1. Issue: Scope and tasks of EU Office in the San Francisco Bay Area – Draft Concept

Scope

The office will promote EU digital policies and regulations, governance models and technologies with a focus on the San Francisco Bay Area. It will work in close coordination with EU Member State representations to ensure coherent and coordinated European messaging and action. Particular consideration will be given to the different work strands of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council.

Tasks

- Establish and develop an EU digital tech presence in the San Francisco Bay Area, linking with the wider tech ecosystem in California and the American west;
- Explain and promote the EU’s policies and approach on digital, tech and data issues, including through public events, stakeholder engagement;

- Scope out the potential for cooperation in a number of digital related fields, both in legislative/policy terms and through tech collaborations;

- Monitor and report on: trends in tech innovation including public and private support;

- Reach out to relevant stakeholders,

- Organising and accompanying visits of EU visitors from EUDEL and HQ.

Location
The office will initially be co-located with the Consulate General of Ireland in San Francisco.

Reporting lines and resources
The Office will work under the authority of, and report principally to, the Head of the EU Delegation in Washington D.C., working and coordinating closely with HQ.

Opening of office
The San Francisco should be operational from 1st September 2022.
2. Summary:
The setting up of an EU office in San Francisco is a concrete deliverable arising from the shared commitment of the 2021 EU-US Summit (15 June, Brussels) to strengthen transatlantic technological cooperation and resolve to drive a global digital transformation based on democratic values and standards. It also responds to a specific request from EU Consuls-General in the Bay area to strengthen the EU’s presence given its global regulatory lead and tech ambitions. The office will further the EU’s digital diplomacy in and with the US, reinforcing the EU’s presence and capacity for outreach with policy makers and stakeholders in the San Francisco Bay area, a global centre for digital technology and innovation. It will contribute to the goals of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council and responds to the Foreign Affairs Council discussions on digital diplomacy in July 2021 and July 2022.