

DIGITALEUROPE Statement

« Green light to start talking about Data Flows in Trade agreements »

Brussels, 13 July 2016

This week in Brussels and in Geneva, European (EU) negotiators are meeting with their trading partners for the next Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiating rounds. DIGITALEUROPE continues to support the conclusion of both agreements in 2016, provided they are comprehensive, ambitious and contain a strong comprehensive Digital Trade agenda.

The recent adoption of the EU-US Privacy Shield is an important element to help rebuild trust between the EU and the US in on cross-border data flows. We believe now the time has come to step up the discussions on provisions that ensure data flows and ban forced data localisation, in both TTIP and TiSA as well as any future trade negotiations. These two elements are the foundation of a broader Digital Trade discipline and should be respected globally.

The EU « Trade for All Strategy » published in 2015 confirmed the importance of Digital Trade for the EU economy as an offensive interest. Without such provisions the EU industry risks falling behind its competitors in other locations who can rely on the forthcoming digitally-pioneering Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. DIGITALEUROPE calls upon the European Commission to press ahead and come to the table.

From the very beginning DIGITALEUROPE has said that a Digital Trade discipline has to respect data privacy rules: data flows in trade agreements are not about negotiating data privacy rules; it is about ensuring Europe can reap the benefits of the data economy. This can and should happen in respect of privacy rules and without any lowering of standards.

At a time when there is growing public criticism on trade, it is important to address topics that actually make a difference to all our citizens and to SMEs. Digital Trade and an open Internet as we know it today are amongst those elements, because they are the enablers for society and the economy at large.

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ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 62 corporate members and 37 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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Switzerland: SWICO

Turkey: Digital Turkey Platform, ECID

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