

National Tech Leaders From Across Europe Commit to Address Major Challenges at London Summit

Interconnectedness and navigating political change top the agenda at Summit hosted by techUK and DIGITALEUROPE

21 March 2017: Today techUK and DIGITALEUROPE brought together the leaders of 22 national trade associations from Europe and the US at a two-day summit in London to work together on the major challenges and opportunities facing European and global digital economies. In an era of unprecedented technological and geopolitical change, tech leaders from national trade bodies across Europe and the US have united in agreeing to boost collaboration and partnerships for 2017 and beyond.

Topics at the London Summit included ensuring inclusive digital growth that benefits all citizens, the future of work, the Digital Single Market, and collaborating on solutions for a smooth Brexit that work technology businesses large and small that have customers across the UK, EU and beyond. In a fast changing political environment tech companies and their representatives agreed they have a responsibility to make it easier for people to understand and navigate change.

Summit delegates also met with a number of representatives from the UK Government, including the Minister for Digital and Culture, Matt Hancock MP, and the Minister for Exiting the EU, Robin Walker MP.

Julian David, CEO of techUK, commented on the summit:

"techUK is delighted to host fellow DIGITALEUROPE members from Europe's leading national trade associations and our colleagues from ITI in the USA here in London. It is now more important than ever for industry associations around the globe to work together on the challenges and opportunities that the next phase of the digital revolution will bring.

"We need to articulate more clearly both the issues and the benefits that our members' technologies offer to European citizens and businesses. It is clear that our national economies are deeply interdependent across the globe. Collaborating on shared goals and solutions on issues such as Brexit and ensuring global trade flows will be critical not just for our industry, but also our customers, consumers and citizens around the world."

Speaking after a Brexit roundtable, Minister for Exiting the European Union, Robin Walker MP said:

"Britain's world leading tech sector has a vital role to play in creating an economy that is resilient and fit for the future. So it was great to meet with trade associations from across Europe to outline our plan to build a truly Global Britain.

"That plan will ensure the UK continues to be one of the best places to start and grow a digital business, undertake research or trial a new technology."

Cecilia Bonfeld-Dahl, Incoming Director General of DIGITALEUROPE, added:

"I am pleased that one of my first tasks as incoming Director General for DIGITALEUROPE is to lead this summit and meet with important figures in UK Government and across Europe. The UK's exit from the European Union is going to affect digital economies across Europe and it is critical that we have smooth processes that work in the interests of the tech sector and society as a whole. I look forward to continuing this work with the National Trade Associations to ensure a positive outcome for all."

ITI, Washington DC-based voice of the global tech sector, also participated in the Summit. **ITI President and CEO Dean Garfield concluded:**

“With today’s summit, transatlantic tech relationships look set to go from strength-to-strength. In an interconnected world, it is clear that tech voices in Europe and the US are facing many similar opportunities and challenges for the businesses we represent and the customers they serve. In an era of constant change, it is only through dialogue and partnerships that we can pursue our shared aims of boosting trade, driving inclusive economic growth, and securing the benefits of digital for domestic populations.”

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Notes to Editors:

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Senior representatives from the following organisations were present at the two day Summit in London:

- AFNUM (France)
- Agoria (Belgium)
- AMETIC (Spain)
- ANIS (Romania)
- ANITEC (Italy)
- APDETIC (Romania)
- BAIT (Bulgaria)
- DI Digital (Denmark)
- DIGITALEUROPE (Europe-Wide)
- ITAS (Slovakia)
- IT-Brachen (Denmark)
- ITI (USA)
- ITL (Estonia)
- IVSZ (Hungary)
- Tech in France (France)
- Syntec Numerique (France)
- SFIB (France)
- Technology Ireland (Ireland)
- techUK (UK)
- TIF (Finland)
- ZIPSEE (Poland)
- ZVEI (Germany)

About techUK

[techUK](#) represents the companies and technologies that are defining today the world that we will live in tomorrow. Over 900 companies are members of techUK, collectively they employ more than 700,000 people. These companies range from leading FTSE 100 companies to new innovative start-ups. The majority of our members are small and medium sized businesses.

techUK is committed to helping its members grow, by:

- Developing markets
- Developing relationships and networks
- Reducing business costs
- Reducing business risks.

In January 2017, techUK laid out its top priorities for UK Government as part of forthcoming [European Exit negotiations](#). Further details of our work around Brexit can be found at our [Brexit Hub](#).

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 61 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>

About ITI

[ITI](#) is the global voice of the tech sector. We advocate for public policies that advance innovation, open markets, and enable the transformational economic, societal, and commercial opportunities that our companies are creating. Our members represent the entire spectrum of technology: from internet companies, to hardware and networking equipment manufacturers, to software developers. ITI's diverse membership and expert staff provide a broad perspective and intelligent insight in confronting the implications and opportunities of policy activities around the world. Visit <http://www.itic.org/> to learn more.