



**RIPE NCC**

RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

# EU Regulatory Update

Navigating a changing EU landscape

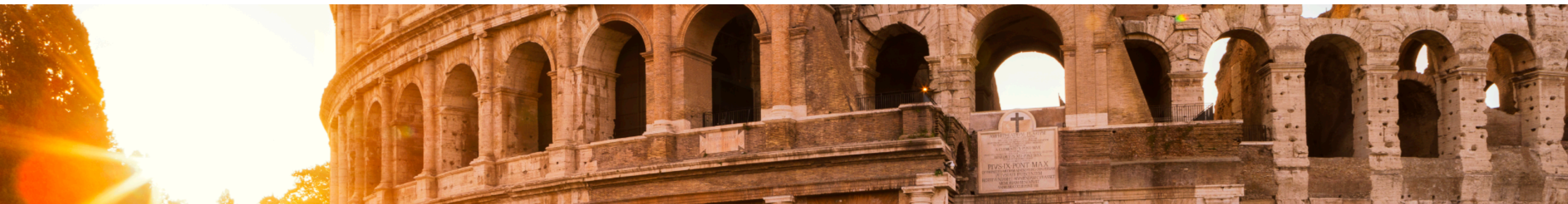
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# Agenda



- Context & EU trends
- Regulatory outlook
- Engagement approach





# Context & EU trends



# Why Engaging with the EU?

- The Internet was initially envisioned as a **borderless digital realm...**
- However, governments are pursuing their own digital policy agendas, building their **own segmented Internet infrastructure** and introducing their **own standards and regulations**
- RIPE NCC operates in a **complex and unstable policy environment**
  - ▶ Rising geopolitical tensions and regional conflicts
  - ▶ Increasing fragmentation inside and outside the EU
  - ▶ Growing ‘politicisation’ of the Internet
- To fulfil our mandate, we need to be **resilient in times of political and regulatory changes**
- For this, we need be part of the conversation and **engage with decision makers**

# EU Drivers and Shakers

- Geopolitical Commission and a value-driven agenda
  - Priority agenda on green, digital and resilience
  - EU external action (economic sanctions, international norms)
- Economic security and tech sovereignty
  - Reduce trade dependencies in critical sectors (de-risking)
  - Control over critical infrastructure and value chains
  - Interventionist and prescriptive approach (standardisation)
- Upcoming new EU mandate
  - Shifting focus on implementation, enforcement and review of legislation



# Fragmented Political Landscape



- General lack of consensus
  - Digital sovereignty vs. competition and competitiveness (EU CS)
  - Foreign affairs and security (sanctions)
- Turbulent EU elections ahead
  - Traditional parties losing ground, rising contenders (Dutch elections)
  - New dynamics in Parliament and Council (ID, EPP)
  - Political volatility and unpredictable regulatory outcomes





# Regulatory Outlook



# Roundup of Key Developments

- Economic sanctions
- Cyber Resilience Act
- European digital identity framework (eIDAS)
- Platform regulation
- ‘Network fee’ debate and telecoms overhaul
- BEREC consultation on IP Interconnection
- EU data strategy (Data Act)
- Useful link: [Our EU Regulation Update November 2023](#)



# Sanctions



- Exemptions to the EU sanctions imposed on Russia
  - Internet number resources and relevant transactions exempted
  - RIPE NCC is restoring services for members and End Users falling under exemptions
- Research project commissioned by RIPE NCC
  - Final Report published end of May, led by Farzaneh Badii (Medusa Digital)
  - Examining the impact of sanctions on Internet layers and operations
- Engagement with national and EU authorities
  - Ongoing consultations on sanctions implementation
  - Exploring long-term solutions for all members across service region



# Cyber Resilience Act

- Horizontal legislation pursuing common standards for products with digital elements
- This regulation will apply to [RIPE Atlas](#) and discussion on Free Open Source Software (FOSS) community is still ongoing
  - NCC submitted a response to consultation and letter to MEPs
  - Shared concerns on scope, vulnerability disclosure obligations, implementation timeframes
- Main developments and pending issues include:
  - Voluntary Software Bill of Material (SBoM)
  - Timeframe for serious incidents reporting (24hrs)
  - FOSS stewardship concept
  - Role of ENISA with vulnerability database



# What is Coming Next?

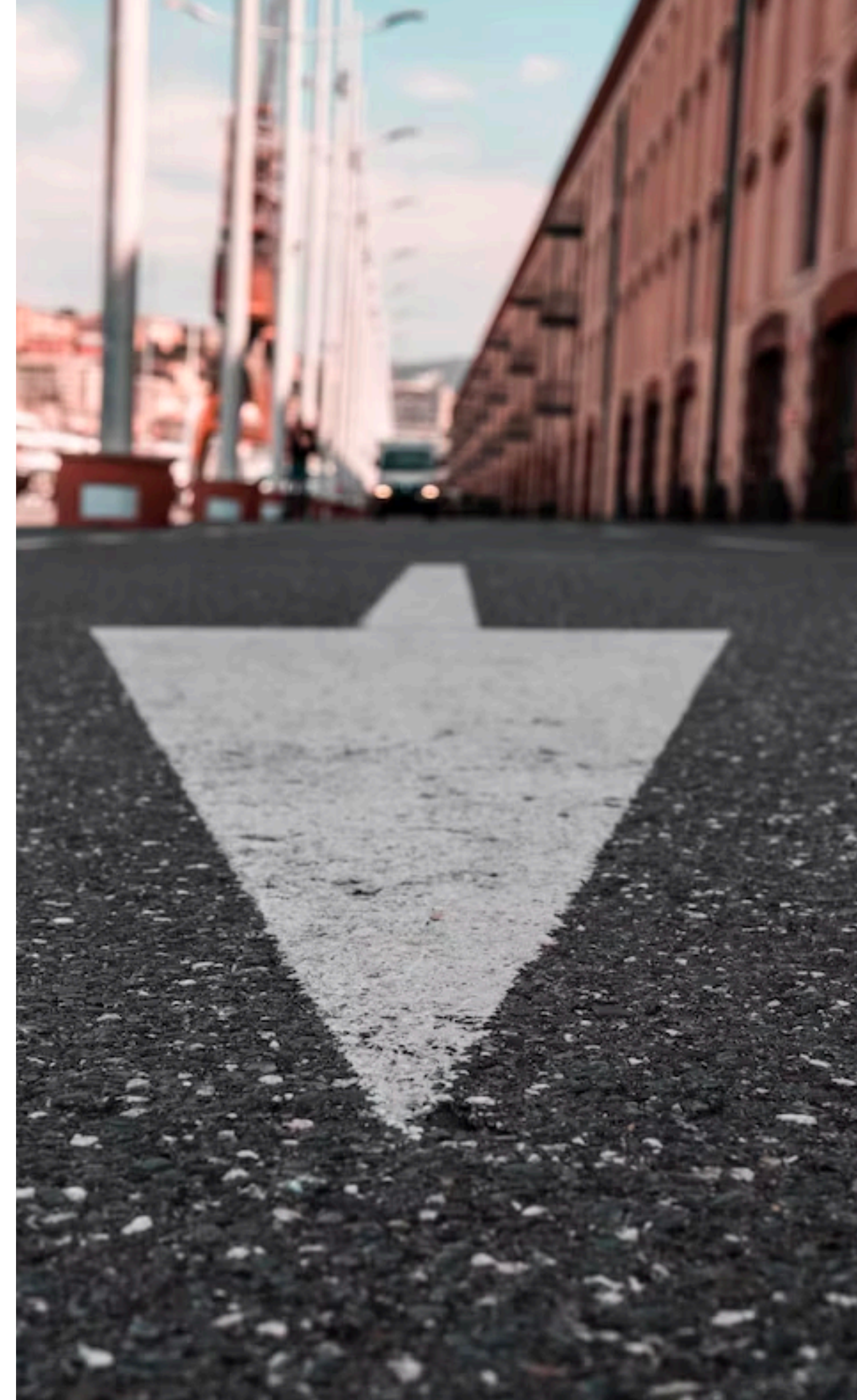
- EU standardisation strategy
  - “New approach to enable **global leadership of EU standards promoting values** and a resilient, green and digital Single Market”
- EU initiative on Web 4.0 and virtual worlds
  - “The Commission will support the **creation of a technical multi-stakeholder governance** process to address essential aspects of virtual worlds and Web 4.0 that are beyond the remit of existing internet governance institutions.”
- European Commission Working Programme 2024:
  - “Following the recent exploratory consultation, we will prepare the ground for possible policy and **regulatory actions regarding Digital Networks and infrastructure**, notably to facilitate cross-border infrastructure operators in the Single Market, accelerate deployment of technologies and attract more capital into networks.”



# Engagement Approach

# Moving Forward

- Establish RIPE NCC as a **trusted source of Internet data and insights** to educate policymakers
- Bridge knowledge gaps by **sharing evidence and technical expertise** to inform policy discussions
- Provide a platform to engage with our community and policymakers **proactively and early on**
- Mitigate **persistent risks and challenges** such as impact of sanctions and regulations on Internet core functions





# Questions



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