CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Position of SPCR to Data Union Strategy

The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (SPCR) welcomes the European Commission's Data Union Strategy as a needed step toward a more coherent and innovation-oriented data framework. For Czech industry - highly export-oriented, digitally advanced, and deeply integrated in EU value chains - legal certainty, regulatory simplification, and seamless cross-border data flows are essential. The Data Union Strategy provides a valuable opportunity to deliver on these goals, and Czech industry stands ready to contribute.

Need for a coherent regulatory framework

The proliferation of EU digital regulations (Data Act, DGA, GDPR, sectoral rules, cybersecurity legislation, AI Act) has created significant complexity for businesses. Czech companies, particularly SMEs and manufacturing-intensive sectors, face overlapping obligations, inconsistent interpretations, and elevated compliance costs.

SPCR strongly supports the Data Union Strategy's focus on coherence, simplification, and interoperability through the regulatory consolidation across digital legislation and risk-based, innovation-friendly approach.

Access to high-duality Data is a driver of AI and Competitiveness

Czech industry is strongly committed to deploying AI in manufacturing, energy, mobility, cybersecurity, and public services. To succeed, companies need reliable, scalable, and diverse datasets, incl. industrial IoT data, manufacturing process data, mobility and logistics datasets, public-sector information and multilingual content relevant to the Czech Republic.

SPCR welcomes the Strategy's objective to increase voluntary availability of public and private data assets. For Czech businesses, predictable access to high-quality datasets is essential for several objectives, incl. train trustworthy AI models, support advanced manufacturing and automation, and improve supply-chain resilience.

Synthetic Data is an enabler

The Czech Republic has been an early supporter of innovative and privacy-preserving technologies. Synthetic data fits these criteria well as it mitigates privacy and confidentiality concerns by reducing dependence on personal data and enriches datasets for training and testing.

Data scarcity, especially for languages other than English, remains a structural challenge. We therefore fully endorse the Strategy's financial support for synthetic data development, which will directly benefit Czech-language and domain-specific applications.

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Open Data for economic growth and efficiency

The Data Union Strategy rightly identifies open data as a key driver for innovation and public-sector modernisation. For open data to deliver maximum impact:

- Datasets must be available for commercial reuse, ideally under Creative Commons or similarly permissive licences.
- Mandatory derivative-sharing requirements should be avoided, as they risk discouraging uptake.

International data flow

As a highly open and export-driven economy, the Czech Republic depends on unhindered cross-border data flows. SPCR therefore welcomes the Strategy's commitment to openness to trusted partners.

Key priorities for Czech industry:

- Avoid new restrictions that hinder legitimate B2B data transfers.
- Promote multilateral solutions to conflicts of law.
- Reinforce the Commission's clarification that Article 32 of the Data Act does not apply to daily B2B operational transfers.

We strongly believe that the Commission should codify this clarification into binding law during consolidation, ensuring long-term legal certainty for Czech and EU companies.

Simplification

We recommend either a unified European enforcement authority or a one-stop-shop mechanism, giving businesses a single point of contact and consistent interpretation across Member States.

Also, standardization is crucial for data interoperability and should be based on a global, transparent, and industry-driven framework. The EU should promote existing international standards.

SPCR supports regulatory simplification and consistent enforcement, including for example focus on ePrivacy Directive, which is over 20 years old and as such, can only be outdated or Data Act in the context of covering cyber threats.