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European and Canadian tech industries call for ambitious EU–Canada Tech Alliance ahead of 2026 Summit

Brussels, 29 October 2026 — Ahead of the EU–Canada Summit 2026, DIGITALEUROPE and its Canadian industry partners TECHNATION, Canada EU Trade and Investment Association (CEUTIA) and Qorsa are calling for an ambitious EU–Canada Tech Alliance to turn political commitments into investment, innovation and global growth. The initiative follows the 2026 State of the European Union in Strasbourg, where DIGITALEUROPE Director-General Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl engaged with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The proposed EU-Canada Alliance focuses on three priorities: an ambitious Digital Trade Agreement, exploring a joint Scale-Up Fund and deeper cooperation on critical technologies, including AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, cybersecurity and secure digital infrastructure.

The economic foundations are already strong. Between 2016 and 2025, EU–Canada trade in goods increased by more than **76%**, while trade in services grew by around **90%**, according [to the Council of the European Union](#). In 2023, trade in digitally delivered services reached **€18.3 billion**.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE, said:

“Europe and Canada have a strong foundation to build a deeper technology partnership. Now industry is stepping forward to turn that ambition into action. We have the innovation, talent and trust. This partnership is not against anyone, rather its goal is to connect our markets, unlock investment and give our companies the capital and customers to scale.

Strengthen cooperation on critical technologies

Europe and Canada should deepen industrial cooperation in AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, cybersecurity, 6G and secure digital infrastructure. By connecting their complementary strengths, investing in joint innovation and strengthening strategic supply chains, both partners can build greater economic resilience and reduce critical dependencies.

Kevin d'Entremont, President and CEO of TECHNATION, said:

“Canada and Europe have a shared opportunity to turn innovation into growth at scale. That means connecting SME funding to simplified and accessible procurement opportunities that help companies secure the customers and credibility they need to grow globally. At the same time, greater alignment on digital sovereignty, including practical standards and guidance for managing data, will provide the





certainty needed to accelerate adoption, strengthen competitiveness, and build trust. Together, we can turn shared values into economic growth, technological leadership, and greater resilience.

Drive forward with a joint EU–Canada Scale-Up Fund

Europe and Canada have world-class research, innovative start-ups and technological strengths, but too many promising businesses lack the capital and customers to scale.

We propose the launch of an **EU–Canada Scale-Up Fund**, bringing together public and private capital to support innovative businesses on both sides. Combined with investment missions, business partnerships, improved market access and more accessible procurement opportunities, such an initiative could help European and Canadian companies compete globally.

The goal is not just to develop the next generation of technologies, but to give companies the capital and customers to scale.

Liam Watson, President of Qorsa Europe, said:

“*Canada and Europe have a unique opportunity to turn our shared strengths in quantum-safe technologies, explainable AI and digital innovation into global leadership. By connecting our innovation ecosystems, unlocking investment and giving businesses greater access to each other’s markets, we can help our companies scale and compete globally. An EU–Canada Tech Alliance would be a powerful step towards building a more competitive, secure and resilient transatlantic technology ecosystem.*

An ambitious EU–Canada Digital Trade Agreement

Building on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), Europe and Canada should work towards an ambitious Digital Trade Agreement that reduces unnecessary barriers, facilitates trusted cross-border data flows and provides greater legal certainty for businesses.

A stronger digital trade framework would create new opportunities for companies, particularly SMEs and scale-ups, to operate and grow on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mark Camilleri, President and CEO of Canada EU Trade and Investment Association (CEUTIA), said:

“*CETA has laid the groundwork for a stronger Canada-EU economic relationship. Building on this foundation, we must now bring our business communities closer together and, as trusted partners, connect our complementary strengths in emerging technologies and innovation. Advancing the Canada-EU Digital Partnership and working towards an ambitious Digital Trade Agreement will be key to accelerating this cooperation, delivering investment, jobs and global scale on both sides of the Atlantic.*

Canadian industry organisations TECHNATION, CEUTIA and Qorsa have already [endorsed DIGITALEUROPE's European AI & Tech Declaration](#), marking a first concrete step towards deeper cooperation between European and Canadian technology industries.



An EU–Canada Tech Alliance must go beyond political commitments to deliver concrete results. European and Canadian industries stand ready to turn this ambition into action, unlocking investment, scaling innovative companies and strengthening cooperation on critical technologies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Diem Tran

Associate Director for Communications & Media

diem.tran@digitaleurope.org / +32 490 22 00 93





About DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE is the leading trade association representing digitally transforming industries in Europe. We stand for a regulatory and investment environment that enables European digitalising businesses across multiple sectors and citizens to prosper from digital technologies. We wish for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital talents, investment and technology companies. Together with our members, we shape industry positions on all relevant policy matters, and contribute to their development and implementation. Our membership represents over 56,000 businesses who operate and invest in Europe. It includes corporations and scaleups who are global leaders in their field of activity, as well as national trade associations from across more than 30 European countries.

DIGITALEUROPE

Rue de la Science, 37, B-1040 Brussels

+32 2 609 53 10 ► Info@digitaleurope.org

► www.digitaleurope.org

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