

Call for the launch of digital trade negotiations with Korea and Singapore

As digital industries, we have long played a leading role on digital trade, calling for legally binding language both via bilateral EU Free Trade Agreements and the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce.

We are convinced ambitious digital trade chapters in bilateral trade agreements are crucial for the EU's competitiveness. And we have data to prove it: DIGITALEUROPE has worked with Frontier Economics to quantify exactly how important international data flows are to Europe's economy. Our [Data Flows and the Digital Decade Study](#) proves that overall, Europe could be €2 trillion better off by the end of the Digital Decade if we reverse current trends and harness the power of international data transfers.

The EU already concluded Digital Partnerships and Digital Trade Principles with Korea and with Singapore, demonstrating a good basis for negotiations towards binding commitments. Importantly, this will need a set of rules that are easy to apply and monitor. Currently, transfer impact assessments tools used by the industry, are a clear sign that the process is still too complex. It illustrates too, how important it is to continue closely consulting with industry during any negotiations.

To bring the trade relationship with Korea and Singapore to the next level, we are calling for the launch of digital trade negotiations. The Commission should pursue a comprehensive set of legally binding commitments on digital trade.