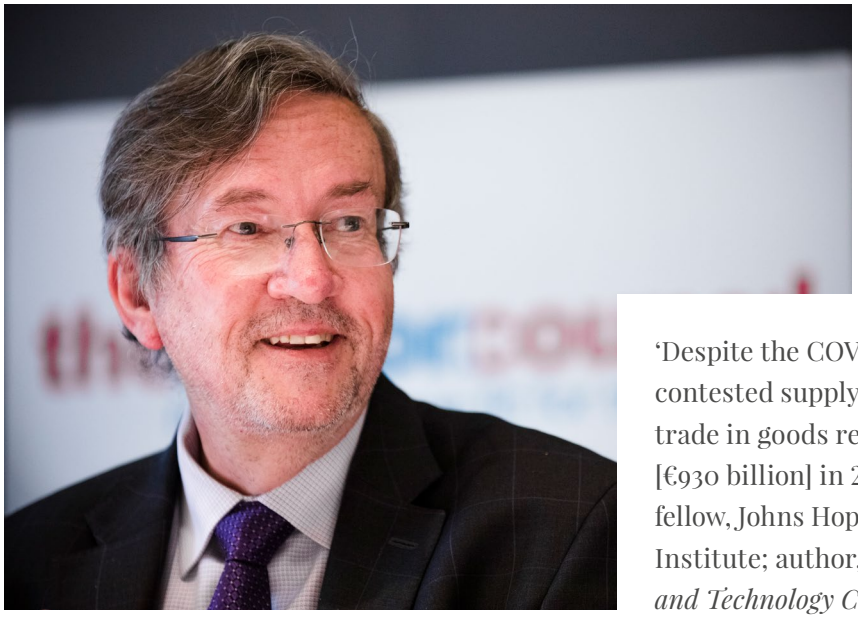
theLisboncouncil
think tank for the 21st century

Newsletter
JANUARY-JUNE 2022
Vol. 19
No.1

The Great Reset 1
Green, Digital and Competitive 1
Artificial Intelligence 2
Evidence-Based Policymaking 2
Strategic Foresight 2
New Horizons 3
News and Outreach 4
Forthcoming 4



'Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, inflationary challenges, contested supply chains and war in Ukraine, transatlantic trade in goods reached an all-time high of $1.1 trillion [€930 billion] in 2021.' Prof Daniel S. Hamilton, senior fellow, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Foreign Policy Institute; author, *Getting to 'Yes:' Making the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council Effective*

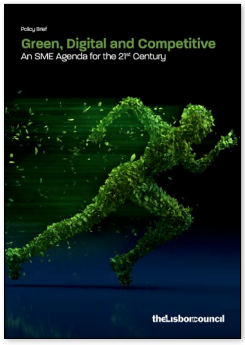
U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council: From Principles to Action

Rupert Schlegelmilch

Paul Hofheinz

On the eve of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council, Paul Hofheinz, president of the Lisbon Council, launched **The Great Reset: Why the Future of Democracy Rests on Robust Transatlantic Cooperation**, a hard-hitting policy brief that calls for the U.S. and EU to make common cause and exert global leadership in three areas; 1) climate change, 2) digital governance and 3) security by design. The conclusions fed the **Roundtable on The Road to Saclay: Transatlantic Relations and the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council**, a high-level pow-wow among top U.S.-EU trade experts convened by the Lisbon Council and led by Prof Daniel S. Hamilton, senior fellow, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Foreign Policy Institute; and Rupert Schlegelmilch, acting deputy director-general, directorate-general for trade, European Commission.

Green, Digital and Competitive: An SME Agenda for the 21st Century



Consultants often say, "if you want to change something, figure out how to measure it." It is in that spirit that the Lisbon Council launched **The 2021 Green, Digital and Competitive SME Index**, a comprehensive catalogue of 33 indicators which ranks and measures progress on Europe's flagship initiatives: the green and digital transition.

The project includes 27 country profiles – broken down in national detail – and is based on public data and structured interviews with leading SMEs. Watch Interview with Authors.

See additional data visualisations and other interactive features at https://gdc.lisboncouncil.net/.

'As a booster to digitalisation, artificial intelligence has a strategic relevance for all of us. We should try to focus on AI and take the lead in its development.'

— Axel Voss, member of the European Parliament (European People's Party, Germany) and rapporteur (JURI) on the **Artificial Intelligence Act**

Artificial Intelligence: Global Challenges, European Solutions

Axel Voss

Alexandra Ebert

Andrew W. Wyckoff

William A. Carter

As Europe's proposal for a *Regulation Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (the AI Act)* works its way through the legislative system, the Lisbon Council convened the **High-Level Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence: Regulating Innovation and Innovating Regulation**. Axel Voss, member of the European Parliament (Germany, European People's Party) and a rapporteur on the AI Act; William A. Carter, global lead for responsible AI, AI governance and regulation at Google; Alexandra Ebert, chief trust officer at MOSTLY AI, an Austrian startup; and Andrew W. Wyckoff, director of science, technology and innovation at the OECD, led a fascinating discussion on the challenge of categorising AI by use and risk, a key element of the proposed European legislation. Watch the High-Level Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence: Regulating Innovation and Innovating Regulation.

Evidence-Based Policymaking: A Crucial Foundation for Tech Regulation

David Osimo

The Lisbon Council believes good policy should be "evidence-based," and, officially, who doesn't think that? But when is evidence reliable? And when has it been applied callously or ineffectively? Getting answers to these questions will be crucial going forward – and for two simple reasons: Europe has set itself the goal of becoming the world's leading technology-sector regulator and any region that sees itself as the world's regulator will surely need to invest time and energy into correctly evaluating markets and weighing evidence. Buoyed by more than 254 datapoints and interactive charts, the Lisbon Council re-launched the **Digital Services Evidence Hub**, a cutting-edge platform for cultivating, curating and evaluating evidence that drives discussion. Download "Context is King: How Correct Data Can Lead to False Conclusions," a sizzling new analysis of data-evaluation dilemmas from Director of Research David Osimo. Download "A Critique of Pure Friction: Does More Hassle Mean Additional Safety and Better Regulation?" Visit https://evidencehub.net/.

Context is King: How Correct Data Can Lead to False Conclusions

David Osimo

On 12 October 2021, in a now infamous **Joe Rogan Podcast** anti-vaxxer Alex Berenson said that "the vast majority of people in Britain who died in September were fully vaccinated," offering this dubious fact to support his view that COVID-19 vaccines were as dangerous as the virus itself. The statement, while formally correct and based on official data from the United Kingdom National Health Service, was highly misleading: it missed the crucial context that the vast majority of the British population was vaccinated so of course the vast majority who died was vaccinated as well. In fact, the mortality rate of the unvaccinated population – seen in the right context – was several times higher than the

Digital Future: Thought Leadership and Strategic Foresight

Benedict Evans

Françoise Mercadal-Delasalles

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui

Brian Williamson

In the past year, the Lisbon Council has emerged as a crucial go-to hub for new ideas and strategic foresight. Benedict Evans, renowned technology policy analyst and venture capitalist, keynoted **Three Steps to the Future: Technology Trends for 2025, 2030 and Beyond**, a fascinating webinar on crypto, web3, virtual reality, the metaverse and more. He was joined by Françoise Mercadal-Delasalles, co-chair of the *Conseil national du numérique*, French President Emmanuel Macron's internal think tank. Later, Brian Williamson, partner at Communications Chambers, launched a new paper at the **High-Level Roundtable on Decoding the Internet Traffic Tax**. And Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, led a fascinating breakout on the OECD Recommendation on SME and Entrepreneurship Policy.

New Horizons: The Way Forward

Along with its cutting-edge research capabilities and second-to-none convening authority, the Lisbon Council builds and mobilises large coalitions capable of ambitiously analysing key issues, sharing experience and delivering cutting-edge solutions for improved governance and change for the better. Today, the think tank collaborates with more than 100 organisations – many of them among Europe's most respected institutions – and an array of municipal authorities, regions, governments and policymakers. Among the most important projects:

UserCentriCities: A Collaborative Platform to Compare and Improve Digital Services

Barcelona, Brussels Capital Region, Espoo, Ghent, Glasgow, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Kyiv, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Madrid, Mataró, Milan, Murcia, Paris, Porto, Rotterdam and Tallinn take an active role in this high-powered, deep-dive on the cutting-edge of digital government and local-service delivery [Catalonia Region (Spain), Kronoberg Region (Sweden), Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy), IE Center for C-Centricity (Spain), VTT Technical Research Centre (Finland), Eurocities and the Lisbon Council are also partners]. The three-year project, co-funded by the European Union, will define and benchmark best practice in digital-service delivery in a series of policy briefs and summits, including a **constantly updated performance dashboard** and a cutting-edge **User-Centric Services Repository**. More recently, the consortium asked 35 cities and departments to present their most user-centric digital-government projects to be evaluated by an Expert Jury as part of **The 2022 UserCentriCities Award**. The winner: **Helsinki**, where leading officials developed an app to offer pre-primary-school places to newborn babies. For more, visit https://www.usercentricities.eu/.

Across: Mapping Cross-Border Services in Digital Europe

This 10-member consortium of leading technical institutes – including Athens Technology Center s.a. (Greece), Dataport (Germany), Fraunhofer (Germany), Fundacion Tecnalia Research and Innovation (Spain), Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A. (Italy), the Lisbon Council and more, takes a three-year look at the power and potential of cross-border digital services – and the challenge of delivering them seamlessly and effectively across borders. Most recently, consortium members developed **User-Centricity, Interoperability and Citizens' Data Sovereignty: The Foundations of Cross-Border Digital Public Services**, a policy brief launched at the **Roundtable on Human-Centric Digital Government: From Research to Action**. For more, visit https://across-h2020.eu/.

Decido: Better Evidence-Based Policymaking With Citizen Science and Cloud Computing

This three-year, 14-partner consortium, co-funded by the European Union, was set up to explore and develop better tools for evidence-based, data-driven policymaking. The consortium has published several studies, including **Data-Driven Policy Cluster Report on Policy Prediction: The Future of Evidence-Based Policymaking**, a 14-author deep dive into the challenges of designing timely, data-driven and cloud-enabled policy decisions that makes six policy recommendations. For more, visit https://www.decido-project.eu/.

data.europa.eu

The Lisbon Council works with four as part of data.europa.eu, the European Commission's flagship open data portal. Together, they launched **Measuring Data Demand Within the Public Sector**, a discussion paper on the demand, use and re-use of data for better policymaking in the public sector. For more, visit https://data.europa.eu/en/news/learn-about-how-measure-data-demand-public-sector-our-latest-discussion-paper.

‘The most exciting themes in technology today are the transformative visions for 2025: crypto, web3, virtual reality, the metaverse. The old economy faces waves of disruption from ideas we first talked about in the 1990s.’

— Benedict Evans, renowned technology-sector analyst and venture-capital partner, speaks at a high-level Lisbon Council roundtable

News and Outreach

Emanuele Baldacci

Nathan Carvalho

Mikael Damberg

Alice Iordache

Grace Milne

Charlotte Van Ooijen

The Lisbon Council team has grown enormously in the last year, adding depth and expertise in several areas and building out its operational secretariat. Nathan Carvalho brings his knowledge of digital government, honed in the Master of Public-Sector Innovation and e-Governance programme at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Alice Iordache joins as project manager and research associate, bringing the skill and insight she learned in the City of Milan CIO office. Grace Milne joins as project manager and research associate direct from the United Nations, where she worked on innovation in the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNOV/UNODC). Elsewhere, Charlotte van Ooijen, associate director, joined the Expert Committee of the Digital Trust Label, launched by the Swiss Digital Initiative, and presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Emanuele Baldacci, CIO of Eurostat, the European Union’s statistical arm, keynoted the **High-Level Roundtable on Skills for Data: Measuring the Data-Skills Gap**, a conference convened with International Data Corporation. President and Co-founder Paul Hofheinz delivered a high-level presentation on inclusive growth in Stockholm at a Global Progress meeting convened by Swedish Finance Minister Mikael Damberg.

Coming Up

The 2022 Education Summit: Media Literacy in the Digital Age

Andreas Schleicher

Andreas Schleicher, director for education and skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), leads a deep dive on the challenge of misinformation and disinformation for the European education system. Later, Tia Loukkola, head of innovation and measuring progress at the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, launches *Education at a Glance 2022*, a global exclusive.

NATO in the 21st Century: A Bold Blueprint

Julianne Smith

Julianne Smith, United States permanent representative to NATO, weighs in with a visionary assessment of NATO’s role in a fast-changing world – and the importance of a progressive, pro-active democracy agenda to shore up security and democratic alignment. Daniel S. Hamilton, senior fellow at Johns Hopkins SAIS Foreign Policy Institute, joins as discussant with an overview of the state of play in transatlantic relations.

Kyiv CIO Joins The 2022 UserCentriCities Summit

War in Ukraine has not brought this beautiful country to its knees. To the contrary, it continues to impress on key measures of digital government and democratic commitment. The Lisbon Council is proud to announce that Kyiv has become the 21st city-member in the **UserCentriCities** consortium. Kyiv CIO Oleg Polovynko leads an all-star array of speakers at **The 2022 UserCentriCities Summit**.

www.lisboncouncil.net

The Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal asbl
IPC-Résidence Palace
155 rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels, Belgium
T. +32 2 647 9575
info@lisboncouncil.net

@lisboncouncil
www.facebook.com/thelisboncouncil
www.linkedin.com/company/the-lisbon-council
www.youtube.com/user/thelisboncouncil

Design by karma