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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 6 June 2025 : International initiatives in the digital field - state of play
- Information from the Commission

This note provides an update on the state of play of the EU international cooperation activities in the field of digital policies. It follows a previous note to the attention of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council of 6 December 2024 and focuses on developments that occurred since that date.

1. An International Digital Strategy for the European Union

On 17 April 2024, the European Council invited a Joint Communication by the Commission and High Representative on strengthening the EU's leadership in global digital affairs. They pointed to the risks for the EU in terms of competitiveness, if it were to fall behind in the global tech race.

The Commission and the High Representative have been preparing an International Digital Strategy for the European Union outlining the EU priorities and modalities of cooperation with our international partners in digital policy, including technology, innovation and investments. The main lines of action include:

- Leveraging digital cooperation with partner countries and reinforcing the existing network of Digital Partnerships and Alliances to boost the EU's tech competitiveness and economic security, in line with the objectives of the Competitiveness Compass.
- Concrete action on international cooperation, in emerging technologies such as AI and quantum, on cybersecurity and secure connectivity, on international aspects of digital governance (platforms, data, AI) and on Internet Governance.
- Building an integrated EU offer of tech solutions to international partners, as part of the Global Gateway, closely involving EU Member States and EU tech companies in a Team Europe

approach, to support the digital transformation of partner countries in a way that also promotes EU technology solutions worldwide.

- Better coordinating unified EU positions in plurilateral and multilateral fora to ensure that global digital governance supports EU interests and fundamental values.
- Leveraging Digital Diplomacy tools to strengthen the EU's engagement with partner countries.

In order to achieve these objectives and faced with increasingly assertive players in the global tech race, it will be imperative that the EU and its Member States act united, pooling resources, facilitating joint business operations, and exchanging information and coordinating positions effectively.

2. Geographical areas

North America

No Ministerial meeting of the **EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** has been organised since the 6th Ministerial meeting in April 2024. Some technical work and exchanges continued. At this stage, the work of the EU-US TTC and the shape of EU-US tech cooperation will be determined by the broader EU-US trade and economic relationship.

The **EU-US Cyber Dialogue** last took place in December 2023. The Commission and the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) have continued their technical-level exchanges with US counterparts, in particular the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Concerning the **EU-Canada Digital Partnership**, the workplan agreed in February 2024 following the last [Digital Dialogue](#) is being implemented. Exchanges have taken place on platforms, digital identity and digital credentials and AI regulation, at the request of Canada, which is engaged in legislative work and interested in the EU experience. A first Digital Partnership Council is expected to be held in autumn 2025 in Canada in the margin of the G7.

Indo-Pacific

The [second ministerial meeting](#) of the **EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** took place in New Delhi in February 2025, coinciding with the visit of the College of Commissioners to the Government of India. Both sides agreed to deepen digital cooperation by accelerating human-centric digital transformation and developing advanced technologies like AI, semiconductors, high-performance computing, and 6G standardisation. The EU and India will also collaborate on interoperable Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and promote legal pathways for skilled professionals.

The eighth **EU-India Cyber Dialogue** took place on 20 March 2025 in New Delhi. The Dialogue served an opportunity to exchange on cybersecurity policies and legislation updates, cyber threat landscape and preparedness, capacity building and cooperation in multilateral fora such as the UN Open Ended Working Group or the ASEAN Regional Forum.

The [third EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council](#) took place on 12 May 2025 in Tokyo. It included the signature of a Letter of Intent on strengthening cooperation in the area of quantum science and technology; the announcement of joint 6G and semiconductors research projects; and report on the progress on interoperability of digital identity and trust services. In addition, the EU and Japan discussed further cooperation commitments on Arctic connectivity, AI, online platforms, and cybersecurity. The upcoming EU-Japan Cyber Dialogue will take place in Brussels, likely in autumn 2025.

Cooperation has been ongoing with the **Republic of Korea** on semiconductors, 5G/6G and quantum research, AI, cybersecurity, and online platforms. Recent cooperation activities include a cybersecurity study visit to Korea with participants from nine Member States in March 2025, a matchmaking workshop for quantum researchers in April 2025 and the Cyber Dialogue. A 6G standardisation workshop is planned for 2 June 2025. The third Digital Partnership Council is expected to be held towards the end of 2025 in Seoul.

Technical work continues with **Singapore** on electronic identity, semiconductors and online safety. Singapore's potential association to Horizon Europe could bring benefits for R&I cooperation in digital technologies.

The EU and **Australia** continue discussing the establishment of a possible Digital Partnership. The Commission is also exploring a more structured form of cooperation and dialogue in the area of cybersecurity with Australia.

China

The EU-China Task Force on cybersecurity took place on 18 March 2025. The EU raised concerns about discrimination of EU companies in China or the lack of legal certainty in the Chinese legal framework related to digital matters such as cybersecurity or data transfers.

Latin America & Caribbean

The wider regional cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean takes place in the context of the [EU-LAC Digital Alliance](#). Thematic priorities of the Alliance are data governance, e-governance, cybersecurity, meaningful and secure connectivity and AI. The EU-LAC High-Level Policy Dialogue on e-Governance took place on 26-27 May 2025, back-to-back with the e-Governance Conference in Tallinn, Estonia. The fourth [CELAC-EU summit](#) will take place on 9-10 November 2025.

The [EU-Brazil Digital Dialogue](#) of 12 February 2025 confirmed the strategic priority of EU-Brazil digital cooperation. A comprehensive Work Plan was agreed between both parties and will guide our work for the next years. The next EU-Brazil Cyber Dialogue is expected to take place in Brasilia in September 2025. Topics of European interest include secure and trusted connectivity in 5G, resilience of critical infrastructure and product security.

Discussions are ongoing on a possible relaunch of the Digital Dialogue with **Mexico** (the last one took place in 2019).

Neighbourhood

The Commission is continuing the work on the roll-out of the **New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans** adopted on 8 November 2023. Main achievements to date include the establishment of EU Digital Innovation Hubs in each economy since the beginning of 2025 (via the Digital Europe Programme) and the implementation of the **WiFi4WB initiative** that will provide free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens and visitors in public spaces in municipalities across the region.

In October 2024, the Commission endorsed the **Western Balkans' individual Reform Agendas**. The Reform Agendas, spanning from December 2024 to December 2027, contain a set of commitments on digital policies: for legislative alignment with EU acquis; on cybersecurity improvements; on digital identity and e-governance; and on investment in digital infrastructure.

Ukraine has adopted and is expected to officially publish into law its last remaining transposition measure of the EU roaming *acquis*. After that, the Commission will be in the position to send for the Council's approval a draft decision allowing Ukraine to join the EU Roam-Like-at-Home area. The informal Joint Working Plan with Ukraine for electronic signatures and digital identities was agreed

on 19 March 2025. The Commission is supporting Ukraine in its alignment with the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, the NIS2 Directive and the EU 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox. An agreement amending Ukraine's Association Agreement to Creative Europe was signed by both parties on 11 December 2024, allowing Ukraine to participate fully in the MEDIA strand of the programme. The EU and Ukraine are finalising an amendment to Ukraine's Digital Europe Programme association agreement to allow Ukraine to have access to the EU Cybersecurity Reserve, established under the Cyber Solidarity Act. The last edition of the EU-Ukraine cyber dialogue took place in July 2024 and there are currently discussions on the date of the cyber dialogue to take place this year.

As regards cooperation with **Moldova**, Commission services are supporting Moldovan authorities in their efforts to align with the EU digital identity framework, EU roaming *acquis*, the EU 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox, the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, in advancing towards mutual recognition of trust services and in enhancing responses to disinformation and cybersecurity threats, notably in the context of the upcoming parliamentary elections in autumn 2025. On 20 May 2025, the EU and Moldova concluded an amendment to Moldova's Digital Europe Programme association agreement, allowing Moldova to access to the EU Cybersecurity Reserve, pending ratification on their side.

United Kingdom

The second **EU-UK Cyber Dialogue** took place in London on 5-6 December 2024. The EU and the United Kingdom exchanged views regarding approaches to cyber resilience, secure technology and digital identity; as well as deterrence strategies against cyber threats and countering cybercrime including ransomware. Exchanges also covered respective developments related to cyber incident response and cyber defence, cyber skills, and cyber capacity building. The next EU-UK cyber dialogue should take place by the end of this year.

Following the **EU-UK Summit** of 19 May 2025, the EU and the UK are discussing on an informal basis how cooperation in the digital and AI domains can be shaped. In this regard, the UK's joining of the Horizon Europe and EuroHPC programmes over the past months, forms a start.

Multilateral fora

The Global Digital Compact (**GDC**) was adopted by consensus as the first comprehensive framework for global digital governance. The EU remains actively involved in the GDC implementation work to defend its achievements, while ensuring non-duplication and maximising synergies with the existing global digital architecture, including the Internet Governance framework.

In the negotiations for the World Summit on the Information Society (**WSIS+20**) review, the EU aims at upholding an open, human-centric Internet based on human rights, enhancing multi-stakeholder governance, and bridging the new digital divides by establishing an operational connection with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the GDC. The EU also calls for the permanent institutionalisation and stable funding of the Internet Governance Forum, enhancing its inclusivity and effectiveness.

At the **G7**, after two consecutive G7 Presidencies (Japan and Italy) mainly dedicated to the approval and implementation of the G7 Hiroshima Code of Conduct for generative AI, Canada prioritized other AI aspects (AI for economic growth, in particular for MSMEs; promotion of G7 AI approach and values in Emerging markets; the need, for the G7 to address the rising energy demand stemming from AI and other emerging technologies, and its impact on our collective energy security). On Quantum,

Canada wants to have a general discussion on the opportunities and risks of this promising emerging technology in order to guide its development. The EU generally supports this agenda, which gives an opportunity to promote our approach. A Ministerial meeting will take place next fall.

Moreover, under the Italian Presidency, the **G7 Cybersecurity Working Group** was established that is dedicated to facilitating information exchange and sharing practices among G7 members in relation to cybersecurity topics including supply chain security and the cybersecurity of AI. Under the Canadian Presidency, the list of topics was expanded, also covering post-quantum cryptography.

The South-African **G20** Chair priorities (Artificial Intelligence and Innovation for Sustainable Development, deployment of digital public infrastructure, Digital Innovation Ecosystems to support MSMEs, and measures to further advance universal and meaningful connectivity) align well with EU priorities. The next Ministerial meeting covering digital topics is set to take place on 25-26 September 2025.

The Commission has continued its participation in the **International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI)**, a multilateral arena dedicated to combatting ransomware which brings together more than 70 partners. Since the 2024 CRI Summit held in October 2024, a CRI Steering Committee has been formed, consisting of Germany, the UK, Singapore and Australia. The Commission together with Germany has organised online meetings to support EU Member States' coordinated preparation for the CRI meetings held in 2025. Currently quarterly meetings are held, two online and two in person. One in person meeting was held in Manchester on 8 May and the following in person meeting is scheduled for October 2025 in Singapore.

The EU cooperates closely with NATO through thematic **Structured Dialogues**. Since the first EU-NATO Structured Dialogue on Cyber in October 2024, the two sides have held technical-level exchanges in the framework of the Structured Dialogue. The EU-NATO Structured Dialogue on Emerging & Disruptive Technologies took place in December 2024, while the EU-NATO Structured Dialogue on Resilience took place in January 2025. Each of these structured dialogues has featured discussions relevant for digital technologies and infrastructure.