of Italy; Jonas Slørdahl Skjærpe, CIO at the Labour and Welfare Service (Norway); and Maria Taivalsaari Røhnebæk, fellow at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN), presented new research. The roundtable was hosted by the [Understanding Value Co- Creation in Public Services for Transforming European Public Administrations \(Co-VAL\) project](#), a 12-partner consortium co-financed by the European Union.

Competition Economics: **A High-Level Platform**



Douglas
Melamed



Jonathan
Faull

Europeans are setting out in new directions on competition policy. On the one hand, the European Commission is proposing “ex-ante rules” and “new competition tools” with the digital services act and the digital markets act. On the other, some are proposing looser market definitions for future merger reviews in order to forge “European champions” in increasingly competitive global markets. There might be some good ideas here; there might be some bad ones, too. To inform this debate, the Lisbon Council has embarked on a multi-meeting set of high-level conversations: how can the wisdom of past experience be

used to best inform the action of the future? And if current rules are inadequate, how and where can they be best improved? Douglas Melamed, professor of law practice at Stanford Law School and former acting assistant attorney general in charge of anti-trust at the U.S. department of justice, and Jonathan Faull, chair for public affairs at Brunswick Group and former director-general for justice and home affairs and capital markets at the European Commission, kicked off the [High-Level Roundtable on Competition Economics: Rethinking Antitrust Law](#). Future seminars will look at the unique challenges of competition policy in the digital age. [Download Douglas Melamed Paper on Antitrust Law and Its Critics](#).

‘Thank you [to the Lisbon Council] for hosting this, but also for your leadership on the human capital front. It’s something that we risk to forget in a moment of crisis, when everything turns to the urgent. But I think the long term future of our economies, really depends on the skills that we build for tomorrow.’

— **Andreas Schleicher**, director for education and skills at the OECD, speaks at the Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Education at a Glance

Cross Border Data Flows: **Sleepwalking into Disaster?**



Ricardo Castanheira



Javier López González



Karina Stan

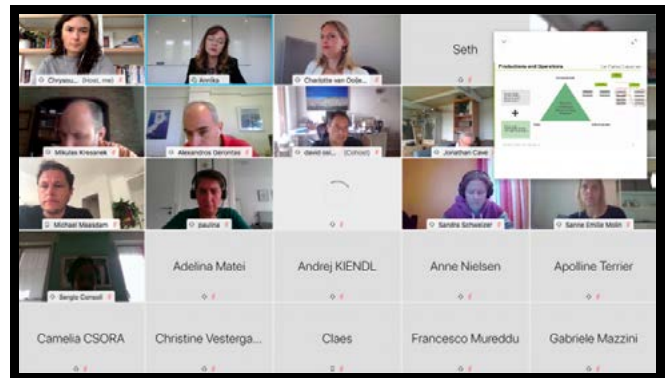


More than 20 zettabytes of data flow around the world today, providing the backbone for modern commerce, entertainment, even social interaction. And yet, we still hear increasing appeals to restrict those data flows on various grounds such as national security, personal data privacy or sometimes just the success of some nations in areas where Europe’s efforts have been weak. As the European Commission writes a new data-management strategy, the Lisbon Council steps up its efforts to ensure that the role of data trade in 21st century prosperity is well understood and the efforts to regulate it do more to

strengthen market access to ethical players than to close it. At the **High-Level Roundtable on 21st Century Digital Trade: Why Cross Border Data Flows are Key to Europe’s Success**, Janos Ferencz, trade policy analyst, and Javier López González, senior trade policy analyst, at the OECD, presented *The Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index*, the OECD’s new project for measuring international data trade and tracking progress in a fast-moving world. Ricardo Castanheira, digital and telecoms counsellor at the permanent representation of Portugal to the European Union, offered a *tour d’horizon* of the forthcoming Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union plans, and Karina Stan, director of European Union policy at the Developers Alliance, discussed the special challenge of digital trade for startups and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Data for Policy: **How Machine Learning Can Drive Better Public Services**

The Lisbon Council continues its year-long investigation of the role advanced data analytics is playing in policymaking at the local level. Most recently, Annika M. Jacobsen, head of the data-mining unit at *ATP-Udbetaling Danmark*, delivered a ground-breaking keynote on the way Denmark is working to improve welfare services at the **High-Level Roundtable on Machine Learning and Data Analytics for Citizen Support and Government Savings**. Seth van Hooland, programme manager at the European Commission’s directorate general for informatics, introduced the topic. The project, done in collaboration with the European Commission, is based on 15 case studies, all of which can be downloaded and discussed through interactive comments on the [Data Analytics for Member States Joinup Website](#).



Webinar on Data for Policy

The Forum: **Evidence and New Research**



Alessandro Leipold



David Osimo



As the world evolves, the Lisbon Council knows it has to change with it. That is why, after a decade of producing mostly research papers and high-level public-policy discussions, we have launched **The Forum**, an online magazine for informed opinion, constructive debate, robust evidence

and speedy commentary on the pressing events of the day. Chief Economist Alessandro Leipold kicked off the series with *Hamilton, Copernicus, Rubicon... Is Next Generation EU a ‘Moment’ at All?* a blistering commentary on the political cost of endless wrangling over the European Union’s new budget mechanisms and proposed recovery fund. Later, Director of Research David Osimo published *The Rule of Law Dashboard: How Transparent Visualisation Can Improve Policy and Drive Progress*, which walks readers through the *Rule of Law Dashboard*, a novel way of bringing increased transparency and new insight to one of Europe’s hottest policy areas.

‘We want this committee to be not only on disinformation but also on foreign interference, because we think that basically it’s not disinformation that we are facing. It’s a systematic hybrid war on our institutions and our principles.’

— **Raphaël Glucksmann**, chair of the special committee on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European union, including disinformation (INGE) in the European Parliament, speaks at the Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Democracy on the Line

News and Outreach



Johanna Barton



Chrysoula Mitta



Paul Hofheinz



Francesco Mureddu

The Lisbon Council continued deepening its team, adding two senior associates to its roster in an effort to expand and deepen coverage of essential issues. Johanna Barton joined as project manager and research associate, bringing her deep knowledge of digital government honed at the Pioneer Erasmus Mundus Master Programme, co-led by KU Leuven, the University of Münster and Tallinn University of Technology. And Chrysoula Mitta is promoted to

associate director operations and community management, where she will continue to oversee community relations and high-level communications. Elsewhere, other principals continued a busy round of public speaking and outreach. President Paul Hofheinz spoke at the Europe Network Readiness and Digital Transformation Spotlight Summit, convened by the Portulans Institute in cooperation with UNESCO and ICANN Europe. Director Francesco Mureddu joined the Impact Creation Board, a group of tech policy experts that will advise Policy Cloud, a 14-partner consortium committed to making data-driven policy management a reality in Europe. Director of Research David Osimo chaired the closing plenary of the Semantic Interoperability Community 2020 conference.

Forthcoming

The 2021 Co-Creation Summit

Understanding Value Co-Creation in Public Services for Transforming European Public Administrations (Co-VAL) consortium partners gather for this high-level summit on the state of “co-creation” in public services. The discussions will be animated by a new policy brief on

pioneering cases of co-creation, design thinking and user-centric public service – and a high-level exchange among leading scholars and public administrators in this fast-moving field.



UserCentriCities: Towards Common Indicators and Local Government Support



In collaboration with VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Eurocities and the European Commission, the Lisbon Council launches a three-year project with

six leading European cities and regions (Espoo, Milan, Murcia, Rotterdam, Tallinn and Emilia Romagna) to develop new metrics for driving digital government at the local level.

The Forum: A Burning Platform for High-Level Proposals

The Lisbon Council will develop its high-level forum for European debate with guest blogs by Peter Gluckman, director of Koi Tū: Centre for Informed Futures in New Zealand, on science, education and climate change; Elina Lepomäki, member of the Parliament of Finland, on welfare reform and

basic income; and Radostaw Sikorski, member of the European Parliament, on security and international trade.



Peter Gluckman

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