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TELECOM 280
CYBER 272
RELEX 784
CONUN 103
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
Council of 9 June 2026
An International Digital Strategy for the European Union: Taking Stock One
Year On
- Information from the Commission

An International Digital Strategy for the European Union: Taking Stock One Year On

On 6 June 2025, the European Commission and the High Representative adopted a [Joint Communication on an International Digital Strategy for the European Union](#), setting out a vision for the EU's external action in the field of digital. The [Strategy was supported](#) by [Council Conclusions](#), agreed on 20 November 2025. What follows outlines the progress made in implementing this Strategy in its first year.

1. Deepening, Broadening and Connecting our Partnerships

One of the pillars of the Strategy is deepening the cooperation with partner countries, focusing on concrete cooperation activities and supported by private sector engagement. In addition, the Strategy supports the broadening of the range of partners with whom the EU cooperates on digital and tech.

Further editions of the **Digital Partnership Councils**, the ministerial level of engagement between the EU and its partners on digital issues took place with [Japan](#), [the Republic of Korea](#) and [Singapore](#), while the first Digital Partnership Council was held with [Canada](#). These meetings revealed the strong commitment of our partners to working with the EU on a broad range of issues in the field of economic security (including in semiconductors, digital standards and secure international connectivity), competitiveness and innovation (including cooperation on research & innovation in Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing, Quantum, or 6G) and digital governance (including AI and online platforms governance and interoperability of digital identity solutions).

Cooperation with **India** has been developing in the fields of AI, semiconductors, Digital Public Infrastructure, High-Performance Computing, digital skills and ICT standardisation. The third EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) ministerial meeting is scheduled on 15 July in Brussels.

Examples of concrete achievements include:

- A joint EU-Japan Working Group to discuss policy issue for increased security and resilience of submarine cables and enhanced global connectivity, including Arctic connectivity between Europe and Asia.
- The 6G-MIRAI-HARMONY initiative, an EU-Japan collaborative research project launched to pioneer AI-native 6G wireless networks and Radio Access Infrastructure (RAN).
- Launch of collaborative research projects on quantum technologies between the EU and the Republic of Korea, focusing on advancing these technologies through shared development, expertise exchange and stronger long-term collaboration.
- An Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals signed with India in January 2026.
- The launch of the first pilot of the European Legal Gateway Office in India in February 2026, serving as a one-stop hub to provide information and support for workers moving to the EU, starting with those in the ICT sector.

Work is ongoing to establish a **network of Digital Partnerships** with Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Canada and India to discuss, initially at technical level, issues of common interest such as the resilience of critical supply chains, ICT standards, or global digital governance. This can constitute a forum for mutual exchange on developments in the field of digital policy.

New **Digital Dialogues** have been opened with key African partners. Cooperation with [Kenya](#) focuses on secure digital infrastructure, AI innovation and ecosystems, DPI and data governance. The EU and [Morocco](#) launched a Digital Dialogue enabling cooperation in AI compute infrastructure and ecosystems, start-ups, secure digital infrastructure and interoperability of digital identity solutions.

Work is ongoing on concluding a new **Digital Partnership with Brazil**, which will be based on [well-established cooperation](#) in areas such as AI, data spaces, digital signatures, and protection of minors online.

Progress of the [EU-LAC Digital Alliance](#) was endorsed by Heads of State and Government at the CELAC-EU summit held in Colombia in November 2025. Four bi-regional policy dialogues (on e-governance, cybersecurity, connectivity and AI) have underpinned policy and regulatory cooperation activities between the EU and LAC countries. The EU-LAC Digital Accelerator has concluded more than 70 partnerships between EU and LAC businesses.

In Europe, the [Western Balkans Digital Summit](#) noted the cooperation in digital services, digital identity wallet, interoperability, AI, cybersecurity, e-services, and skills development. New European Digital Innovation Hubs have been launched in the Western Balkans, while North Macedonia and Serbia have been selected to host AI Factory Antennas. In addition, the Commission [proposed](#) to open negotiations to extend EU Roaming to the Western Balkans.

Ukraine and Moldova became part of the EU's Roam-Like-At-Home area in January 2026, while Moldova was granted access to the EU Cybersecurity Reserve. The first Moldovan Artificial Intelligence Factory Antenna and European Digital Innovation Hub were selected for EU funding. At the first-ever EU-Armenia Summit on 5 May 2026, the EU and **Armenia** [signed](#) a Connectivity Partnership and six [Letters of Intent](#) were signed by the EU to key Armenian companies in, among others, the fields of digital infrastructure and semiconductor skills.

The [New Pact for the Mediterranean](#) sets out an ambitious framework to step up digital cooperation with Mediterranean partners in the next years, covering secure and trusted digital infrastructures such as the Medusa and Blue-Raman subsea cable systems, 5G networks, and data centres, regional capacity building programmes and AI ecosystems and eGovernance solutions.

The EU is deepening its engagement with partners on cybersecurity. The series of **Cyber Dialogues** continued with the EU's closest partners on cybersecurity, including [Ukraine](#), [the United Kingdom](#), [Japan](#) and [Brazil](#), as well as [NATO](#). These dialogues include exchanges on cybersecurity policy, operational cooperation including capacity building, exchange on cyber defence, and the promotion of accountability and responsible state behaviour in cyberspace.

The **EU's Security and Defence Partnerships** increasingly cover digital issues, from cybersecurity to AI, critical infrastructure protection, and hybrid threats. New partnerships agreed since June 2025 include [Canada](#), [India](#), [Iceland](#), [Ghana](#) and [Australia](#). EU support to **Ukraine** and **Moldova** continues to address security needs such as enhancing their cyber resilience and fighting Russian disinformation. The EU has also supported the democratic resilience of partner countries against hybrid threats, including **Armenia** in preparation of its elections in June 2026.

Digital issues feature as a key pillar of the Union's global partnerships. The [EU-Egypt Summit](#) agreed investments into trusted, secure digital connectivity and data infrastructures and to advance cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data economy, talent development and digital skills. At the [CELAC-EU Summit 2025](#), in November, leaders launched Stormwatch, a new partnership using EU satellite data and supercomputing to strengthen disaster preparedness in the face of worsening extreme weather. The [EU-African Union Summit 2025](#) welcomed the respective digital strategies and supported further cooperation. At the [EU-India Summit](#) in January 2026, leaders agreed on strengthening cooperation on digital connectivity, technology and innovation, including collaboration on DPI, e-governance, semiconductors, secure and trusted connectivity, 6G, e-commerce and AI. In May 2026, the EU and Armenia held their first ever Summit and signed the [EU-Armenia Connectivity Partnership](#).

Digital plays an increasingly relevant role in **trade agreements**. Among the series of trade agreements agreed over the past year, the [EU-India Free Trade Agreement](#) includes a chapter on Digital Trade that will contribute a predictable, secure, and fair digital trade environment.

Beyond partnerships and dialogues, new partner countries have joined key EU programmes. Korea, Egypt and Switzerland are now associated to Horizon Europe, while Switzerland is associated to Digital Europe.

2. The EU Tech Business Offer

Since the launch of the EU International Digital Strategy, the EU and Member States have rolled out an intense agenda to **promote the EU Tech Business Offer** towards partner countries and enrol the European private sector, with the **support of the [D4D Hub](#)** and the **Informal Digital Hubs** to coordinate on the ground.

Building on the broader **Global Gateway** objectives, the EU Tech Business Offer has been rolled out through policy dialogues, study visits, business matchmaking, investment facilitation, and cooperation with EU digital companies seeking opportunities in strategic digital markets, for example through the [Global Gateway Investment Hub](#)¹. Informal Digital Hubs established at country level² serve as coordination platforms between the EU Delegations and Member States' Embassies, strengthening digital diplomacy and ensuring coherent delivery of the offer according to partner countries' priorities and EU strategic interests. Cooperation areas and key components included secure connectivity, cybersecurity, Digital Public Infrastructure, AI and Data governance. The implementation has been further reinforced through Global Gateway flagships linking the EU's digital ecosystems with those of partner countries, helping develop concrete, business-oriented and bankable projects.

Global Gateway Flagship Investments

- Blue Raman (GEANT, TI Sparkle and Alcatel Submarine Networks), contributes to a 11,700km long trusted and secure submarine cable system from Europe (Italy) to India (Mumbai) with landings in the Mediterranean region, Middle East and East Africa.
- Building on the BELLA cable, an [EU-LAC supercomputing network on AI](#) was established between 7 HPC centres in the EU and 7 in the LAC region. Financed by the European Commission and Spain, it provides access to faster, smarter, and more secure computing power allowing the deployment of AI applications addressing societal and environmental challenges.
- The EU is supporting Nigeria's Project Bridge, which will deploy 90,000 km of fibre-optic backbone infrastructure in the country.
- At the [EU-Western Balkans Investment Forum](#), the European Commission, 4iG and GEANT signed a non-binding letter of intent, in which they jointly affirm their shared ambition to promote a secure and high-quality digital connectivity backbone throughout the Western Balkans and strengthening links with the EU.

¹ Including a dedicated section for [Enlargement Countries and the Eastern Neighbourhood](#).

² In Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, to be possibly extended to more partner countries.

Other concrete implementation has been taking place through a broad pipeline of policy, business and investment activities. Examples include the EU Tech Business Offer Forum and EU-Kenya Digital Dialogue launch in Nairobi, the EU-Vietnam Global Gateway Business and Investment Forum in Hanoi, the EU-Mozambique Digital Open Day in Brussels, and the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogue on cybersecurity and connectivity, as well as large-scale investment conferences for the Western Balkans, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova.

Additional activities included study visits to EU Member States and workshops on secure connectivity, DPI, AI and space technologies, or business fora in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nigeria. These events were complemented by matchmaking sessions between EU and partner country representatives and companies, calls for expressions of interest, and pilot initiatives involving EU tech companies, which together supported translating policy engagement into concrete investment and business partnerships on the ground.

Example of successful EU Tech Business Offer events:

- On 5 May 2026, an EU-Indonesia Tech Event on *Scaling up European investments in Indonesia's digital economy* was held in Jakarta marking an important milestone in advancing the EU's digital cooperation with Indonesia. Co-organised by the EU, the D4D Hub and EuroCham Indonesia under the Global Gateway framework, it brought together over 300 participants and generated hundreds of B2B/B2G meetings, enabling European companies to explore concrete business and investment opportunities in digital infrastructure, AI, connectivity and data governance.
- On 21 May 2026, the European Commission, with the support of the D4D Hub, organised an EU-Africa AI Tech Business Offer Event in Brussels, which brought together African and European policymakers, companies, and EU development finance institutions and cooperation agencies. During the event, government representatives from Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania engaged with Team Europe partners, European digital companies and African private sector actors to identify business opportunities and joint investment in the field of AI.

3. Global Digital Governance

In the last year, clear signs have emerged of the deterioration of the geopolitical landscape, and an increase in threats to the international rules-based order. The EU remains a staunch supporter of an effective multilateral system and continues to defend the commitments made in consensual UN frameworks. As part of the **implementation of the UN Global Digital Compact (GDC)**, the EU has been engaging openly and constructively in the [Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#).

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) +20 review was a major milestone for global digital governance in the first year of the implementation of the Strategy. The EU played a leading role in the consensual adoption of the outcome document, including the permanent mandate of the Internet Governance Forum and the [stronger alignment](#) between WSIS and GDC.

The EU remains fully involved in the **G7** and the **G20** and has supported efforts to improve global governance of AI, the deployment of AI in developing countries and online protection of minors (G7), as well as the responsible use of AI, inclusive digital transition and the development of secure DPI (G20).

Work has progressed to prepare the [ITU Plenipotentiary Conference \(PP-26\)](#) in Doha in November 2026, based on effective EU coordination, both with respect to candidacies and substantive issues.

4. Conclusions

The EU's International Digital Strategy is on track, with strong delivery demonstrating the value of a coordinated EU approach across all its three pillars, contributing to the EU's global influence as much as the international outreach of EU tech companies.

Sustained political commitment and consistent Team Europe implementation will be essential in sustaining the EU's ability to steer the global digital transformation in a way that serves people, democracy, and sustainable development, and to address the challenges of the future