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Monthly Digital Report

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Executive summary

In **March**, Romania advanced several initiatives to strengthen economic resilience, digital trust, and consumer protection. The Ministry of Economy and Digitalization (MEDAT) proposed a **Strategic Economic Assets Protection Framework**, establishing criteria for “strategic interest companies” in sectors such as ICT, cybersecurity, and AI.

At the same time, MEDAT **aligned electronic signature legislation with the EU eIDAS2 Regulation**, clarifying the legal framework for different types of signatures, simplifying access to trust services, and designating MEDAT as the regulatory authority while ADR maintains supervisory duties.

The government also **updated consumer protection rules for distance contracts, online financial services, and sustainable products**, enforcing clear, standardized labeling, accurate repairability and sustainability claims, and a 14-day withdrawal right.

Meanwhile, PSD and AUR MPs proposed **new cookie consent rules requiring explicit, balanced, and easily withdrawable consent for data processing**, while the Senate rejected a **temporary digital platform contribution tax**, leaving the final decision to deputies.

In **April**, the focus shifts to **public digital infrastructure and child protection online**. The Chamber of Deputies is expected to adopt the Public Digital Infrastructure Registry Law, creating the National Platform for Public Digital Infrastructure (PNIDP).

Simultaneously, the Senate will debate two proposals restricting minors’ access to social media platforms, introducing **a 16-year age threshold** and obliging platforms to implement effective age verification and content moderation, avoid profiling minors, and restrict harmful content.

Additionally, Interior Minister Cătălin Predoiu is expected to publish **procedures for electronic archiving under Law no. 201/2024**, operationalizing a System of Archival Management (SMA) for the full lifecycle of electronic documents.

Highlights of the previous month

(1) Digitalization Ministry proposes Strategic Economic Assets Protection Framework.

Romania will soon have a **legal framework for state intervention to protect and maintain strategic economic capacities**, according to a draft ordinance proposed by the Ministry of Economy and Digitalization (MEDAT) last month. The ordinance defines “strategic interest companies” and sets criteria for identifying sectors critical to national security, **including ICT, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence**. It introduces inter-institutional mechanisms for evaluating and designating strategic operators, allows the state to monitor and protect essential capacities, and grants preemptive rights to acquire shares or assets of strategic companies, including those in financial difficulty or in insolvency. The state has 30 days to exercise its preemption right.

Impact: Companies in the digital and telecom sectors, especially those involved in cybersecurity, AI, and critical ICT infrastructure, may be subject to state monitoring, intervention, or acquisition if deemed strategic. This could affect mergers, acquisitions, or investment plans and require compliance with reporting or operational continuity requirements.

(2) e-Signature Law, aligned with the eIDAS 2 Regulation.

At the same time, MEDAT has also proposed a **draft ordinance to align e-signature legislation with the EU eIDAS2 Regulation**. It clarifies the legal framework for different types of electronic signatures, establishes uniform rules for acceptance by public authorities, and simplifies access to trust services and remote identification. It **expands the scope of Law 214/2024 to include electronic distribution services, website authentication, electronic archiving, devices for creating signatures and seals, electronic registers, and signed electronic documents**. MEDAT becomes the regulatory authority, while the Romanian Authority for Digitalization (ADR) retains supervisory duties, including certificate management, service provider registration, and archiving obligations.

Impact: Companies using electronic signatures, remote authentication, or providing trust services must comply with updated certification, registration, and archival requirements. Private service providers must ensure proper application of qualified or advanced electronic signatures and maintain technical measures aligned with evolving European standards.

(3) Government adopts Stricter Consumer Protection Rules.

In the last part of March, the Government **updated consumer protection rules for distance contracts, online financial services, and sustainable products**. Already published in the Official Gazette, the **ordinance** transposes EU Directives 2023/2673 and 2024/825 and prohibits misleading commercial practices. Producers and sellers must provide **clear, transparent information about costs, contract**

terms, product features, software updates, environmental impact, durability, and repairability. Labels must be standardized, accurate, and certified for durability or repairability. **Companies must inform consumers of software updates affecting functionality** and avoid false claims about sustainability or green certifications. Consumers have a 14-day withdrawal right for distance contracts, without penalties. The Ordinance has already reached the Senate, where the **draft bill** for its approval awaits the start of the debates.

Impact: Digital companies must ensure product labelling, update notifications, and sustainability claims meet transparency and certification standards. Non-compliance may lead to penalties and reputational risk.

(4) Senate rejects the Proposal on Digital Platform Contribution.

Moving on to the parliamentary debates, the PSD-backed **legislative proposal** introducing a **temporary contribution on revenues from digital intermediation by large platforms operating in Romania** was rejected by the Senate. The proposed tax would have applied regardless of the platform's legal form or fiscal residence, with the rate set at 2% of gross transaction-based revenues in Romania. Large digital platforms with global revenues exceeding €750 million and Romanian intermediation revenues above the threshold would have been required to calculate and pay the contribution quarterly. However, the proposal still has a chance of adoption, as the deputies will now have the final say on the matter.

Impact: If it passes the vote of the deputies, international digital platforms providing services in Romania would face an additional 2% tax on Romanian transaction revenues, affecting pricing, local operations, and compliance structures.

(5) PSD and AUR MPs propose New Cookie Consent Rules.

In early March, PSD and AUR MPs submitted a **legislative proposal** to the Senate introducing **new rules for how telecom operators and electronic communications service providers obtain and manage user consent for storing or accessing information on terminal devices.** Operators and service providers must display both “accept” and “decline” options for consent at the same level and with equal visibility when using banners or similar interfaces. They must not use pre-ticked boxes, default-enabled options, or misleading wording that could influence user decisions. Users must be able to withdraw consent at any time through an easy and accessible mechanism, as simple as granting it. Exceptions apply where storage or access is strictly necessary for transmitting a communication or providing a service explicitly requested by the user. Given that together, PSD and AUR enjoy a parliamentary majority, we give this proposal medium to high chances of becoming law.

Impact: Telecom operators and digital service providers would need to redesign cookie banners and consent mechanisms to ensure equal visibility and genuine user choice. This may affect user experience design, data collection practices, and advertising models reliant on user tracking.

What to expect this month

(1) Deputies to adopt Public Digital Infrastructure Registry Law.

In April, the Chamber of Deputies, as the decision-making body, is expected to adopt a USR **draft bill** establishing **Romania's first unified legal framework for managing and securing public digital infrastructure**. Our expectation is based on the committees' report, which proposes the plenary to adopt the bill. According to the new provisions, the National Platform for Public Digital Infrastructure (PNIDP), a central registry of all digital resources used by public institutions, will be established. Public institutions will have to register all digital resources within 6 months, otherwise they cannot be used or financed. Each resource must receive a unique persistent code, and institutions must appoint a digital responsible person.

Impact: IT service providers, telecom operators, and software vendors working with the public sector will need to align with stricter technical, security, and interoperability requirements. The law will standardize public sector IT infrastructure, potentially increasing demand for compliant cloud, cybersecurity, and digital management solutions.

(2) Minor Social Media Bans to be Debated in the Senate.

At the same time, considering the deadlines for debate, the Senate's committees are expected to issue their reports in early April on two legislative proposals **restricting minors' access to social media platforms**. Both initiatives (**this, this, this and this**) introduce **a minimum age threshold of 16 and impose obligations on platform providers to protect minors online**. Social media platforms must implement effective and proportionate age verification mechanisms and restrict or disable access to public social features for users identified as under 16. In addition, platforms must avoid profiling minors for commercial purposes and must not display harmful content related to violence, drugs, or self-harm. The rules apply to all platforms accessible in Romania, regardless of where they are established, with certain exceptions (e.g., private communications, educational platforms, or non-social online games).

Impact: If the proposals pass the Parliament, digital platforms may need to redesign user onboarding, age verification systems, and content moderation practices. The proposals could increase compliance costs and operational complexity, especially around data protection and child safety requirements.

(3) Interior Minister to sign E-Archiving Procedures.

Additionally, this month we also expect Interior Minister Cătălin Predoiu to sign and publish in the Official Gazette an **order** establishing **detailed procedures for managing electronic archives**. The order operationalizes Law no. 201/2024 and sets out rules for the full lifecycle

of electronic documents, from creation and classification to storage, transfer, and destruction. Public and private entities acting as creators or holders of electronic archives must implement a System of Archival Management (SMA) to ensure consistent handling of documents throughout their lifecycle. Organizations must assign clear responsibilities and involve multidisciplinary teams (archival, IT, legal, management).

Impact: Telecom and digital companies handling large volumes of electronic documents, especially in regulated sectors, will need to implement structured archiving systems and comply with stricter technical and organizational standards. This may require investments in document management systems, cybersecurity, and compliance processes.