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For the attention of:

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Delivering an UK-EU Digital Partnership Agreement to underpin European sovereignty

Dear Prime Minister,

You have made growth the central objective of the forthcoming UK-EU Summit. Technology is a powerful engine of that growth, shaping productivity, investment and the jobs of the future across every postcode of the UK. We urge you to make technology a strategic focus of the summit.

We have raised these priorities with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade and the Minister for European Relations, and welcome their recognition of the importance of this agenda. Given the scale of the interests at stake, our member companies have asked us to bring these priorities directly to your attention.

We welcome the Government's efforts to secure UK participation in the European Union's Made in Europe initiatives. Any agreement must extend to digital technology and services, as well as manufactured goods. Cloud, AI, telecommunications, cyber security and satellite connectivity now underpin competitiveness across the economy, alongside public services and national security.

The UK and EU share deeply integrated technology markets, infrastructure and supply chains based on common standards. The bilateral trade between the two in digitally deliverable services is worth over \$350 billion. They also cooperate in areas including cyber security, space, defence, emerging technologies and critical infrastructure resilience. Building on these strengths will help businesses scale, attract investment and bring new technologies to market on both sides of the Channel.

The European Union is right to strengthen its technological and industrial sovereignty, protect critical systems and manage problematic dependences. The EU will be strongest when it builds this capability with trusted partners. UK companies should therefore be able to participate in European sovereignty initiatives on fair and reciprocal terms, whereby the UK continues to welcome EU companies' vital contribution to its own resilience and competitiveness.

The summit should translate this partnership into practical commitments on digital trade, regulatory cooperation and reciprocal access to technology procurement and investment opportunities.

In particular, the EU's proposed Cloud and AI Development Act risks restricting trusted UK providers' access to European markets. Such barriers would undermine the summit's growth ambitions, fragment supply chains and reduce access to capabilities that European businesses and public services need. Our initial modelling suggests that exclusion could cost the UK economy tens of billions of pounds over five years.

UK companies that invest, employ people, operate infrastructure and meet the required safeguards should be able to participate on fair terms. Security requirements should reflect demonstrable safeguards and resilience, rather than treating nationality alone as a proxy for trust.

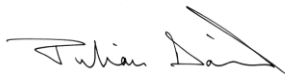
We therefore urge the Government to secure a reciprocal agreement recognising qualifying UK and EU companies as trusted participants in sovereignty, procurement and industrial initiatives. This should protect access for digital services providers and their supply chains, including under the Cloud and AI Development Act.

This approach would support European investment and innovation, preserve competition and supplier diversity and distinguish reliable partners from dependencies carrying genuine risks of interference or coercion.

Alongside market access, the summit should strengthen joint investment in innovation, including by securing UK participation in the Scaleup Europe Fund to help businesses scale the technologies critical to our shared growth and security.

A UK–EU Digital Partnership Agreement would deliver both growth and security. Making it a strategic priority for the summit would help build the secure, resilient digital capabilities on which our shared prosperity depends.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian David', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julian David OBE
CEO