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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society
Subject:	Discussion Paper : Deep Dive on the Digital Partnerships with Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore

Delegations will find attached a discussion paper from the Presidency on Deep Dive on the Digital Partnerships with Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

Deep Dive on the Digital Partnerships with Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore

EU-Japan Digital Partnership

Since the launch in 2022, two successful Digital Partnership Councils were held with concrete deliverables such as Memorandum of Cooperation on Semiconductors, Administrative Arrangement on Semiconductor Public Support Transparency Mechanism and an Early Warning Mechanism, Memorandum of Cooperation on Digital Identities and Trust Services, Memorandum of Cooperation to support secure, resilient and sustainable submarine connectivity as well as research cooperation on 5G/6G and quantum.

The **third Digital Partnership Council** is planned to be held in Tokyo in May 2025. As a lead up to the Council, the European Commission will hold a stakeholder consultation workshop, the 30th ICT Dialogue with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) in Brussels on 6 March 2025, and the 8th Digital Policy Dialogue with the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) also in Brussels on 1 April 2025. The third Digital Partnership Council is expected to deliver increased regulatory cooperation **shaping the future of technologies in accordance** with our joint values. Its actions aim to deliver reinforced **resilience in digital and critical technologies as well as supply chains**. It also aims to strengthen **research and excellence** through joint research on digital topics, contributing to boosting EU and Japan's competitiveness and partnership including towards reducing dependencies in critical and emerging technologies.

EU-Republic of Korea (RoK) Digital Partnership

Since the launch in 2022, two successful Digital Partnership Councils were held. At the **second Digital Partnership Council** (26 March 2024) the main discussion topics and key deliverables on semiconductors were: an agreement on collaborative research (4 joint projects announced in July 2024), launch of the first EU-ROK Semiconductors Researchers' Forum, and the acknowledgement of the importance to exchange information on the supply chain. Furthermore, on 5G/6G, collaborative research targeting Radio Access Networks (RAN) and integrated device-network approaches demonstrating 6G technology was launched. On quantum, there is good progress in identifying common research topics. On AI, the EU-ROK regulatory dialogue was strengthened. On online platforms, exchanges on respective legislation have deepened. On cyber security, commitment to continuing exchanges was expressed. Finally, the importance of Arctic connectivity was highlighted. Work is now ongoing to advance and deepen collaboration on all identified work strands.

The **third Digital Partnership Council** is tentatively planned for Q3/4 of 2025 in Seoul.

EU-Singapore Digital Partnership

Since a first Digital Partnership Council on 1 February 2023, three discussions at ministerial level have taken place with Singapore. As a major deliverable of the Digital Partnership, an [Administrative Arrangement on Collaboration on the Safety of Artificial Intelligence](#) was signed on 20 November 2024. It establishes a framework for mutually beneficial cooperation on the safety of AI between the European Commission's EU AI Office and Singapore's designated AI Safety Institute, in view of promoting the innovation, development and responsible use of safe, trustworthy and human-centric AI.

Cooperation is also ongoing in several other areas such as e-invoicing, as Singapore has launched a nationwide E-Invoicing initiative in cooperation with Pan-European Public Procurement Online (PEPPOL). Engagement is ongoing on looking at Singapore's pioneer AI Apprenticeship Programme. In addition, technical work continues on electronic identity, after a successful online workshop on interoperability, digital identity and digital trade exploring use cases and online safety. There is also ongoing cooperation on cybersecurity: the European Commission welcomed the Singapore Cybersecurity Agency for a two-day visit in 2024. Opportunities to develop new capabilities in research and innovation that would complement the two parties' industrial ties and benefit the respective semiconductors ecosystems are being further explored, and a workshop convening EU and Singaporean researchers in semiconductors is being organised. Singapore's potential association to Horizon Europe could bring further benefits for joint research and innovation in cutting-edge digital technologies in the context of the Digital Partnership.

Guiding questions:

- What do you consider as priority areas of cooperation in the field of digital with each of these three partners?
- What bilateral cooperation in the field of digital have Member States established with each of these countries? How can we better integrate EU and national-level cooperation with these countries?
- What forms of cooperation should the EU pursue with these countries, considering bilateral cooperation but also plurilateral forms of cooperation?