PRESS BRIEFING

The EU Quantum Act: What We Know So Far

Brussels, 16 November 2026 — Europe's quantum community will soon gather in Dublin for the European Quantum Technologies Conference (EQTC) taking place between 30 November and 2 December. The event, which brings together key policymakers, researchers and industry leaders, comes at a pivotal moment for Europe, which seeks to build a globally competitive quantum ecosystem and is about to propose an ambitious policy framework for it: the Quantum Act.

The official proposal for the Act has not been published yet, but it is expected to be adopted by the European Commission (EC), and thus public, in the coming weeks. Therefore, discussions relating to the Quantum Act proposal and its implementation will feature prominently at this year's event.

To help you navigate those discussions, and put the proposal in context when adopted, here's a **brief summary**—based on public documents and statements—of the history of the Quantum Act and what we know about it so far:

What is the Quantum Act?

The Quantum Act is a planned EU legislative proposal that builds on the Quantum Europe Strategy adopted by the European Commission (EC) in July 2025. This strategy aims to make Europe a global quantum leader by 2030, fostering a resilient and sovereign ecosystem. It seeks to capitalise on Europe's existing strengths in quantum, including world-class research, a vibrant start-up base and a strong public investment structure. But it also acknowledges that the EU is lagging behind when it comes to translating innovation into market-ready applications, and highlights the fragmented nature of Europe's quantum ecosystem.

The Quantum Act is designed to deliver on the key priorities of this strategy, focusing mainly on three objectives:

- Boosting research and innovation across Member States
- Scaling up the EU's industrial capacity for designing and producing quantum technologies

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- Bolstering the resilience of quantum supply chains

In addition, it is hoped that the initiative will strengthen the EU's economic **security** and **technological sovereignty** in quantum technologies. Although, of course, these priorities were identified by the Commission ahead of the proposal's publication. The specific measures and instruments through which the Act will seek to achieve them will become clearer once the proposal is released.

Thomas Skordas, Deputy Director-General of the Commission's DG CNECT, has described the Act as more of an "**enabling framework**" than a regulation. "The act is not about budget. What the act will provide is the stimulus to make sure that we move in the right direction, that we bring people together," he said at an event held at the European Parliament in Brussels in September.

How is it expected to impact the European ecosystem?

While the impact of the Act's implementation will not become apparent for some time, the legislation is intended to help transform Europe's scientific strength into competitive companies and commercially viable technologies. A recurring concern that policymakers are seeking to address is the fragmented nature of Europe's quantum ecosystem, with expertise, companies and infrastructure spread across the Member States. The Act could help to overcome this by fostering **greater coordination** at the European level, for example.

Furthermore, Europe attracts only about 5% of the world's private investment in quantum, compared with over 50% for the US, and the gap is widest for companies trying to grow, according to this official document from the EC's Quantum Europe Strategy. The Commission warns that European start-ups could end up being bought by foreign investors, potentially taking their technology and talent with them. It says the Act will encourage governments, companies and investors to put **money** into building production facilities, including pilot ones.

Customers are the other half of the picture. The Commission says Europe lacks big companies willing to be early users of quantum technology. It wants public bodies such as hospitals and government agencies to become the first customers for European products, to **provide start-ups with a market**.

Cécile Perrault, Executive Director of the European Quantum Industry Consortium (QuIC), who will be a speaker at EQTC, said she would like to see the Act adopted with "real instruments" behind it, so that European quantum companies can count on public procurement as a first market, on capital deep enough to take them through to scale, and on a single European market rather than 27 national ones. "Our companies are already world-class in their

technology; what they need now is customers and investors at home, so that they grow in Europe and stay European," she said.

Where is it at now?

The Act is **scheduled for adoption** by the European Commission in the coming weeks, meaning that the EC is set to formally approve its legislative proposal. But this is only the first step.

After the Commission adopts such proposals, the standard procedure is that they are then sent to the European Parliament (members directly elected by EU citizens) and the Council of the EU (representatives of the 27 EU countries) for review. These institutions can propose amendments, and they then negotiate to agree on a joint text before a given proposal becomes EU law. The speed of this process depends on those negotiations.

Who is pushing for it?

The EC has led the process so far, with Finnish **politician Henna Virkkunen**, now Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, playing a prominent role. Virkkunen floated the idea of a dedicated Quantum Act in November 2024 during her confirmation hearing at the European Parliament. She pledged to present a quantum strategy and raised the possibility of a dedicated Quantum Act to pool resources and tackle fragmentation.

Then in 2025, the Commission announced its Quantum Europe Strategy and began developing the Quantum Act. In the autumn of 2025, the Commission opened up a call for evidence to help shape the future of the Quantum Act, in which it invited a **big range of stakeholders** to participate — including Member State authorities, EU agencies, infrastructure operators, industry members, start-ups, research organizations, universities, standardization bodies, as well as cybersecurity, defense and quantum experts.

The Commission's decision to develop a Quantum Act was strongly backed by **QuIC**, which represents more than 200 companies, investors, research organisations and academic institutions. QuIC described the Act as "an essential step to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and leadership in quantum technologies."

The Act builds on the foundations laid by the EU's €1 billion **Quantum Flagship** initiative, launched in 2018 as a ten-year project designed to boost European scientific excellence in quantum, kickstart a competitive European industry, and

make Europe an attractive region for innovative research, business and investments in the field.

Why does it matter?

The economic stakes are high. In In 2025, the Commission expected the quantum sector could **exceed a global value of €150 billion by 2040**, creating thousands of highly skilled jobs across the EU. Beyond the sector itself, a 2026 McKinsey report estimates that quantum computing alone could create between **$1.3 and $2.7 trillion** in economic value across industries worldwide by 2035.

Emerging quantum technologies in computing, communication, and sensing, among other fields, have the potential to reshape global industries in the coming decades, with possible applications in a wide array of sectors, including finance, logistics, security, energy, transport and pharmaceuticals.

Quantum computers are expected to model certain natural processes that today's most powerful supercomputers cannot handle. Quantum communications promise more secure data transfer. Meanwhile, quantum sensing offers the possibility of ultra-precise measurements.

With so much potential at stake, the Quantum Act is Europe's attempt to ensure it is among the beneficiaries.

About the European Quantum Flagship

The European Quantum Flagship is one of the EC's first and most ambitious initiatives coordinate and advance quantum research, development, and skills-building in Europe. After almost a decade of working closely with researchers, companies, industry organizations and policymakers across Europe, the Flagship's communications hub has come to serve, in a way, as a central point of contact for the European quantum ecosystem as a whole.

Now that the European sector is starting to reach out its niche research hubs, our goal is to help journalists by connecting them with experts working at the forefront of quantum research, technology and policy, or providing updates, background information and other material they might need for their coverage.

Media Contact and Resources

For more information about the upcoming Quantum Act, the EQTC in Dublin, the work of the Quantum Flagship, or the European quantum ecosystem more

generally, just reply to this email or reach us at catalina@agata.agency or press@qt.eu.

Whether you're looking for expert commentary, background information or help navigating the European quantum ecosystem, we're happy to help.

JOIN US AT EQTC 2026

- **When**: November 30th to December 2nd
- **Where**: Convention Centre Dublin (CCD), Spencer Dock, N Wall Quay, North Wall, Dublin 1, D01 T1W6, Ireland
- **How to attend**: drop us an email at press@qt.eu or catalina@agata.agency, and we'll coordinate with the organisers to issue your press passes
- **More info**: visit https://www.eqtc2026.eu or follow us on LinkedIn.