

27/10/2025

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

Dear President Ursula von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen, and Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné,

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.

Much of Europe's digital infrastructure depends on open source software. Yet chronic under-investment in maintaining and securing these shared resources has increased systemic exposure to risk, leaving governments, businesses, and citizens vulnerable to security threats, supply chain disruptions, 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 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 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,

1. **Alliander OSPO**, Jonas van den Bogaard, Open Source Office Lead
2. **APELL**, Sebastian Raible, Director of EU Government Affairs
3. **Bitergia**, Daniel Izquierdo Cortázar, Chief Executive Officer
4. **Blender Foundation**, Francesco Siddi, Chief Operating Officer
5. **CERN OSPO**, Giacomo Tenaglia, Chair of CERN Open Source Program Office
6. **Collabora**, Michael Meeks, Chief Executive Officer
7. **Creative Commons**, Anna Tumadóttir, Chief Executive Officer
8. **D-64**
9. **Digital Public Goods Alliance**, Liv Marte Nordhaug, Chief Executive Officer
10. **Ecosia**, Wolfgang Oels, Chief Operating Officer

11. **ESOP – Associação de Empresas de Software Open Source Portuguesas (Association of Portuguese Open Source Businesses)**, Gerardo Lisboa, Presidente da Direção (Chairman of the Board)
12. **Element**, Amandine Le Pape, Chief Operating Officer
13. **FIWARE**, Chandra Challagonda, Chief Executive Officer
14. **Formbricks**, Johannes Dancker, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
15. **Gaia-X European Association for Data and Cloud AISBL**, Ulrich Ahle, Chief Executive Officer
16. **GFOSS – Open Technologies Alliance**, Alexandros Melidis, Director
17. **GitHub**, Felix Reda, Director of Developer Policy
18. **GRNET - Greek Research and Technology Network**, Aristeidis Sotiropoulos, Chief Executive Officer
19. **Lero – The Irish Software Research Center**, Brian Fitzgerald, Co-Principal Investigator
20. **Linux Foundation Europe**, Mirko Boehm, Senior Director, Community Development
21. **Matrix.org Foundation**, Amandine Le Pape, Guardian and Co-Founder
22. **Mercedes-Benz**, Magnus Östberg, Chief Software Officer, Mercedes-Benz AG; Markus Rettstatt, Vice President Software Defined Car, Mercedes-Benz Tech Innovation GmbH
23. **Mozilla**, Raffi Krikorian, Chief Technology Officer
24. **Murena**, Gaël Duval, Chief Executive Officer
25. **Nextcloud**, Frank Karlitschek, Chief Executive Officer
26. **OpenForum Europe**, Astor Nummelin Carlberg, Executive Director
27. **Open Future Foundation**, Zusanna Warso, Director of Research
28. **Open Source Initiative**, Deborah Bryant, Interim Executive Director
29. **Open Xchange**, Vittorio Bertola, Head of Policy & Innovation
30. **OpenRail Association**, Jochen Decker, Chair
31. **Probabl**, Yann Lechelle, Chief Executive Officer
32. **Proton**
33. **Proventa AG**, Diego Calvo de Nó, Chief Executive Officer
34. **Publicplan GmbH**, Christian Knebel, Chief Executive Officer
35. **Red Hat**, James Lovegrove, Public Policy Director
36. **Redpill Linpro**, Fredrik Svensson, Chief Business Development Officer
37. **Safespring AB**, Fredric Wallsten, Chief Executive Director
38. **SUSE**, Dominic Laurie, Corporate Communications Director
39. **Univention**, Peter H. Ganten CEO / Managing Director
40. **Vates**

