09 May 2025

For the attention of:
Henna Virkkunen
Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy
and
The Rt Hon Peter Kyle
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology

Subject: Call for Formalised EU-UK Digital Partnership at the Upcoming Summit

Dear Executive Vice-President and Secretary of State,

As representatives of the tech sectors across the European Union and the United Kingdom, we are writing to urge you to make the establishment of a formalised digital partnership a key outcome of the upcoming EU-UK summit in May.

Our industry depends fundamentally on the free flow of data, talent, and innovation across borders. Regulatory cooperation is an essential requirement for seamless security and innovation between likeminded, it will create growth and mutual trust to align of digital regulation. Common standards and interoperability of solution is crucial for business growth and for security. Further, EU and UK public funding in innovation and application of dual use, critical tech and defence tech should be open for EU and UK players on both sides for businesses to collaborate and innovate across EU and UK.

Recognising the critical role of the digital and tech sectors in driving innovation, productivity and our defence, it is important to overcome barriers to cooperation to enable the EU and the UK to achieve their respective economic growth and competitiveness objectives.

While the TCA provides for the meeting of a Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade, the establishment of a formal partnership as a result of the upcoming EU-UK summit could provide further benefits to both sides. By formalising digital cooperation - through regular ministerial engagement, structured regulatory and public-private exchanges, and deeper collaboration on security of critical infrastructure, AI, cybersecurity, data governance, and critical and dual use technologies - we can set a global example of pragmatic leadership rooted in trust and common interest.

This need is especially pressing against the backdrop of growing geopolitical uncertainty. In an era of accelerating digital transformation and rising global tensions, Europe and the UK must act as responsible, collaborative leaders on the world stage. This includes fostering a stable, coherent digital policy environment that supports innovation and interoperability, protects citizens, and advances our shared democratic values. The precedent set by the EU's digital partnerships with like-minded nations such as Japan, Canada, Singapore, and South Korea showcase the opportunities for the EU and the UK to further strengthen their close trading relationship.

This is a moment that calls for concrete, institutionalised mechanisms that can respond to shared challenges and deliver real benefits for our economies and citizens. A formal EU-UK digital partnership would be a powerful signal of our collective commitment to a future defined by partnership and progress.

Yours sincerely

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl
Director General, DigitalEurope

Julian David OBE
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