



## 2. Guiding questions

- How can the upcoming EU Tech Sovereignty Package — including the Cloud and AI Development Act, Chips Act 2, and Open-Source Strategy — strengthen Europe’s technological foundations and reduce dependence on non-European providers?
- How can AI adoption be accelerated among European firms, particularly SMEs and scale-ups, while ensuring access to secure, sovereign cloud infrastructure and interoperable open-source solutions?
- What role will sovereign cloud infrastructure, chips production, cybersecurity frameworks, and data governance play in enabling Europe’s technological sovereignty across sectors?
- How can simplification initiatives, including the Digital Omnibus, reduce regulatory friction and enable faster deployment of AI, cybersecurity, and data solutions without creating legal uncertainty for smaller firms?
- Are EU funding instruments and public procurement strategies sufficiently aligned to create lead markets for European technologies while supporting SMEs and emerging innovators?

## 3. Target audience

- Employers' Group Members
- Partner organizations representatives (BusinessEurope, SMEUnited, Eurchambres, Eurocommerce, SGI Europe, Copa-cogeca)
- Institutions, think tanks, other stakeholders

## 4. Preliminary Programme (90 minutes, 14:30 – 16:00)

### 14:30 – 14:35 | Welcome speech

**President of the Employers’ Group**

### 14:35 – 15:00 | Opening speech & exchange with the Employers' Group

**Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy *confirmed***

- Present the Commission’s priorities for tech sovereignty
- The role of simplification and the Digital Omnibus
- How EU policies aim to accelerate the tech uptake by businesses, particularly SMEs and scale-ups

### 15:00 – 15:30 | Panel Discussion: Closing Europe’s Tech Implementation Gap

**Moderated by the President or a Member of the Employers’ Group**

#### Panellists:

- **Michael McNamara**, Member of the European Parliament *tbc*
- **Dr. Alexander Schellong**, Managing Director Cybersecurity (GL) at Schwarz digits *confirmed*
- **Cassi Welling**, Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Managing Director at constellr *confirmed*
- **Antonio Grasso**, Public Affairs Director at European DIGITAL SME Alliance *tbc*

- Very short opening interventions by panellists (2–3 minutes each)
- Moderated discussion focusing on:
  - The SME–large company adoption gap and sectoral disparities
  - Europe–US differences in technology integration and business scaling
  - Investment and skills gaps, infrastructure constraints, and access to finance
  - Regulatory constraints and compliance costs

**15:30 – 15:55 | Interactive Exchange with Employers’ Group Members**

**Open floor discussion**

Extended interaction with Employers’ Group members

**15:55 – 16:00 | Closing remarks**

**President of the Employers’ Group or another Group Member**