

## 1 Artificial Intelligence

- Some global discussions around AI (e.g. AI Summit) but common risks managed differently e.g. EU's cross-cutting AI Act v UK's sector specific approach v changing US approach.
- Will AI regulation impact innovation in a globally competitive market? Or will fear of stifling AI innovation and deployment impact how AI laws are designed and enforced?
- New AI rules but remember AI relevant law already exists (e.g. IP risk, data privacy guidance and enforcement, competition investigations, and interest of financial regulators)
- UK government requires regulators with AI remit to support innovation.

## 4 Digital innovation impacts all areas

- Companies face an increasingly complex digital regulatory landscape. A number of new, often overlapping, laws/guidance have emerged.
- Need for regulatory co-ordination (e.g. UK's Digital Regulation Co-operation Forum) and important role for (international) standards.
- We are responding to new laws ([AI](#), [Data Act](#), Online Content – [DSA/QSA](#)) and assessing whether existing laws are fit for purpose in this digital age. IP, privacy and product liability laws are under review as new technology (e.g. AI) tests current rules.
- In the financial sector, a wider range of cryptoasset-related activities are being brought within the regulatory perimeter.

## 2 Digital transformation

- Digital transformation can take many forms, but always require good internal governance and risk analysis.
- Transformation projects carry operational, reputational and regulatory risk.
- Operational resilience is key, particularly in regulated sectors. Financial regulators are extending their reach over critical third parties (e.g. Tech providers), demonstrating increased regulatory focus in this area in the UK and EU.
- Data commercialisation can drive digital transformation, but access to data is still an issue. Will new data laws help (e.g. EU Data Act, EU DGA, UK DUA Bill)?

## 5 Big Tech v Antitrust

- Amid current geopolitical tensions, European antitrust agencies continue to take a leading role in global interventionism against Big Tech, with a shift towards *ex ante* regulation as well as traditional competition enforcement.
- They are closely monitoring the development of AI and Big Tech's partnerships in this area.
- They remain focussed on how best to assert jurisdiction over so-called 'killer' and 'reverse-killer' acquisitions.
- Agencies worldwide are stepping up efforts to coordinate interventions.
- Competition considerations are also one of the motivations behind legislation such as the Data Act.

## 3 Cyber

- Cyber continues to be a key risk requiring board-level engagement and effective management, particularly given new expectations for boards on cyber corporate governance.
- Ransomware and supply chain attacks are growing and new tech (e.g. AI) creates new risks. UK currently consulting on ransomware legislation.
- Vital to stay abreast of the changing threat landscape from a technical, geopolitical and regulatory perspective. E.g. there are new rules for connected devices, NIS2/Cyber Security and Resilience Bill, increased focus from financial regulators and an evolving ransomware supply chain.

## 6 Digital Infrastructure

- Increasing regulatory focus on digital infrastructure.
- Power supply has become the key talking point, as governments and private providers seek to balance the need for rapid expansion of digital infrastructure with increasingly overburdened power supply infrastructure and environmental concerns.
- AI is generating additional opportunities and challenges within the sector, driving demand for more large scale LLM processing facilities and utilisation of Edge computing to support AI, as well as technology to enhance operational efficiency of the infrastructure itself.
- M&A has required some creativity in structuring, but we believe it will continue, both through consolidation and infrastructure spin-outs from Telcos and similar companies.

## Our Tech & Digital Practice

Our tech and digital practice supports a wide range of clients, from established international financial institutions and global technology and telecoms providers, to investors, entrepreneurs and high-growth start-ups and market disruptors.

We advise on the full spectrum of traditional and emerging technologies, from global digital transformation projects and technology outsourcings to AI development, data commercialisation and quantum. We understand the critical interplay between different legal and regulatory regimes – whether across borders or between different regulators. With our deep sector and technical knowledge, our clients take informed, risk-based decisions.

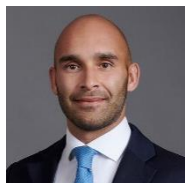
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If you would like to speak to anyone about a tech and digital matter, please contact one of the partners below or your usual Slaughter and May contact.

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