OpenForum Europe

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Public Letter: European Industry and Open Source Supports Call for Open Source Maintenance Funding through an EU Sovereign Tech Fund (EU-STF)

13 October 2025

Dear Policymakers and Partners in Europe's Shared Digital Future,

We, the undersigned – open source project leaders, maintainers, industry, researchers, and civil society – are writing to you to make the case for an EU Sovereign Tech Fund, focused on investing in the critical open source technologies that Europe depends on. Europe's digital sovereignty, cybersecurity, and competitiveness rest on an invisible foundation: open source software. From digital identity to energy systems, healthcare, finance, mobility, and beyond, open source is the critical infrastructure that powers Europe's economy and public institutions.

This digital infrastructure, most of which is dependent on open source software, is at risk. Chronic under-investment in the maintenance and security of open source software has created systemic vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities leave European governments, businesses, and citizens exposed to security threats, supply chain risks, and vendor lock-in.

Europe has a historic opportunity to lead on public investment into the open source ecosystem. Building on the example of Germany's Sovereign Tech Agency, the proposed EU Sovereign Tech Fund (EU-STF) offers a way forward: a pan-European, mission-driven initiative to secure, maintain, and strengthen our open digital infrastructure. This proposal

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is rooted in a detailed feasibility study published in July 2025 (its main findings are summarised in the attached policy primer), which finds that the fund should be resourced at a minimum of €350 million over seven years.

Without such investment, we risk the stagnation and failure of Europe's entire digital agenda. Neglecting the open source software ecosystem would mean an erosion of Europe's responsibilities to the very systems that underpin the EU's Digital Decade targets, the Cyber Resilience Act, the European Chips Act, the AI Act, and the broader competitiveness agenda. With it, we can create a resilient foundation for innovation, economic growth, and secure public services across Member States.

We call on you to join us in safeguarding the future of Europe's digital infrastructure. This means:

- **EU Co-Legislators:** Make the EU-STF a priority in the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- **Member States**: Commit to pooled financing that allows Europe to scale up investment in open source maintenance beyond fragmented national efforts.

The EU-STF is not just another off-handed policy proposal for a prospective future funding mechanism – it is an essential commitment to Europe's digital independence. With targeted investment in open source sustainability, we can prevent future crises, reduce dependencies, and ensure that Europe's digital transformation reflects our values of openness, collaboration, and shared prosperity.

We commit ourselves to supporting the open source projects that Europe depends on. But we cannot do it alone. We urge you to join us in making the EU Sovereign Tech Fund a reality.

Sincerely,

Christos Bouras

Digitally signed by Christos Bouras
Date: 2025.10.09 12:01:02 +03'00'

[Signatories]