

## GIGAEurope underlines focus needed on internet ecosystem to deliver on Europe's virtual worlds aims

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GIGAEurope welcomes the initiative on virtual worlds included in the [European Commission's 2023 Work Programme](#) and will be preparing input in support of this valuable and timely workstream. As a trade association representing private operators that invest in and operate Gigabit communications networks, GIGAEurope strongly [supports](#) the Digital Decade Policy Programme targets agreed for 2030.

New technologies, applications, and devices will fundamentally alter how we interact with the internet. Changed traffic, functionality, and content usage trends call for reflection about the future internet platform and the role and responsibility of the underlying ecosystem players, including network operators, carriers, CDNs, and content and applications providers. As recognised by [Commissioner Breton](#), the advent of new virtual worlds will place Europe's connectivity infrastructure under even more pressure.

With this shared responsibility among all ecosystem players to secure a viable future internet platform for virtual worlds, GIGAEurope is engaging with industry leaders on the evolving conversation on the practical implications of the [European Declaration on Digital Rights](#), signed by the Presidents of the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council on 15 December, and the notion that “*all market actors benefiting from the digital transformation [...] make a fair and proportionate contribution to the costs of public goods, services and infrastructures [...]*”. An inclusive discussion on the operationalisation of the path to the digital decade is key to ensuring that all ecosystem players continue investing and innovating to maximise consumer benefits.

In light of this objective, GIGAEurope calls for a rich and expedient dialogue on the policy aspects and mechanisms needed to create a future-proof business model for connectivity providers, which can keep pace with the unparalleled demands that the digital transformation is placing on our networks. The dynamic and interdependent environment in which connectivity providers operate requires a forward-leaning dialogue spanning all digital ecosystem participants. It also requires connectivity providers to have the flexibility to explore new ways of offering their services, to create future possibilities of income and innovation.

As GIGAEurope's members are actively deploying the Gigabit connectivity networks of the future, we are fully engaged in achieving the EU's 2030 targets. With our core focus on resilient, secure and high-performing connectivity, GIGAEurope is committed to contributing actively to discussions on a future-oriented and investment-enabling policy framework to meet European citizens' accelerating demand for content and applications. We are exploring new ways to enable and support Gigabit connectivity in Europe, including through new business and innovation opportunities that will allow for next-generation technologies uptake by business and consumers. Europe needs to act together to ensure it can deliver on its digital leadership ambitions for 2030 and beyond.