Meeting between

EVP Valdis Dombrovskis and Digital Europe

12 March 2021 by videoconference

The main issues discussed at the meeting were the new trade strategy and data flow and digital angle of National Recovery and Resilience Plans EU-US relations for trade and technologies.

Regarding trade and digital issues, EVP Dombrovskis insisted on e-commerce, and the need to bring the issues at WTO level in order to establish global rules that prevent undue obstacles on data transfer, whilst meeting the requirements on data confidentiality. [Redacted] congratulated EVP for the adoption of the new trade strategy. [Redacted] mentioned a study commissioned by DIGITALEUROPE on SMEs and data flows. It appears that 77% of European SMEs transfer data globally. Barriers to data transfer will hamper recovery. Europe has a key role to play in shaping a relevant framework for data transfer. On e-commerce and data flows, EVP highlighted that the EU wants first to bring the issues to the WTO. EVP Dombrovskis confirmed that National Recovery and Resilience Plans shall include a target of 20% for digital investments. This can go from investments in better connectivity, broadband, 5G, modernisation of public services like justice, skills, transports, energy, digitalisation of SMEs, cloud, cybersecurity etc. Final draft-plans are expected by the end of March, early April at the latest. [Redacted] invited EVP Dombrovskis to attend their conference to be held on 19 June 2021.