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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 5 December 2025: International initiatives in the digital field - Information from the Commission

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5 December 2025 TTE (Telecommunications) Council

International initiatives in the digital field

Information from the Commission

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This note provides an update on the state of play of the EU international cooperation activities in the field of digital policies and cybersecurity. It follows a previous note to the attention of the TTE (Telecommunications) Council meeting on 6 June 2025 and focuses on developments since that date.

1. An International Digital Strategy for the European Union

On 5 June 2025, the European Commission and the High Representative published the **International Digital Strategy for the EU**, setting out a joint vision for the EU's external action for digital.

In an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment, the International Digital Strategy shows that the EU is a stable and reliable partner, open to digital cooperation with partners across the world. The strategy has the following main objectives:

- To expand international cooperation, by deepening existing Digital Partnerships and Dialogues, establishing new ones, and fostering collaboration through a new Digital Partnership Network.

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- To deploy an **EU Tech Business Offer**, by combining EU private and public sector investments to support the digital transition of partner countries, incorporating components such as investments in secure and trusted connectivity, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem building.

- To strengthen global digital governance, by promoting a rules-based global digital order, in line with EU's values and interests.

The International Digital Strategy is in line with the European Council **conclusions of 23 October 2025**, which underline the need to reinforce international partnerships and close collaboration with trusted partner countries and international organisations on digital innovation and governance as a way to reinforce EU digital sovereignty.

The focus is now on **implementing the strategy** in cooperation with EU Member States and EU tech companies, and in particular to implement the EU Tech Business Offer and promote EU tech solutions and standards to our partners globally.

2. Geographical areas

North America

The EU and U.S. are fully committed to implementing the **EU-U.S. Joint Statement of 21 August**, including the different strands of cooperation on digital and tech: the purchase of USD 40 billion worth of advanced AI semiconductors based on mutually agreed security guarantees; the negotiation of a mutual recognition agreement on cybersecurity certification; and enhancing cooperation on standards in key sectors of mutual interest. We are also continuing our technical cooperation with the U.S. on promoting secure and trusted connectivity in third countries.

The **EU-U.S. 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 U.S. counterparts, in particular the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The EU and the U.S. intend to resume exchanges with the U.S. on cybersecurity shortly.

Concerning the **EU-Canada Digital Partnership**, exchanges have continued on issues such as online platforms, digital identity, AI, supercomputing and cybersecurity. At the EU-Canada Summit on 25 June 2025, the Leaders underlined the importance of this cooperation. The first Digital Partnership Council meeting will take place on 8 December 2025 in Montreal, Canada, with the two sides agreeing to pursue cooperation on innovation and research, regulation, standards, as well as sovereign technological capacities. A Joint Statement is expected, accompanied by two MoUs on digital credentials and on AI, and a Joint Declaration on independent and resilient media.

Indo-Pacific

The second ministerial meeting of the **EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** took place in New Delhi in February 2025. Cooperation is continuing on advanced technologies (AI, semiconductors, high-performance computing, 6G standardisation), on interoperable Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and on promoting legal pathways for skilled professionals. The EU-India Summit is due to take place on 27 January 2026 in New Delhi. The next TTC Ministerial Meeting is expected to be held in spring 2026.

The **third EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council** took place on 12 May 2025 in Tokyo and the EU-Japan Summit took place on 23 July 2025, also in Tokyo. Both events delivered high-level commitments to digital cooperation. Work is now ongoing to implement the deliverables agreed. For example, the EU-Japan Working Group on Global Connectivity is being set up, progress is made on the mutual recognition project for academic credentials to showcase interoperability of digital identities, and a cooperation arrangement on digital markets was signed between the Commission's Directorates-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) and for Competition (DG COMP), and the Japan Fair Trade Commission. The fourth Digital Partnership Council meeting is planned for May 2026 in Brussels. The next EU-Japan Cyber Dialogue will take place in Brussels, likely in the first quarter of 2026.

The **third EU-Republic of Korea (RoK) Digital Partnership Council** meeting will take place on 28 November 2025 in Seoul. The deliverables include the launch of a collaborative research call on quantum technologies, continued regulatory cooperation on AI, the start of exchanges on respective approaches to data spaces, continued cybersecurity cooperation in the context of the EU-ROK Cyber Dialogue and enhanced cooperation on standardisation.

The **second EU-Singapore Digital Partnership Council meeting** will take place on 1 December 2025 in Brussels. A Joint Statement is expected in the days following the meeting. Both sides have agreed on deliverables including deepening cooperation on AI safety and innovation, continued work for collaborative projects in digital identities and in semiconductors, regulatory exchanges on online platforms and on cybersecurity, and starting cooperation on data spaces and on quantum technology.

The EU and **Australia** continued their cooperation under the Digital Dialogue and held the first Cybersecurity Consultations. Both agree to hold the next Digital Dialogue in 2026 and possibly consider a Digital Partnership for the future.

China

Discussions are ongoing on holding the next **High Level Digital Dialogue**, but a date is not yet agreed.

Latin America & Caribbean

The wider regional cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean takes place in the context of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance,** which was launched at the EU-CELAC Summit in 2023. The EU-LAC Digital Week took place in Guatemala on 22-26 September 2025.

The **EU-Brazil Cyber Dialogue** took place in Brasilia on 5 September 2025. Topics of European interest include secure and trusted connectivity in 5G, resilience of critical infrastructure and product security. The next **EU-Brazil Digital Dialogue** is scheduled to take place in Brasilia in Spring 2026.

The **CELAC-EU Summit** on 9 November in Santa Marta, Colombia, reiterated the importance of digital transformation and highlighted Global Gateway projects such as the high-performance computing network and last kilometre satellite connectivity.

Discussions are ongoing on a possible relaunch of the Digital Dialogue with **Mexico** in 2026 (the last one took place in 2019).

Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Gulf

The **New Pact for the Mediterranean** sets out an ambitious framework to step up digital cooperation with Mediterranean partners in the next years. It puts forward a relevant agenda to collaborate on the rollout of secure and trusted digital infrastructures such as subsea cable systems, 5G networks, and data centres. It also indicates the EU support for the build-up of AI ecosystems and DPI solutions.

At the **EU-Egypt Summit**, both the EU and Egypt reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in the fields of digital transformation, to mobilise investments into trusted, secure digital connectivity and data infrastructures and to advance cooperation on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data economy, talent development and digital skills.

Next to Egypt, there are conversations taking place with **Morocco** on advancing a concrete collaboration agenda on secure connectivity, AI infrastructures and DPI.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the EU-African Union (AU) partnership, with the **EU-AU Summit in Angola on 24 and 25 November 2025**. The EU sees Africa's tech ecosystem accelerating, driven by strong demographics and rising global interest. Discussions are currently ongoing to engage more actively with Kenya and Nigeria. The EU's administrative agreement with Smart Africa also provides opportunities for further cooperation with the African digital ecosystem.

Preparations are on-going at services level for the next **EU- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)) Summit**. The EU sees increasing opportunities for cooperation with GCC countries in fields such as AI, submarine cables, e-government, and secure connectivity.

Western Balkans

The Commission is continuing the work on the roll-out of the **New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans** and the implementation of the **Western Balkans'** individual **Reform Agendas**. Discussions have also started on extending the EU's Roam Like At Home (RLAH) area to the Western Balkans.

Ukraine and Moldova

EU support to **Ukraine** and **Moldova** focuses on addressing war-related needs such as enhancing their cyber resilience and fighting Russian disinformation and gradual integration in the internal market. Recent deliverables and achievements include:

- Extending the EU's Roam Like At Home (RLAH) area to Ukraine and Moldova as of 1January 2026.
- New European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) hub to also support Ukraine and Moldova in fighting disinformation.
- Moldova's access to the EU Cybersecurity Reserve.
- Inclusion of Moldova in the EU Third Countries Trusted List.
- Ukraine's access to all actions of the MEDIA strand of the Creative Europe programme.
- New AI Factory Antenna approved for Moldova.
- The 2025 cyber-dialogue with Ukraine held on 16 October.

The last 2025 Cyber Dialogue with Ukraine was held on 16 October 2025 in Kyiv. Both parties agreed to a number of tangible lines of cooperation on relevant topics such as capacity building, cyber-crime or sharing of information related to the threat landscape.

United Kingdom

Cooperation with the UK is taking place through channels such as Horizon Europe and the Joint Undertakings for Chips or High-Performance Computing, or the Cyber Dialogue which was set up in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. DG CONNECT is also cooperating with the UK administration on online safety. A first **Digital Dialogue** is in preparation to structure the cooperation further.

Multilateral fora

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 prioritised 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, with the creation of a dedicated G7 Joint Working Group, Canada wants to have a general discussion on the opportunities and risks of this promising emerging technology in order to guide its development. Furthermore, the Point of Contact Group on Semi-conductors explored advancement of semiconductor trustworthiness, which could include the development of guidance containing both technical assurance and non-technical aspects to improve hardware security and identify opportunities for addressing current supply chain vulnerabilities. The EU generally supports this agenda, which gives an opportunity to promote our approach. A ministerial meeting will take place in Canada on 8-9 December. At the G7 Leader's Summit on 16-17 June, Leaders adopted two Leaders' statements focusing on 1) AI for prosperity, focusing on AI's potential to drive economic growth and innovation; and 2) the Kananaskis common vision for the future of quantum technologies.
Furthermore, a G7 Cybersecurity Working Group is discussing shared issues on cybersecurity and emerging technology. During Canada's presidency, the work of the group advanced across key workstreams, including in particular on post-quantum cryptography, Internet of Things and Vendor Security, Cybersecurity Advisories, Software Bill of Materials for AI, and Incentivizing Cybersecurity Practices.

The South-African **G20 Digital Ministers Meeting took place** on 25-26 September 2025. The core agenda focused on four essential themes fully aligned with EU's International Digital Strategy's priorities: inclusive digital transition, the development of secure DPI, supporting digital innovation, and the responsible use of AI. South Africa issued a chair statement. The ministerial meeting recognised, for the first time in G20, the need to respect Digital Sovereignty.
The Ministerial Conference of the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** took place in Paris on 3-4 June 2025. Digital sessions focused on AI and on leveraging the digital transformation and cross-border data flows to promote inclusive economic growth. Issues included digital trade, digital divide, gender equality, data free flow with trust and digital finance.

In the context of the UN, the EU remains actively involved in the **Global Digital Compact (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 is 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 SDGs and the Global Digital Compact. The EU also calls for the permanent institutionalisation and stable funding of the Internet Governance Forum, enhancing its inclusivity and effectiveness.

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. The Commission represented the European Union at the CRI Summit in Singapore on 24 October 2025. In the framework of the CRI, the Commission together with Singapore co-led a project entitled "Safeguarding our IoT Against Ransomware Actors".

The EU cooperates closely with **NATO** through thematic **Structured Dialogues, several of which address issues** relevant for digital technologies and infrastructure, in particular the EU-NATO Structured Dialogue on Cyber (latest on 20 November 2025); on Emerging & Disruptive Technologies (latest in July 2025, next January 2026 TBC); on Resilience (latest in July 2025, next in January 2026 TBC). These meetings are follow-up by regular expert level discussions.