

*CAIDP Update 3.03 (Jan. 25, 2022) – France to Head European Council*

The French government assumes the Presidency of the European Council for the first half of 2022. The [European Council](#) is the EU institution that defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union.

Among the top ambitions of the French presidency is “a new European model for growth” that supports innovation and the growth of European digital players and sets its own rules for the digital world. “The French Presidency will aim to push forward a number of strategic areas for digital sovereignty in relation to data protection, artificial intelligence development, security, and network and infrastructure reinforcement for greater resilience.”

According to the [Programme](#) for the French Presidency, the Presidency will make development of human-centered artificial intelligence a priority. The Presidency will “continue examination of the regulation on this subject with a view to establishing a balanced regulatory framework enabling innovation to flourish whilst ensuring adequate protection of fundamental rights.”

At a [hearing](#) before the European Parliament, the Minister of State for the Digital Transition and Electronic Communication Cédric O reiterated the will to reach a provisional agreement on the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act (DSA) under the French Presidency. The Artificial Intelligence and the Data Acts were also referred to in his intervention.

Under the presidency of Slovenia, during the second half of 2021, AI policy occupied center stage as the government hosted a [high level policy conference on AI](#), launched a [new research center](#) with UNESCO, and pressed forward work on an AI legal instrument at the Council of Europe, under the auspices of the CAHAI. (See [CAIDP Update 2.26](#)).

Adoption of the EU Artificial Intelligence will eventually require a negotiation between the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Council, a process known as the “trilogue.”

The Czech Republic will take up the presidency of the European Council in the second half of 2022, followed by Sweden in the first half of 2023.