BREAKING DIGITAL BARRIERS: FROM DIGITAL AMBITION TO INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Europe enters 2026 at a pivotal moment for its digital future. After a decade of rule-making on AI, data, platforms, cybersecurity and digital markets, the framework exists; delivery is the test. Breaking digital barriers means simplifying and aligning rules, tackling structural and energy constraints, scaling cloud, compute, data centres and semiconductors, accelerating AI and data adoption, enforcing open trusted markets, boosting cyber resilience, and mobilising talent and capital.

DELIVERING A WORKABLE DIGITAL RULEBOOK

As Europe shifts from legislation to execution, implementation, enforcement and simplification become as critical as regulation itself. The Summit will examine how coordinated guidance, predictable supervision and practical compliance tools can reduce fragmentation and make the Single Market function effectively in practice.

SCALING CLOUD, COMPUTE AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Europe's digital competitiveness depends on robust infrastructure - including data centres, cloud capacity, connectivity and semiconductors. Discussions will focus on unlocking investment at speed and scale, while addressing energy availability, grid constraints, permitting delays, sustainability requirements and strategic autonomy.

FROM PILOTS TO PRODUCTIVITY: DATA AND AI IN PRACTICE

Data and AI are moving from experimentation to economic necessity. The Summit will explore what is needed to deploy data-driven solutions at scale, including interoperability, data access and operational readiness as the AI Act approaches full applicability in 2026.

PLATFORMS, TRUST AND OPEN DIGITAL MARKETS

As the DMA and DSA enter their enforcement phase, platform governance is increasingly shaping market outcomes and public trust. The Summit will address how to strengthen safety, transparency and user protection while preserving openness, innovation and Europe's attractiveness for investment.

CYBERSECURITY AND GEOPOLITICAL RESILIENCE

Cybersecurity is central to Europe's digital resilience amid hybrid threats, geopolitical tensions and systemic dependencies. The Summit will focus on protecting critical infrastructure, strengthening security capabilities and ensuring that trust and resilience support - rather than slow - Europe's digital growth.

TALENT AND INVESTMENT FOUNDATIONS

Delivery requires skills, capital and societal trust. The Summit will highlight the talent and investment conditions needed to sustain Europe's digital transition, strengthen innovation ecosystems and anchor long-term industrial competitiveness.

In this context, the **EU Digital Summit 2026** serves as a strategic bridge between policy ambition and economic delivery. It brings together those who write the rules, those who enforce them, and those who must implement and finance Europe's digital transformation in practice. Hosted by **European Business Summits (EBS)** in Brussels, it provides a neutral platform where strategic priorities are translated into operational realities.

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