

	<p>BRIEFING</p> <p><i>Origin: DG TRADE</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subject: Digital trade issues ○ DG Sabine Weyand meeting with [REDACTED], Director General of DigitalEurope ○ Date: 31 October 2019 ○ Place: Brussels
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Redactions covered by Art. 4.1 (b)

SCENE SETTER

You will meet with [REDACTED], Director General of Digital Europe, together with their Digital Trade Policy Group (three other colleagues).

DigitalEurope is very interested in and familiar with digital trade issues, on which they have frequent contacts with the Commission. Their key interests are related to data flows and, more recently, to WTO negotiations on e-commerce.

On data flows, Digital Europe is supportive of provisions establishing an obligation to ensure data flows and prohibiting unjustified data localisation requirements, on which they fully align with the US position.

On WTO e-commerce, in April, they published a position paper which included Recommendations for the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce. They fully support an ambitious outcome of WTO negotiations on e-commerce, including the extension of the WTO moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. On data flows and data localisation, the paper refers to the relevant provisions of the USMCA and CPTPP as useful benchmarks.

Art. 4.1. (a)

In the past, DigitalEurope also asked for more regular information and briefings on WTO e-commerce negotiations for stakeholders. You could inform them that DG TRADE is available to do that and is currently reflecting on how best to organise it (i.e. beyond our regular bilateral contacts with Digital Europe).

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CHECKLIST OF KEY MESSAGES

- The EU also attaches great importance to advancing on-going WTO negotiations on e-commerce.
- In the context of moving these negotiations forward, it would be useful for the EU's political level to hear the views of industry a bit more clearly, notably regarding their main asks in these negotiation (particularly on data flows).
- I can also confirm DG TRADE's commitment and availability for enhanced interactions with all stakeholders, including industry, about the WTO negotiations on e-commerce.