

The
G20 Research Group
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in the University of Toronto
presents the

2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance Report

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*



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Contents

Preface.....	3
G20 Research Group Research Team	4
G20 Research Group Lead Analysts.....	4
G20 Research Group Analysts.....	4
CIIR G20 Research Team	5
CIIR Analysts.....	5
Introduction and Summary.....	6
Methodology and Scoring System	6
Commitment Breakdown.....	6
Selection of Commitments	7
Final Compliance Scores.....	7
Final Compliance by Member.....	7
Final Compliance by Commitment	7
Table 1: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring	8
Table 2: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance Scores — All.....	10
Table 3: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance Scores — G20 Research Group.....	11
Table 4: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance Scores — CIIR.....	12
Table 5: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance by Member — All.....	13
Table 6: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance by Member — G20 Research Group.....	14
Table 7: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance by Member — CIIR.....	14
Table 8: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance by Commitment — All.....	14
Table 9: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance by Commitment — G20 Research Group.....	15
Table 10: 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Final Compliance by Commitment — CIIR.....	15
Table 11: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2016.....	16
Conclusions.....	17
Future Research and Reports.....	17
Considerations and Limitations	17
Appendix: General Considerations	18
PART ONE: G20 RESEARCH GROUP ASSESSMENTS	19
1. Climate Change: Energy and Energy Efficiency.....	19
2. Corruption: Resilience.....	72
3. Digitalization: Digital Economy	144
4. Gender: Access to Labour Markets	221
5. Health: Health System Strengthening.....	275
6. Macroeconomics: Inclusive Business Ecosystems	363
7. Migration	411
8. Sustainable Development Goals: Alignment.....	493
9. Tax: Fair and Modern System.....	589
10. Trade: Trade and Investment Frameworks	627
PART TWO: CIIR ASSESSMENTS	697
11. International Taxation: Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.....	697
12. Financial Regulation: Basel III.....	730
13. Development: Digital and Financial Literacy.....	750
14. Climate Change: Climate Resilience.....	775
15. Environment: Waste Reduction	801
16. Food and Agriculture: Information and Communications Technologies	823
17. Energy: Sustainable Energy.....	849

3. Digitalization: Digital Economy

“We aim to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.”

G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score		+0.90	

Background

Less than half of the world’s population is connected to the Internet, two-thirds of whom live in developed and developing countries.¹⁰⁰⁵ Those who come from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups are particularly vulnerable to missing the wave of the tide of growth and development the digital economy brings.¹⁰⁰⁶ Women are particularly vulnerable to this divide as there are 250 million fewer women than men are online today.¹⁰⁰⁷ An estimated 80 per cent of the online content was

¹⁰⁰⁵ Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 13 December 2015. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95735.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰⁶ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/g20-digital-economy-ministerial-declaration-english-version.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰⁷ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/g20-digital-economy-ministerial-declaration-english-version.pdf>.

available in only one of 10 languages.¹⁰⁰⁸ This non-participation represents a significant missed opportunity to bring more participants to the digital economy.

The G20 first recognized the importance of the intersection of the online world and the economy at the 2015 Antalya Summit.¹⁰⁰⁹ The leaders committed to “bridge the digital divide”¹⁰¹⁰ and to “help ensure an environment in which all actors are able to enjoy the benefits of secure use of [information and communications technologies (ICT)].”¹⁰¹¹ The “digital divide” is the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities.”¹⁰¹²

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 reaffirmed its commitment to the digital economy. The leaders recognized impact of innovation and multi-dimensional partnerships on the digital economy.¹⁰¹³ The G20 also established the G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative to address the opportunities and challenges of the increasingly digital world.¹⁰¹⁴ The purpose of this Initiative is to “foster favorable conditions for [the] development [of the digital economy] and to address digital divide, including through expanded and better and affordable broadband access, flow of information for economic growth, trust and security, while ensuring respect for privacy and personal data protection, investment in the ICT sector, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, e-commerce cooperation, enhanced digital inclusion and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).”¹⁰¹⁵ The G20 Task Force on the Digital Economy was created to follow through with this Initiative.¹⁰¹⁶

Under the German G20 Presidency, the first digital ministerial process was set up to signal the importance of digitalisation in the global agenda.¹⁰¹⁷ During a two-day meeting in Düsseldorf,

¹⁰⁰⁸ Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 13 December 2015. Access Date: 30 October 2017.

<http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95735.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰⁹ A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future (Annex paper 1 to the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy) G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170407-digitalization-annex1.html>.

¹⁰¹⁰ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Antalya) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.pdf>.

¹⁰¹¹ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Antalya) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.pdf>.

¹⁰¹² 2015 G20 Antalya Summit Final Compliance Report: Information and Communications Technologies: Digital Divide, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 10 December 2016. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2015antalya-final/13-2015-g20-final-compliance-ict.pdf>.

¹⁰¹³ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Hangzhou) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>.

¹⁰¹⁴ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World, G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Conference (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/g20-digital-economy-ministerial-declaration-english-version.pdf>.

¹⁰¹⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Hangzhou) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>.

¹⁰¹⁶ A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future (Annex paper 1 to the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy) G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Conference (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170407-digitalization-annex1.html>.

¹⁰¹⁷ A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future (Annex paper 1 to the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy) G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170407-digitalization-annex1.html>.

Germany, the G20 Digital Ministers met and presented a joint plan as an international framework for action on 7 April 2017.¹⁰¹⁸ The result of the meeting was the “G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World,” which included “Annex Paper 1: A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future,” that was adopted at the Hamburg Summit on 8 July 2017.¹⁰¹⁹ The Roadmap identifies 11 key policy areas for leaders to act on.¹⁰²⁰

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the G20 continued its work on digitalisation and made its first explicit commitment on the digital economy. To guide its work, the G20 stated that “the G20 Roadmap for Digitalisation will help us guide our future work.”¹⁰²¹ The G20 leaders recognized that “digital transformation is a driving force of global, innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth and can contribute to reducing inequality and achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, we need to bridge digital divides along multiple dimensions, including income, age, geography and gender.”¹⁰²² Notably, the digital economy plays a significant role in accelerating economic development, enhancing productivity of existing industries, and cultivating new markets and industries.¹⁰²³ Given the G20’s commitment to “broaden the dialogue on key economic and financial policy issues among systemically significant economies and to promote cooperation to achieve stable and sustainable world growth that benefits all,” digitalisation is an important emerging issue.¹⁰²⁴

Commitment Features

The G20 commitment is “to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.” The “digital economy” is understood as a “broad range of economic activities that include using digitized information and knowledge as the key factor of production, modern information networks as an important activity space, and the effective use of information and communication technology as an important driver of productivity growth and economic structural optimization.”¹⁰²⁵ To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take global as well as domestic initiatives to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

Given the express support for the 11 principles outlined in the Roadmap, they are used here and are divided on its global and domestic dimensions. These 11 principles foster favourable conditions for

¹⁰¹⁸ “Digitalisation must include everyone,” The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 6 April 2017. Access Date: 1 November 2017. https://www.g20.org/Content/EN/Artikel/2017/04_en/2017-04-06-g20-digitalministerkonferenz_en.html.

¹⁰¹⁹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Hamburg) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 31 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

¹⁰²⁰ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Hamburg) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 31 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

¹⁰²¹ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 1 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/g20-digital-economy-ministerial-declaration-english-version.pdf>.

¹⁰²² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Hamburg) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 31 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

¹⁰²³ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 1 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/g20-digital-economy-ministerial-declaration-english-version.pdf>.

¹⁰²⁴ John Kirton, “What is the G20?” G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 November 1999. Access Date 2 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/g20whatisit.html>.

¹⁰²⁵ G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 September 2017. Access Date: 30 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/g20-digital-economy-development-and-cooperation.pdf>.

the development of the digital economy. The number at the end of the action items below corresponds with the identifier for the principle in the roadmap.

Part One: Global Initiatives

Global initiatives leaders commit to undertake focus on the following:¹⁰²⁶

- Take action on the Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance Initiative (2)
- Work with the Development Working Group to build synergies with the G20 initiative on promoting skills development for the digital economy and employment prospects for women and girls, particularly in developing and emerging countries (7)

To achieve full compliance for this component of the commitment, G20 members must take action to implement global initiatives that foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy according to these principles stated in the roadmap.

Part Two: Domestic Initiatives

Among the many listed, the roadmap features the following domestic action items:¹⁰²⁷

- Work to extend coverage to underserved communities or individuals by expanding digital infrastructure
- Encourage co-operation between industry and academic, including increasing availability of financing
- Encourage and promote effective strategies on digital literacy and skills development for the digital economy enabling citizens, especially underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, to successfully adapt to the requirements of the digital economy and society
- Gather, measure and analyse data related to the digital economy to determine progress
- To achieve full compliance, G20 members must foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through both global and domestic initiatives. To achieve partial compliance, G20 members must either foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives or through domestic initiatives. To achieve non-compliance, G20 members must not foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives or through domestic initiatives.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member did not foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives or through domestic initiatives
0	The G20 member either fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives OR through domestic initiatives
+1	The G20 member fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy

¹⁰²⁶ A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future (Annex paper 1 to the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy), G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 1 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170407-digitalization-annex1.html>.

¹⁰²⁷ A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future (Annex paper 1 to the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy), G20 Information Centre (Düsseldorf) 7 April 2017. Access Date: 1 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170407-digitalization-annex1.html>.

through global initiatives and domestic initiatives

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Lead Analyst: Wilkey Rong

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through both global and domestic initiatives.

On 9-11 October 2017, Minister of Production Francisco Cabrera and Secretary for International Economic Relations Horacio Reyser attended a Ministerial Meeting held in Marrakesh, Morocco, as part of the preparations for the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be held in Buenos Aires in December 2017.¹⁰²⁸ During the meeting, the Ministers acknowledged the importance of the 11th Ministerial Conference’s special focus on the new forms of global trade and the international insertion of small and medium-sized enterprises, the promotion and facilitation of foreign investment, and digital trade.¹⁰²⁹

On 15 November 2017, Argentina was elected as host country of the International Expo 2023 by the Bureau International des Expositions.¹⁰³⁰ As the first Expo to be held in Latin America, Argentina chose “Creative Industries in Digital Convergence” as the theme, emphasizing industries based on knowledge and digital product development, in line with several promotion projects of this type of economy throughout the country, primarily in Buenos Aires.¹⁰³¹ According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, the Buenos Aires Expo 2023 will be an excellent opportunity for Argentina to be reinstated as the port of entry to the region and become a benchmark in the field of digital economy, a global USD4.3 billion business.¹⁰³²

On 11 December 2017, Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie delivered a speech at the Plenary Session of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference.¹⁰³³ He stated that Argentina believes it is important to make progress on the pending issues of the Doha agenda, such as agriculture, fisheries, services and development, as well as on other issues relating to the 21st century trading system, such as e-commerce, Micro and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Investment facilitation.¹⁰³⁴

On 25 January 2018, Minister of Economy, Nicolas Dujovne, Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie and the Minister of Production, Francisco Cabrera attended the “G20 under the Argentine Presidency”

¹⁰²⁸ WTO: Preparatory meeting in Morocco of 11th Ministerial Conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 10 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017.

<https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/wto-preparatory-meeting-morocco-11th-ministerial-conference-be-held-buenos-aires>.

¹⁰²⁹ WTO: Preparatory meeting in Morocco of 11th Ministerial Conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 10 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017.

<https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/wto-preparatory-meeting-morocco-11th-ministerial-conference-be-held-buenos-aires>.

¹⁰³⁰ Buenos Aires to host International Expo 2023, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 15 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/buenos-aires-host-international-expo-2023>.

¹⁰³¹ Buenos Aires to host International Expo 2023, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 15 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/buenos-aires-host-international-expo-2023>.

¹⁰³² Buenos Aires to host International Expo 2023, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 15 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/buenos-aires-host-international-expo-2023>.

¹⁰³³ Address by Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie at Plenary Session opening, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2017. Access Date: 10 February 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/11th-wto-ministerial-conference-address-foreign-minister-jorge-faurie-plenary-session-opening>.

¹⁰³⁴ Address by Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie at Plenary Session opening, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2017. Access Date: 10 February 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/11th-wto-ministerial-conference-address-foreign-minister-jorge-faurie-plenary-session-opening>.

conference in Davos.¹⁰³⁵ During the conference, Dujovne explained two of the Argentine G20 Presidency's priorities: the future of work and the development of infrastructure.¹⁰³⁶ Regarding the former, Argentina aims to achieve advances in the global discussion and the understanding of the potential impact of technological advancement on productivity, growth, employment and inequality, and to develop public policies that help guarantee that technological advancement is an inclusive opportunity for all.¹⁰³⁷ Regarding the latter, Dujovne stated, "there is a global infrastructure gap that needs to be closed. We want to promote the mobilization of private capital into infrastructure projects."¹⁰³⁸

On 29 February 2018, Argentina ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the WTO and submitted its Instrument of Acceptance to the WTO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.¹⁰³⁹ Argentina's ratification of WTO TFA reflects its commitment to the multilateral trading system, as shown in the Declaration of Buenos Aires signed by President Macri and nine Latin American countries at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference.¹⁰⁴⁰ This is expected to contribute to Argentina's strategy of smart insertion into the world, generating a reliable, predictable and competitive business environment for Argentine exporting and importing companies.¹⁰⁴¹ As the world is increasingly interconnected by new technologies and value chains, the TFA will provide concrete benefits for Argentine companies, because it will "expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, promote cooperation between customs authorities and facilitate the provision of technical assistance to developing countries."¹⁰⁴²

On 8 February 2018, the 13th Meeting of the Argentina-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Economic-Trade and Scientific-Technology Cooperation took place in Moscow, Russia, and focused on the bilateral trade relations in key areas as transport, agri-food industry and science and technology.¹⁰⁴³ Both countries addressed the importance of cooperation in science, technology and productive innovation. As a result, cooperation agreements will be signed between the Argentinian

¹⁰³⁵ Argentine ministers spoke about Argentina's G20 in Davos (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentine-ministers-spoke-about-argentinas-g20-davos>.

¹⁰³⁶ Argentine ministers spoke about Argentina's G20 in Davos (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentine-ministers-spoke-about-argentinas-g20-davos>.

¹⁰³⁷ Argentine ministers spoke about Argentina's G20 in Davos (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentine-ministers-spoke-about-argentinas-g20-davos>.

¹⁰³⁸ Argentine ministers spoke about Argentina's G20 in Davos (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentine-ministers-spoke-about-argentinas-g20-davos>.

¹⁰³⁹ Argentina ratifies WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentina-ratifies-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement>.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Argentina ratifies WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentina-ratifies-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement>.

¹⁰⁴¹ Argentina ratifies WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentina-ratifies-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement>.

¹⁰⁴² Argentina ratifies WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentina-ratifies-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement>.

¹⁰⁴³ Argentina ratifies WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2017. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentina-ratifies-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement>.

Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation and the Skolkovo Foundation, and between the Argentine Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and its Russian counterpart.¹⁰⁴⁴

On 12 March 2018, Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie reiterated the importance of digitalization in a speech at the “Digital Inclusion for Development in the Americas” forum.¹⁰⁴⁵ He stated, “digital inclusion is essential to create equality and is one of the most important aspects of the economic development of societies.”¹⁰⁴⁶ According to Faurie, “Argentina has been taking important steps in terms of infrastructure and connectivity.”¹⁰⁴⁷

On 29-30 May 2018, Argentina hosted the second International Forum on Gender and Cyber Security.¹⁰⁴⁸ The forum focused on three main objectives: to promote the exchange of information and develop knowledge on gender and cyber security issues, to address current national and international gender issues present in the cyber security work sector, and to debate the main problems associated with gender violence in the digital realm.¹⁰⁴⁹

On 5 July 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, with the support of the Ministry of Modernization, enabled an online appointment scheduling system to request the certification of public documents. This initiative aims to expedite the process of document certification and avoid long queues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 19 July 2018, the National Direction of Digital Services announced significant progress in the migration project of all government sites into a centralized Argentine state portal (argentina.gob.ar), migrating 67 per cent of all sites. This strategy aims to facilitate and expedite government related Internet searches. The government has also continued to develop new functionalities into “Mi Argentina,” a personalized profile that can be accessed through the centralized website (also available

¹⁰⁴⁴ Argentina-Russia: Major advances in bilateral trade and in cooperation and investment projects, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 8 February 2018. Access Date: 12 March 2018. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en/argentina-russia-major-advances-bilateral-trade-and-cooperation-and-investment-projects>.

¹⁰⁴⁵ Minister Faurie: “Nowadays, digital inclusion is essential to create equality”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 12 March 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news/releases/minister-faurie-nowadays-digital-inclusion-essential-create-equality>.

¹⁰⁴⁶ Minister Faurie: “Nowadays, digital inclusion is essential to create equality”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 12 March 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news/releases/minister-faurie-nowadays-digital-inclusion-essential-create-equality>.

¹⁰⁴⁷ Minister Faurie: “Nowadays, digital inclusion is essential to create equality”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 12 March 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news/releases/minister-faurie-nowadays-digital-inclusion-essential-create-equality>.

¹⁰⁴⁸ 2nd International Forum on Gender and Cybersecurity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 29 May 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news/releases/2nd-international-forum-gender-and-cybersecurity>.

¹⁰⁴⁹ 2nd International Forum on Gender and Cybersecurity, Argentina Government Website (Buenos Aires) 29 May 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ii-foro-internacional-de-genero-y-ciberseguridad>.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Legalization of Argentine documents at Foreign Ministry: Online appointment scheduling available as from today, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news/releases/legalization-argentine-documents-foreign-ministry-online-appointment-scheduling>.

as a mobile application) and can be utilized to track the status of government related processes, receive alerts about document expiry dates or payment due dates (amongst other functions).¹⁰⁵¹

On 20 July 2018, Argentina's National Digital Inclusion Plan, launched in March 2017 and led by the Ministry of Modernization, reached a milestone of educating over 100,000 underrepresented or disadvantaged individuals on the use of technology and digital literacy.¹⁰⁵² With the expansion of the initiative to the Neuquén region, the plan is now being implemented in all provinces of the country.¹⁰⁵³

On 24 July 2018, the first summit between MERCOSUR, an economic and political bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and the Pacific Alliance, a Latin American trade bloc formed by Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, took place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Raimondi headed Argentina's delegation. As part of the Plan of Action, MERCOSUR and Pacific Alliance leaders agreed to a Digital Agenda. Agenda items include topics such as the exchange of experiences, good practices, personal data protection, digital signature and cyber security. The digital agenda aims to strengthen technological competencies and policies for the construction of a regional digital market.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 24 August 2018, Argentine Modernization Minister, Andres Ibarra, and Minister of Science, Technology and Innovative Production, Lino Barañao, hosted the "G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting" in Salta.¹⁰⁵⁵ According to the G20 declaration, there was consensus amongst G20 leaders on the following topics: reducing the digital gender divide, measuring the digital economy, accelerating digital infrastructure for development, emerging digital technologies, promoting MSMEs in a digital context, the future of work and consumer protection.¹⁰⁵⁶ Minister Barañao described the "absolute consensus" reached at the meeting as a success and highlighted that the issues discussed "impact every citizen of every country."¹⁰⁵⁷

On 5 September 2018, the National Communications Entity (ENACOM) in Argentina, operating under the national Ministry of Modernization, approved a program to subsidize SMEs that provide

¹⁰⁵¹El Estado en un solo lugar: avanzamos en la migración de organismos a Argentina.gob.ar, Argentina Government Website (Buenos Aires) 19 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-estado-en-un-solo-lugar-avanzamos-en-la-migracion-de-organismos-argentinagobar>.

¹⁰⁵²El Plan Nacional de Inclusión Digital ya alcanzó a 100.000 argentinos, Argentina Government Website (Buenos Aires) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-plan-nacional-de-inclusion-digital-ya-alcanzo-100000-argentinos>.

¹⁰⁵³Neuquén se sumó al Plan Nacional de Inclusión Digital y ya llegamos a todo el país, Argentina Government Website (Buenos Aires) 20 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/neuquen-se-sumo-al-plan-nacional-de-inclusion-digital-y-ya-llegamos-todo-el-pais>.

¹⁰⁵⁴Address by the Mercosur and the Alliance of the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 24 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. https://cancilleria.gob.ar/userfiles/prensa/declaracion_ap_mercosur_jul2018_firmada_1.pdf.

¹⁰⁵⁵The Argentine G20 presidency stresses the opportunities offered by the digital revolution, G20 Information Centre (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://g20.org/en/news/argentine-g20-presidency-stresses-opportunities-offered-digital-revolution>.

¹⁰⁵⁶G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. https://g20.org/sites/default/files/media/g20_detf_ministerial_declaration_salta.pdf.

¹⁰⁵⁷The Argentine G20 presidency stresses the opportunities offered by the digital revolution, G20 Information Centre (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://g20.org/en/news/argentine-g20-presidency-stresses-opportunities-offered-digital-revolution>.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services.¹⁰⁵⁸ According to ENACOM president, Silvana Giudici, “these measures tend to boost regional economies and promote investments in infrastructure for digital development. This will allow for universal inclusion, allowing the benefits of ICT to be available to all citizens.”¹⁰⁵⁹

On 5-6 September 2018, the Ministry of Modernization of Argentina, together with Forum Global, organized the fifth Annual Latin America Spectrum Management Conference. Spectrum stakeholders discussed issues relating to management and coordination of spectrum policy and telecommunications infrastructure across the region. ENACOM president, Silvia Giudici, highlighted the importance of broadening spectrum coverage to underserved areas in order to “reduce the digital divide.”¹⁰⁶⁰ Some of the measures discussed include preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019, developing roadmaps for future release of bands across Latin America, expanding 5G availability, and “How to Connect the Unconnected: Technologies and Solutions.”¹⁰⁶¹

On 11-13 September, Argentina and Australia hosted a regional workshop titled the “Exchange of Experiences in Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (E-Phyto).”¹⁰⁶² Electronic phytosanitary certification reduces the risk of fraudulent documents and expedites the clearance process in international trade. In the workshop, Australian and Argentine leaders shared their expertise on E-Phyto in order to enhance efficiency and cooperation in regional trade.

Argentina has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Manuela Duque

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to fostering favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

¹⁰⁵⁸ Enacom subsidiará créditos a PyMEs que brinden servicios TIC, National Communications Entity (Buenos Aires) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. https://www.enacom.gob.ar/institucional/enacom-subsidiara-creditos-a-pymes-que-brinden-servicios-tic_n1930.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Enacom subsidiará créditos a PyMEs que brinden servicios TIC, National Communications Entity (Buenos Aires) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. https://www.enacom.gob.ar/institucional/enacom-subsidiara-creditos-a-pymes-que-brinden-servicios-tic_n1930.

¹⁰⁶⁰ “La gestión del espectro radioeléctrico es clave para reducir la brecha digital”, National Communications Entity (Buenos Aires) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. https://www.enacom.gob.ar/institucional/-la-gestion-del-espectro-radioelectrico-es-clave-para-reducir-la-brecha-digital-_n1928.

¹⁰⁶¹ 5th Annual Latin American Spectrum Management Conference Brochure, Ministry of Modernization of Argentina and Forum Global (Buenos Aires) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. https://eu-ems.com/event_images/Downloads/LatAm%20Spectrum%20Management%20Conference%202018%20-%20draft%20programme%20external_ES%20-%204.6.18_1.pdf.

¹⁰⁶² Regional Workshop on Electronic Phytosanitary Certification, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/regional-workshop-electronic-phytosanitary-certification>.

On 4 August 2017, the Health Minister approved Australia's National Digital Health Strategy (ADHA) 2018-2022.¹⁰⁶³ It identified seven priority areas for digital health and will build on existing digital health care and support for consumers and clinicians to put the consumer at the center of their health care and provide choice, control, and transparency. The ADHA has an established Cyber Security Center to ensure Australian healthcare has the latest international data security.¹⁰⁶⁴

On 15 September 2017, Australia participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on "Enhancing MSMEs' [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age."¹⁰⁶⁵ The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹⁰⁶⁶

On 19 September 2017, the Australian government published *The Digital Economy: Opening up the Conversation* in which it declared that it is committed to developing a national Digital Economy Strategy to improve the nation's productivity and competitiveness.¹⁰⁶⁷ In the Ministerial Preface, the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science writes "the strategy will focus on ways governments, businesses and the community can adjust to seize the benefits of the digital transformation — including improving access to new and emerging technologies and digital infrastructure to grown Australian industry and jobs."¹⁰⁶⁸ The paper announced the launch for public consultations with governments, businesses and the community with hopes of launching the strategy in the first half of 2018.¹⁰⁶⁹ The paper addressed the role of the government and the private sector; creating quality, affordable and reliable communication services for Australians; data-sharing; creating standards and regulations for the global digital economy; creating the Cyber Security Strategy to protect Australians and abroad; and empowering all Australians through digital skills and inclusion.¹⁰⁷⁰

¹⁰⁶³ Australia's National Digital Health strategy, Australian Government — Australian Digital Health Agency (Canberra) 4 August 2017. Date Access: 18 November 2017. <https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/about-the-agency/publications/australias-national-digital-health-strategy>.

¹⁰⁶⁴ Australia's National Digital Health strategy, Australian Government — Australian Digital Health Agency (Canberra) 4 August 2017. Date Access: 18 November 2017. <https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/about-the-agency/publications/australias-national-digital-health-strategy>.

¹⁰⁶⁵ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹⁰⁶⁶ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹⁰⁶⁷ *The Digital Economy: Opening up the Conversation*, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Canberra) 19 September 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.industry.gov.au/innovation/Digital-Economy/Documents/Digital-Economy-Strategy-Consultation-Paper.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶⁸ *The Digital Economy: Opening up the Conversation*, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Canberra) 19 September 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.industry.gov.au/innovation/Digital-Economy/Documents/Digital-Economy-Strategy-Consultation-Paper.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶⁹ *The Digital Economy: Opening up the Conversation*, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Canberra) 19 September 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.industry.gov.au/innovation/Digital-Economy/Documents/Digital-Economy-Strategy-Consultation-Paper.pdf>.

¹⁰⁷⁰ *The Digital Economy: Opening up the Conversation*, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Canberra) 19 September 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.industry.gov.au/innovation/Digital-Economy/Documents/Digital-Economy-Strategy-Consultation-Paper.pdf>.

On 4 October 2017, the Foreign Minister launched Australia's first International Cyber Engagement Strategy.¹⁰⁷¹ The paper outlines Australia's ambitious cyber affairs agenda for the next three years.¹⁰⁷² "The Strategy is global in perspective and regional in focus. It is founded on private sector partnerships and is backed up by a practical plan of action."¹⁰⁷³ The paper contains chapters regarding digital trade, cyber security, cybercrime, international security and cyberspace, Internet governance and cooperation, human rights and democracy online, technology for development, and comprehensive coordinated cyber affairs.¹⁰⁷⁴ According to the executive summary, "Australia will cooperate internationally to reduce the risk of cybercrime and promote peace and stability in cyberspace.¹⁰⁷⁵ They will advocate for multi-stakeholder internet governance and respect for human rights and democratic principles online. They will also foster good cyber security practices and encourage the use of digital technologies to achieve sustainable development."¹⁰⁷⁶

On 12 October 2017, the Australian government released its strategy to support the 5G rollout in Australia titled "5G: Enabling the Future Economy."¹⁰⁷⁷ 5G follows the International Telecommunications Union that decides global spectrum allocation frameworks and harmonises international spectrum to ensure networks and connected devices can communicate seamlessly.¹⁰⁷⁸ The paper details the immediate actions the government will take, including actively engaging in international standardisation, streamlining arrangements to allow mobile carriers to deploy infrastructure faster and reviewing existing telecommunications regulatory arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose.¹⁰⁷⁹ The government will also have working group discussions among representatives from across government and industries on regrading 5G issues.¹⁰⁸⁰ Efficient rollout

¹⁰⁷¹ Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy, Australian Government — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/cyber-affairs/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁷² Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy, Australian Government — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/cyber-affairs/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁷³ Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy, Australian Government — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/cyber-affairs/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁷⁴ Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy, Australian Government — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/cyber-affairs/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy, Australian Government — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/cyber-affairs/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁷⁶ Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy, Australian Government — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/cyber-affairs/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁷⁷ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

¹⁰⁷⁸ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

¹⁰⁷⁹ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

¹⁰⁸⁰ 5G — Enabling the future economy, Australian Government — Department of Communications and the Arts, (Canberra) 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.communications.gov.au/departmental-news/5g-enabling-future-economy>.

of 5G and uptake of the services it supports has the potential to produce far-reaching economic and social benefits and support growth of Australia’s digital economy,” the paper says.¹⁰⁸¹

On 1 November 2017, Australia and Indonesia announced that they have committed to completing the Indonesia Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership (IA-CEPA) by the end of 2017.¹⁰⁸² The framework details the new era of closer economic engagement between Australia and Indonesia.¹⁰⁸³ In particular, IA-CEPA objectives include increase connectivity within the digital economy, improving e-commerce capability and ensuring free flow of information and investment.¹⁰⁸⁴ In addition, further commitment to stronger capacity building and vocational training cooperation to improve competency standards and thus enable workers in both markets to access additional labour markets.¹⁰⁸⁵

On 12 November 2017, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea met and announced that Australia will help Papua New Guinea fund an undersea high speed telecommunications cable from Australia to Port Moresby.¹⁰⁸⁶ This is an effort to support the future digital economy in Papua New Guinea and strengthen economic and development benefits between the two countries.¹⁰⁸⁷

On 16 November 2017, the Digital Transformation Agency released a draft of its Trusted Digital Identify Framework for public feedback.¹⁰⁸⁸ The framework describes the rules and standards of the government’s digital identify program, Govpass.¹⁰⁸⁹ Govpass enables citizens to access government services online by proving their identity online.¹⁰⁹⁰

On 4 December 2017, the Australian government announced the Small Business Digital Taskforce intended to help small businesses take advantage and opportunities offered by the digital economy

¹⁰⁸¹ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

¹⁰⁸² Australia and Indonesia commit to ongoing economic partnership, RMIT University (Canberra) 1 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2017/local-news/australia-and-indonesia-commit-to-ongoing-economic-partnership>.

¹⁰⁸³ Australia and Indonesia commit to ongoing economic partnership, RMIT University (Canberra) 1 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2017/local-news/australia-and-indonesia-commit-to-ongoing-economic-partnership>.

¹⁰⁸⁴ Australia and Indonesia commit to ongoing economic partnership, RMIT University (Website) 1 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2017/local-news/australia-and-indonesia-commit-to-ongoing-economic-partnership>.

¹⁰⁸⁵ Australia and Indonesia commit to ongoing economic partnership, RMIT University (Website) 1 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2017/local-news/australia-and-indonesia-commit-to-ongoing-economic-partnership>.

¹⁰⁸⁶ Working Together to Improve Telecommunications, Prime Minister of Australia — Media Release, (Australia) 12 November 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/working-together-improve-telecommunications>.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Working Together to Improve Telecommunications, Prime Minister of Australia — Media Release, (Australia) 12 November 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/working-together-improve-telecommunications>.

¹⁰⁸⁸ Have your say on our digital identify framework, Australian Government — Digital Transformation Agency (Australia) 16 November 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.dta.gov.au/news/have-your-say-tdif/>.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Have your say on our digital identify framework, Australian Government — Digital Transformation Agency (Australia) 16 November 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.dta.gov.au/news/have-your-say-tdif/>.

¹⁰⁹⁰ Have your say on our digital identify framework, Australian Government — Digital Transformation Agency (Australia) 16 November 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.dta.gov.au/news/have-your-say-tdif/>.

and enable them to succeed.¹⁰⁹¹ The Small Business Digital Taskforce will talk with small businesses across Australia and allow for idea exchange to inform and support small businesses to effectively utilize the digital economy.¹⁰⁹²

On 23 January 2018 Australia attended a summit hosted by Japan with 11 countries including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam at negotiations in Tokyo to settle the terms of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The CPTPP will replace the TPP, which failed after the withdrawal of the United States. This partnership will “promote the ease of data flows in the digital economy.”¹⁰⁹³

On 30 January 2018, the Australian government released “Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation — a Plan for Australia to Thrive in the Global Innovation Race.”¹⁰⁹⁴ It addresses the Australian economy and ways to keep their workforce strong by identifying societal challenges of the 21st century.¹⁰⁹⁵ The report addresses five strategic imperatives: education, industry, government, research & development and culture and ambition.¹⁰⁹⁶ Under industry and government imperatives, the government reference the importance of strengthening Australia’s digital economy and their role in fostering favourable conditions of digital technology.¹⁰⁹⁷

From 31 January 2018 to 1 February 2018, Australia and Indonesia jointly hosted the Indonesia-Australia Digital Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia.¹⁰⁹⁸ The conference objective is to foster new areas of cooperation, and create deeper commercial linkages between Australia and Indonesia’s digital economy.¹⁰⁹⁹ The two governments are currently working together to pilot the use of digital

¹⁰⁹¹ New Small Business Digital Taskforce, Australian Government — Business (Australia) 4 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.business.gov.au/news/new-small-business-digital-taskforce>.

¹⁰⁹² New Small Business Digital Taskforce, Australian Government — Business (Australia) 4 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <https://www.business.gov.au/news/new-small-business-digital-taskforce>.

¹⁰⁹³ CPTPP a boost for Japan’s regional trade leadership, East Asia Forum (Canberra) 27 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/02/27/cptpp-a-boost-for-japans-regional-trade-leadership/>.

¹⁰⁹⁴ Australia 2030: Prosperity through innovation, Australian Government — Innovation and Science Australia (Canberra) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2018. <https://industry.gov.au/Innovation-and-Science-Australia/publications/Documents/Australia-2030-Prosperity-through-innovation/index.html>.

¹⁰⁹⁵ Australia 2030: Prosperity through innovation, Australian Government — Innovation and Science Australia (Canberra) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2018. <https://industry.gov.au/Innovation-and-Science-Australia/publications/Documents/Australia-2030-Prosperity-through-innovation/index.html>.

¹⁰⁹⁶ Australia 2030: Prosperity through innovation, Australian Government — Innovation and Science Australia (Canberra) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2018. <https://industry.gov.au/Innovation-and-Science-Australia/publications/Documents/Australia-2030-Prosperity-through-innovation/index.html>.

¹⁰⁹⁷ Australia 2030: Prosperity through innovation, Australian Government — Innovation and Science Australia (Canberra) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2018. <https://industry.gov.au/Innovation-and-Science-Australia/publications/Documents/Australia-2030-Prosperity-through-innovation/index.html>.

¹⁰⁹⁸ Indonesia-Australia Digital Forum, Smart Government, Australia Government — Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Canberra) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 31 January 2018. https://www.austrade.gov.au/EventViewBookingDetails.aspx?Bck=Y&EventID=25208&m=0%7C0#/event?_k=vvnjrc.

¹⁰⁹⁹ Indonesia-Australia Digital Forum, Smart Government, Australia Government — Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Canberra) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 31 January 2018. https://www.austrade.gov.au/EventViewBookingDetails.aspx?Bck=Y&EventID=25208&m=0%7C0#/event?_k=vvnjrc.

governance, new systems and big data to improve planning, decision-making, accountability and service delivery.¹¹⁰⁰

On 23 February 2018, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven Ciobo and the US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer jointly announced that Australia and the US “agree to intensify cooperation to support the growth of digital trade between our countries, ensure an open, free and secure Internet, and advocate the liberalization and facilitation of global digital trade.”¹¹⁰¹

On 3 July 2018, Australia officially launched its National Digital Health Strategy that will take effect from 2018-22. The new strategy details ways to improve services, including digital baby books for new parents, and transition health information to digital health services that can be exchanged securely, easily accessible, and standardized. The strategy involves a framework for action that outlines seven priority areas to realize the benefits of digitally enabled health care.¹¹⁰²

On 9 July 2018, the Australian government and IBM signed a USD1 billion five-year technology service, the highest-value tech contract negotiated by the Australian government, called Digital Transformation Agency. The government and IBM will work together to deliver new technologies to citizens services. Michael Keenan, the minister of Digital Transformation said this agreement will save money and help deploy simpler and easier services and is a pivotal step to realize the government’s goal to be top three digital governments by 2025.¹¹⁰³

On 31 August 2018, Australia and Indonesia released a joint declaration to express their commitment to “support strengthening links between our business communities” including micro and SMEs in the digital economy.¹¹⁰⁴

On 11-13 September, Argentina and Australia hosted a regional workshop titled the “Exchange of Experiences in Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (E-Phyto).”¹¹⁰⁵ Electronic phytosanitary certification reduces the risk of fraudulent documents and expedites the clearance process in international trade. In the workshop, Australian and Argentine leaders shared their expertise on E-Phyto in order to enhance efficiency and cooperation in regional trade.

Australia has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

¹¹⁰⁰ Indonesia-Australia Digital Forum, Smart Government, Australian Government — Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Canberra) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 31 January 2018.

https://www.austrade.gov.au/EventViewBookingDetails.aspx?Bck=Y&EventID=25208&m=0%7C0#/event?_k=vvnjrc.

¹¹⁰¹ United States and Australia Intensify Cooperation on Digital Trade, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 23 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/february/united-states-and-australia>.

¹¹⁰² Day Dawns on Australia’s Digital Health Strategy, Australian Government – Australian Digital Health Agency (Canberra) 3 July 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/news-and-events/news/media-release-day-dawns-on-australia-s-digital-health-strategy>.

¹¹⁰³ Australian Government and IBM Sign \$1 billion Deal for Blockchain, AI technologies, Smart Company (Canberra) 9 July 2018. Access date: 17 September 2018. <https://www.smartcompany.com.au/technology/emerging-technology/australian-government-ibm-1-billion-deal-blockchain-ai/>.

¹¹⁰⁴ Joint Statement, Joint Declaration on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia (Barton) 31 August 2018. Access Date: 13 September 2018. <https://dfat.gov.au/geo/indonesia/Pages/joint-declaration-comprehensive-strategic-partnership-between-the-commonwealth-of-australia-and-republic-of-indonesia.aspx>.

¹¹⁰⁵ Regional Workshop on Electronic Phytosanitary Certification, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Buenos Aires) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/regional-workshop-electronic-phytosanitary-certification>.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 18 July 2017, the fifth Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held in Hangzhou, China to reinforce cooperation and collaboration among the BRICS countries in areas of science, technology, and innovation.¹¹⁰⁶

On 8 September 2017, the Secretary of Foreign Trade, Foreign Trade and Services, Abrao Miguel Arabe Neto signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Uruguay's Undersecretary of Economy and Finance, Pablo Ferreri, which allows companies from two countries to use Digital Certificates of Origin (CO) to trade in their operations, and will reduce costs and deadlines on imports and exports.¹¹⁰⁷ In contrast to the current paper-based COs, which takes 24 hours on average, digital signing is expected to reduce the processing time to just 30 minutes.¹¹⁰⁸

On 12 September 2017, Brazil was elected as a member of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and vice-president of the UNWTO Regional Commission of the Americas, alongside Haiti.¹¹⁰⁹ The Brazilian government defined "the development of collaborative economy and digital media" as one of the three priority themes to consolidate tourism policies.¹¹¹⁰

On 26 October, the United States and Brazil jointly hosted the Digital Economy Conference in Sao Paul to bring together representatives of the public and private sectors to discuss the future of the digital economy, opportunities in Brazil and the challenges of creating methods that stimulate innovation.¹¹¹¹

On 21 November 2017, the government launched the "digital platform Emprega Brazil programme, which offers internet apps and portals with services such as job vacancy lists, the digital Worker's Portfolio (the booklet that keeps record of a worker's formal employment contracts), applications for unemployment insurance and vocational training."¹¹¹²

¹¹⁰⁶ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

¹¹⁰⁷ Brazil and Uruguay sign agreement to facilitate bilateral trade, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 3 December 2017. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/09/brazil-and-uruguay-sign-agreement-to-facilitate-bilateral-trade>.

¹¹⁰⁸ Brazil and Uruguay sign agreement to facilitate bilateral trade, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 3 December 2017. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/09/brazil-and-uruguay-sign-agreement-to-facilitate-bilateral-trade>.

¹¹⁰⁹ Brazil to Chair UNWTO Executive Council from 2020, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 12 September 2017. Access Date: 3 December 2017. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/09/brazil-to-chair-unwto-executive-council-from-2020>.

¹¹¹⁰ Brazil to Chair UNWTO Executive Council from 2020, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 12 September 2017. Access Date: 3 December 2017. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/09/brazil-to-chair-unwto-executive-council-from-2020>.

¹¹¹¹ Technology companies discuss the future of the digital economy in Brazil, US Embassy & Consulates in Brazil (Sao Paulo) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://br.usembassy.gov/technology-companies-discuss-future-digital-economy-brazil/>.

¹¹¹² Temer: "Absolute sync" helps Brazil out of economic crisis, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 21 November 2017. Access Date: 18 January 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/11/temer-absolute-sync-helps-brazil-out-of-economic-crisis>.

On 21 November 2017, the Brazilian government introduced the Efficient Brazil programme, which aims to “increase the number of government services offered online and prevent citizens from having to resubmit documents already in government databases.”¹¹¹³ The government hopes that this will bring “improvements and efficiency gains to erode barriers imposed on workers and entrepreneurs.”¹¹¹⁴

On 23 November 2017, the government introduced the Connected Education Innovation Policy, a bill which “aims to significantly expand the number of schools with access by 2024 and, throughout 2018, to provide quality broadband for up to 22.4 thousand public schools in Brazil, reaching 12.8 million students.”¹¹¹⁵ The Brazilian government aims to “encourage innovation and technology planning in state and municipal schools by promoting values, providing materials, training teachers and managers and coordinating partnerships with higher education institutions to increase the use of technology in basic education.”¹¹¹⁶

On 21 March 2018, President Michel Temer signed a decree creating the Brazilian Strategy for Digital Transformation and the Inter-ministerial Committee for Digital Transformation. The government aims to “increase the offer of productive processes online and boost Internet access for society as a whole” as part of a greater effort to increase digital inclusion in Brazil.¹¹¹⁷

On 14 May 2018, the US and Brazil released a joint statement from their third meeting for Internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Working Group, announcing continued exploration of best practices for Internet policy and cyber defense.¹¹¹⁸

On 21 May 2018, the government introduced the Emprega Brasil portal, a service platform which aims to modernise labor relations in Brazil and bring government services to the digital era.¹¹¹⁹

On 26 July 2018, the government announced that the Connected Amazon Project has now installed about 900 kilometers of underwater fibre optical cables at the bottom of Amazonian rivers.¹¹²⁰ This

¹¹¹³ Government modernises State to provide better public services, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 21 November 2017. Access Date: 18 January 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/11/government-modernises-state-to-provide-better-public-services>.

¹¹¹⁴ Government modernises State to provide better public services, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 21 November 2017. Access Date: 18 January 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/11/government-modernises-state-to-provide-better-public-services>.

¹¹¹⁵ Broadband access project to benefit nearly 13 million students, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 23 November 2017. Access Date: 18 January 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/11/broadband-access-project-to-benefit-nearly-13-million-students>.

¹¹¹⁶ Broadband access project to benefit nearly 13 million students, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 23 November 2017. Access Date: 18 January 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/11/broadband-access-project-to-benefit-nearly-13-million-students>.

¹¹¹⁷ President Signs Decree Creating E-digital Platform and Digital Transformation Committee, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 21 March 2018. Access Date: 1 September 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2018/03/president-signs-decree-creating-e-digital-platform-and-digital-transformation-committee>.

¹¹¹⁸ U.S.-Brazil Bilateral Cooperation on Cyber and Internet Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 14 May 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/05/282074.htm>.

¹¹¹⁹ Service platform makes life easier for workers, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 21 May 2018. Access Date: 1 September 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/brazil-is-back/social/service-platform-makes-life-easier-for-workers>

¹¹²⁰ Programme to connect Amazon reaches third year, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 15 September 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2018/07/programme-to-connect-amazon-reaches-third-year>.

initiative aims to “connect Amazonas capital Manaus to another 52 municipalities, benefiting about four million people.”¹¹²¹

On 16 August 2018, the government introduced the General Personal Data Protection Law, which “guarantees greater legal certainty to companies and consumers and greater transparency in the collection and treatment of data in both face-to-face and online contexts.”¹¹²²

On 14-15 September 2018, Brazil attended the fourth BRICS Ministers of Communication Meeting in Durban with the theme “Advancing Inclusive Growth through Industry and Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises (SMME) Participation.”¹¹²³ Ministers agreed on eleven points: support the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR); dedicate more effort towards the exchange of information and communications technology (ICT) policies, regulation, and legislation; improve the exchange of ideas and cooperation between BRICS Members; endorse the model a Council of decentralized BRICS Institute of Future Networks; reiterate the digitalization commitment made in 2017 at Hangzhou, China; strengthening and improving the Working Group on ICT cooperation; facilitate an appropriate ICT ecosystem for the digital economy; conduct joint research, seminars and workshops to enhance cooperation; continue efforts to eliminate the digital divide between rural and urban areas; acknowledged the fast development of industrial internet in China; and congratulated South Africa for the successful hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom World 2018 in Durban.¹¹²⁴

Brazil has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Cameron Ting

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take global as well as domestic initiatives to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 14 July 2017, Canada announced that the CanCode program will invest CAD50 million over two years, starting in 2017-18, to support initiatives providing educational opportunities for coding and digital skills development to Canadian youth from kindergarten to grade 12 (K-12).¹¹²⁵ The program

¹¹²¹Programme to connect Amazon reaches third year, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 15 September 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2018/07/programme-to-connect-amazon-reaches-third-year>.

¹¹²²New law regulates use of personal data, BrazilGovNews (Brasilia) 16 August 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2018/08/new-law-regulates-use-of-personal-data>.

¹¹²³Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹¹²⁴Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹¹²⁵CanCode from Science and Technology Partnerships, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 14 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/programs/science-technology-partnerships/cancode.html>.

aims to equip youth, including traditionally underrepresented groups, with the skills and study incentives they need to be prepared for technology and science related careers.¹¹²⁶

On 5 September 2017, the Information and Communications Technology Council and Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, announced the official launch of the Student Work-Integrated Learning Program to develop industry and innovation ready talent for the digital economy.¹¹²⁷ This initiative, funded by the Government of Canada will provide 1,000 students across Canada with quality work integrated experiences in three fast growth sectors of the Canadian economy: Fintech, Advanced Manufacturing, and Intelligent Retail.¹¹²⁸

On 15 September 2017, Canada participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹¹²⁹ The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free Small Medium Enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹¹³⁰

On 28 September 2017, Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced Creative Canada — A Vision for Canada’s Creative Industries, the first-ever federal strategy developed to help creative industries thrive and succeed in the digital age.¹¹³¹

On 6 October 2017, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains announced Canada will invest up to CAD37.1 million in a project to bring high speed internet access to Matawa First Nations in the Ring of Fire Region in Northern Ontario.¹¹³²

On 6 October 2017, Minister Bains launched a consultation on how Canada can best use the airwaves over the next five years to make cell phone service more affordable for its citizens.¹¹³³ This

¹¹²⁶CanCode from Science and Technology Partnerships, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 14 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/programs/science-technology-partnerships/cancode.html>.

¹¹²⁷Minister Patty Hajdu kicks off a unique nation wide student work-integrated learning program for the digital economy, Information and Communications Technology Council (Vancouver) 5 September 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.ictc-ctic.ca/news-release-minister-patty-hajdu-kicks-off-unique-nation-wide-student-work-integrated-learning-program-digital-economy/>.

¹¹²⁸Minister Patty Hajdu kicks off a unique nation wide student work-integrated learning program for the digital economy, Information and Communications Technology Council (Vancouver) 5 September 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.ictc-ctic.ca/news-release-minister-patty-hajdu-kicks-off-unique-nation-wide-student-work-integrated-learning-program-digital-economy/>.

¹¹²⁹Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹¹³⁰Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹¹³¹Creative Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 September 2017. Access Day: 21 November 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/creative-canada.html>

¹¹³²Expanding broadband infrastructure in remote Northern Ontario, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/expanding_broadbandinfrastructureinremotenorthernontario.html.

¹¹³³Helping shape Canada’s digital future, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/helping_shape_canadasdigitalfuture.html.

project involves consulting Canadian businesses on the overall approach and planning activities related to the release of spectrum for commercial mobile services, license-exempt applications, satellite services, and wireless backhaul services over the years 2018 and 2022.¹¹³⁴

On 10 October 2017, Minister Bains announced that over CAD4 million from the Government of Canada will go towards improving high-speed Internet coverage in six northwestern Ontario communities from Stratton to Kejick.¹¹³⁵ This aims to help Canadians in these communities connect with people across Canada and across the world, participate in distance education, and seize new business opportunities and search for jobs online.¹¹³⁶

On 12 October 2017, Minister Bains announced the shortlisted applicants to the Innovation Superclusters Initiative (ISI).¹¹³⁷ The ISI is a program by the Government of Canada to invest up to CAD950 million between 2017-2022 to support business-led superclusters with the greatest potential to energize the economy.¹¹³⁸ In particular, Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster would make Canada faster, smarter and more collaborative in inventing, developing and applying digital technologies to the resource, precision health and manufacturing sectors.¹¹³⁹

On 20 October 2017, Bardish Chagger, Minister of Small Business and Tourism, and Blaine Pederson, Manitoba's Minister of Growth, announced that the Government of Canada and Manitoba have launched BizPaL in Winnipeg Beach.¹¹⁴⁰ BizPaL is a free online business permit and licence service that saves time and money for Canada's entrepreneurs and SMEs.¹¹⁴¹

On 6 December 2017, Minister Bains launched the Accessible Technology Program, a new program that will co-fund innovative projects to develop new assistive and adaptive digital devices and

¹¹³⁴ Consultation on the Spectrum Outlook 2018 to 2022, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf11333.html>.

¹¹³⁵ Bridging the digital divide in six northwestern Ontario communities, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 10 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/bridging_the_digitaldivideinsixnorthwesternontariocommunities.html.

¹¹³⁶ Bridging the digital divide in six northwestern Ontario communities, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 10 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/bridging_the_digitaldivideinsixnorthwesternontariocommunities.html.

¹¹³⁷ Government of Canada promotes innovation for economic growth and jobs in British Columbia and Canada, Newswire (Vancouver) 12 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-promotes-innovation-for-economic-growth-and-jobs-in-british-columbia-and-canada-650645133.html>.

¹¹³⁸ Innovation Superclusters Initiative, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 12 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/programs/small-business-financing-growth/innovation-superclusters.html>.

¹¹³⁹ Innovation Superclusters Initiative, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 12 October 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/programs/small-business-financing-growth/innovation-superclusters.html>.

¹¹⁴⁰ Governments of Canada and Manitoba join forces to launch BizPaL in the Town of Winnipeg Beach, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2017. Access Date: https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/governments_of_canadaandmanitobajoinforcestolaunchbizpalinthetow.html.

¹¹⁴¹ Governments of Canada and Manitoba join forces to launch BizPaL in the Town of Winnipeg Beach, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2017. Access Date: https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/governments_of_canadaandmanitobajoinforcestolaunchbizpalinthetow.html.

technologies over the next five years. As a result of this new CAD22.3-million program, more Canadians with disabilities will have access to the digital tools they need to fully participate in society and get access to jobs.¹¹⁴²

On 13 December 2017, Canada joined a small group of World Trade Organization (WTO) countries that pledged to work toward new WTO e-commerce rules.¹¹⁴³ The group pledged to hold an initial meeting in the first quarter of 2018 in order to highlight the importance of global e-commerce and the opportunities it creates for inclusive trade and development through open, transparent, non-discriminatory, and predictable regulatory environments.¹¹⁴⁴

On 14 December 2017, Ministers Bains and Chagger announced the CAD100 million Innovative Solutions Canada program that invites Canadian small businesses to develop novel solutions to challenges proposed by federal departments and agencies.¹¹⁴⁵ This program will use procurement to help Canadian small businesses innovate and create employment opportunities for Canadians.¹¹⁴⁶

On 18 December 2017, Ministers Bains and Chagger launched the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative (VCCI).¹¹⁴⁷ VCCI will make CAD400 million available through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) to increase late-stage venture capital funding for Canadian firms looking to grow, expand and compete globally.¹¹⁴⁸ It enables companies to hire additional talent, market-test new products, and expand to new markets in Canada and abroad.¹¹⁴⁹

On 2 January 2018, Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, on behalf of Navdeep Bains announced a joint federal-provincial investment of CAD28.45 million in high-speed internet.¹¹⁵⁰ This funding will allow more than 1500 households in 70 rural and remote communities in Newfoundland and Labrador to do business online, participate

¹¹⁴² Making digital technologies more accessible to Canadians with disabilities Français, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 6 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/making-digital-technologies-more-accessible-to-canadians-with-disabilities-662336213.html>.

¹¹⁴³ Some WTO members to push for e-commerce rules as broader deal fails, Reuters (London) 13 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-digital/some-wto-members-to-push-for-e-commerce-rules-as-broader-deal-fails-idUSKBN1E72YV>.

¹¹⁴⁴ Some WTO members to push for e-commerce rules as broader deal fails, Reuters (London) 13 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-digital/some-wto-members-to-push-for-e-commerce-rules-as-broader-deal-fails-idUSKBN1E72YV>.

¹¹⁴⁵ Government uses procurement to help small businesses grow and create jobs, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 14 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-uses-procurement-to-help-small-businesses-grow-and-create-jobs-664180953.html>.

¹¹⁴⁶ Government uses procurement to help small businesses grow and create jobs, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 14 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-uses-procurement-to-help-small-businesses-grow-and-create-jobs-664180953.html>.

¹¹⁴⁷ Federal government stimulates innovation by investing in great ideas and smart people, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/federal-government-stimulates-innovation-by-investing-in-great-ideas-and-smart-people-664997443.html>.

¹¹⁴⁸ Federal government stimulates innovation by investing in great ideas and smart people, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/federal-government-stimulates-innovation-by-investing-in-great-ideas-and-smart-people-664997443.html>.

¹¹⁴⁹ Federal government stimulates innovation by investing in great ideas and smart people, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/federal-government-stimulates-innovation-by-investing-in-great-ideas-and-smart-people-664997443.html>.

¹¹⁵⁰ Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador will benefit from faster Internet, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadians-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-667675083.html>.

in distance education, and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the digital age.¹¹⁵¹ A large portion of federal funding is being allocated through Connect to Innovate, a federal program that aims to provide underserved communities with Internet access at speeds of five megabits per second or more.¹¹⁵² This program is enabling Canadians in every region of the country to participate fully in the digital economy, seize new business opportunities, and connect with friends and family around the world.¹¹⁵³

On 9 January 2018, Minister Bains and Premier of Manitoba Brian Pallister announced a federal-provincial investment of CAD83.9 million that will improve high-speed internet coverage in Manitoba, enabling 112 rural and remote communities to get online and access high-speed internet. Of these 112 communities, 48 are First Nations and 21 are located in regions without year-round road access.¹¹⁵⁴

On 22 January 2018, Minister Bains announced the CAD50 million CanCode program that will help more than 1 million teachers and students from kindergarten to Grade 12 learn digital skills like coding.¹¹⁵⁵ The program aims to encourage more girls, Indigenous Canadians, and other under-represented groups to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.¹¹⁵⁶

On 23 January 2018 Canada attended a summit hosted by Japan with 11 countries including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam at negotiations in Tokyo to settle the terms of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The CPTPP will replace the TPP, which failed after the withdrawal of the United States. This partnership will “promote the ease of data flows in the digital economy.”¹¹⁵⁷

On 15 February 2018, Minister Bains announced that the Government of Canada will be investing up to CAD950 million under the Innovation Superclusters Initiative in order to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes to collaborate with other innovation actors to propose bold and ambitious

¹¹⁵¹Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador will benefit from faster Internet, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadians-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-667675083.html>.

¹¹⁵²Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador will benefit from faster Internet, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadians-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-667675083.html>.

¹¹⁵³Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador will benefit from faster Internet, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadians-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-667675083.html>.

¹¹⁵⁴More than 100 rural communities in Manitoba will benefit from faster Internet, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 9 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/more-than-100-rural-communities-in-manitoba-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-668464203.html>.

¹¹⁵⁵CanCode program to benefit more than 1 million young Canadians and their teachers, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Toronto) 22 January 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/01/giving_young_canadiansthedigitalskillsneededforjobsofthefuture.html.

¹¹⁵⁶CanCode program to benefit more than 1 million young Canadians and their teachers, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Toronto) 22 January 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/01/giving_young_canadiansthedigitalskillsneededforjobsofthefuture.html.

¹¹⁵⁷CPTPP a boost for Japan’s regional trade leadership, East Asia Forum (Canberra) 27 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/02/27/cptpp-a-boost-for-japans-regional-trade-leadership/>.

strategies.¹¹⁵⁸ Navdeep Bains announced Canada's five superclusters: the Ocean Supercluster, the SCALE.AI Supercluster, the Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster, the Protein Industries Supercluster, and the Digital Technology Supercluster.¹¹⁵⁹

On 19 February 2018, David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced the launch of the Government of Canada's Digital Literacy Exchange Program.¹¹⁶⁰ This program will invest almost CAD30 million to support not-for-profit organization that teach fundamental digital literacy skills to Canadians who would benefit from participating in the digital economy. These include seniors, new and low-income Canadians, Indigenous people, and those living in northern and rural communities.¹¹⁶¹

On 13 March 2018, Minister Bains announced funding of more than CAD27 million for 45 projects in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba through the Western Diversification Program. The program represents an array of economy activities, one of which is to help Indigenous entrepreneurs thrive in Canada's growing tech sector.¹¹⁶²

On 15 March 2018, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development announced an investment of CAD17.1 million that will help bring new or improved high-speed Internet to Canadians in 39 rural and remote communities, 5 of which are Indigenous communities.¹¹⁶³

On 11 April 2018, David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced an investment of nearly CAD11.5 million in space and satellite communications technologies to improve access to broadband in rural areas in Quebec.¹¹⁶⁴

¹¹⁵⁸Government of Canada's new innovation program expected to create tens of thousands of middle-class jobs, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 15 February 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canadas-new-innovation-program-expected-to-create-tens-of-thousands-of-middle-class-jobs-674186823.html>.

¹¹⁵⁹Government of Canada's new innovation program expected to create tens of thousands of middle-class jobs, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 15 February 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canadas-new-innovation-program-expected-to-create-tens-of-thousands-of-middle-class-jobs-674186823.html>.

¹¹⁶⁰Government announces funding for digital skills training to help more Canadians get online, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 February 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/02/government_announcesfundingfordigitalskillstrainingtohelpmorecan.html.

¹¹⁶¹Government announces funding for digital skills training to help more Canadians get online, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 February 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/02/government_announcesfundingfordigitalskillstrainingtohelpmorecan.html.

¹¹⁶²Government of Canada Invests in Indigenous Economic Development across Western Canada, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 13 March 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-indigenous-economic-development-across-western-canada-676688403.html>.

¹¹⁶³Government of Canada Invests in Indigenous Economic Development across Western Canada, Canada News Wire (Ottawa) 13 March 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-indigenous-economic-development-across-western-canada-676688403.html>.

¹¹⁶⁴Government Investing in Space and Satellite Communications Technologies to Improve Access to Broadband in Rural and Remote Areas (Ottawa) 11 April 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-investing-in-space-and-satellite-communications-technologies-to-improve-access-to-broadband-in-rural-and-remote-areas-679403403.html>.

On 17 May 2018, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities announced an investment of more than CAD3 million to help more Canadians with disabilities fully participate in the digital economy. The funding is a part of the CAD22.3-million Accessible Technology Program, which provides support for the development of assistive and adaptive digital devices and technologies to help Canadians with disabilities take full advantage of technology.¹¹⁶⁵

On 8 June 2018, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced an investment of CAD21.6 million through the Connect to Innovate program to bring access to high-speed or faster Internet to 30 rural communities and up to 163 institutions in Saskatchewan.¹¹⁶⁶

On 15 June 2018, Statistics Canada started mailing out 12,000 survey invitations to households to ask how they are participating in the digital economy in order to determine the size and nature of Canada's digital economy, how fast it's growing and how it's affecting established industries.¹¹⁶⁷

On 19 June 2018, Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, launched a national consultation on digital and data transformation in order to better understand how Canada can drive innovation, prepare Canadians for the future of work, and ensure they have trust and confidence in how their data is used. He also led his first roundtable with digital and data thought leaders on how to advance Canada's competitiveness through the digital economy.¹¹⁶⁸

On 22 August 2018, Stéphane Lauzon, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Persons with Disabilities, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced a joint federal-provincial investment of CAD125.2 million in high-speed Internet for Nunavik's 14 Inuit communities and 28 institutions.¹¹⁶⁹

Canada has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jane Huang

¹¹⁶⁵Government of Canada Funds Digital Technologies to Improve Accessibility for Canadians with Disabilities (Ottawa) 17 May 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-funds-digital-technologies-to-improve-accessibility-for-canadians-with-disabilities-682940611.html>.

¹¹⁶⁶Rural Communities in Saskatchewan Will Benefit from Faster Internet (Ottawa) 08 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/rural-communities-in-saskatchewan-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-684964331.html>.

¹¹⁶⁷How Big is Canada's Digital Economy? Statistics Canada Digs into Question (Toronto) 15 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/how-big-is-canada-s-digital-economy-statistics-canada-digs-into-question-1.3975726>.

¹¹⁶⁸Government of Canada Launches National Consultations on Digital and Data Transformation (Ottawa) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-launches-national-consultations-on-digital-and-data-transformation-685946472.html>.

¹¹⁶⁹Remote Inuit Communities Will Benefit from First-time Access to Modern High-speed Internet (Ottawa) 22 August 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/remote-inuit-communities-will-benefit-from-first-time-access-to-modern-high-speed-internet-691473531.html>.

China +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to take global as well as domestic initiatives to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 18 July 2017, China hosted the fifth Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Hangzhou, to reinforce cooperation and collaboration among the BRICS countries in areas of science, technology and innovation.¹¹⁷⁰

On 15 September 2017, China participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹¹⁷¹ The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free Small Medium Enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹¹⁷²

On 2 October 2017, Chen Zhaoxiong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) announced at the 2017 PT Expo China that China will strengthen its efforts to promote network speed, lower fees, accelerate 5G planning and more constructions and applications of industrial internet to develop a prosperous digital economy.¹¹⁷³

On 24 October 2017, President Xi Jinping gave a speech at the Chinese Communist Party 19th Party Congress that signalled that technology, particularly information technology sectors, is the core of his vision for his second term.¹¹⁷⁴ His opening speech identified specific terms such as artificial intelligence and digital China as priorities in the country’s development plans.¹¹⁷⁵ The speech called for accelerating and integrating the internet, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI) with the economy.¹¹⁷⁶ President Xi also stated that China will strengthen frontier in digital economy such as AI, nanotechnology, and quantum computing, and advancing the development of big data, cloud computing, and smart cities to create the concept of a digital silk road of the 21st century.¹¹⁷⁷

On 4 December 2017, China’s head of Internet regulatory body said that the country was willing to deepen global cooperation in the digital economy and generate new momentum to expand global economic growth. Minister of Cyberspace Administration Xu Lin stated that China would go as far

¹¹⁷⁰ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018.

<https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

¹¹⁷¹ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹¹⁷² Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹¹⁷³ China speeds up internet to develop digital economy, The State Council — The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 2 October 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017.

http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2017/10/02/content_281475896725312.html.

¹¹⁷⁴ Cyber Policy and the 19th Party Congress, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington) 26 October 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cyber-policy-and-19th-party-congress>.

¹¹⁷⁵ Cyber Policy and the 19th Party Congress, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington) 26 October 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cyber-policy-and-19th-party-congress>.

¹¹⁷⁶ Cyber Policy and the 19th Party Congress, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington) 26 October 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cyber-policy-and-19th-party-congress>.

¹¹⁷⁷ Cyber Policy and the 19th Party Congress, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington) 26 October 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cyber-policy-and-19th-party-congress>.

to open its economy and work with other countries in developing an integrated global digital market. In particular, Xu encouraged countries to strengthen cooperation in policy making and regulation on information technology, data distribution, network facilities, cross-border e-commerce and other digital related fields to build a fair and efficient governance system.¹¹⁷⁸

On 9 December 2017, President Xi gave a speech at a study session of the Central Committee's Political Bureau which highlighted many areas regarding the digital economy.¹¹⁷⁹ The president encouraged the country to accelerate the implementation of big data strategy as a way to improve social and economic development and people's daily life.¹¹⁸⁰ President Xi notably indicated the use of research on and use of big data for the growing digital economy as crucial to country's future success.¹¹⁸¹ He called for the improvement of digital infrastructure, the promotion of integration and sharing of digital resources, and safeguarding data security, the use of big data to improve governance, improvement of Internet governance and a necessary clean-up of cyberspace.¹¹⁸² He indicated nationwide information-sharing platform should be set up with the use of e-government and smart city systems.¹¹⁸³ In terms of improving people's well-being, he indicated an advancement of "internet plus education," "internet plus medical treatment," and "internet plus culture," to ensure citizen's access to public services.¹¹⁸⁴

On 9 January 2018, President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed to advance their comprehensive strategic partnership.¹¹⁸⁵ Several areas were addressed with Xi calling for integrating the development strategies between the two countries with "achieving common development in the areas of digital economy."¹¹⁸⁶

On 11 February 2018, Meng Wei of the National and Development Reform Commission announced that one of the ways that China will implement an employment-first strategy to promote employment and entrepreneurship is by creating a policy environment that will support the digital economy and promote big data, artificial intelligence and industrial sectors.¹¹⁸⁷

¹¹⁷⁸ Digital economy growth requires global efforts, The State Council, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January

2018. http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2017/12/05/content_281475965403618.html.

¹¹⁷⁹ China must accelerate implementation of big data strategy: Xi, China Daily (Beijing) 9 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/09/WS5a2bba55a310eefe3e9a12ea.html>.

¹¹⁸⁰ China must accelerate implementation of big data strategy: Xi, China Daily (Beijing) 9 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/09/WS5a2bba55a310eefe3e9a12ea.html>.

¹¹⁸¹ China must accelerate implementation of big data strategy: Xi, China Daily (Beijing) 9 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/09/WS5a2bba55a310eefe3e9a12ea.html>.

¹¹⁸² China must accelerate implementation of big data strategy: Xi, China Daily (Beijing) 9 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/09/WS5a2bba55a310eefe3e9a12ea.html>.

¹¹⁸³ China must accelerate implementation of big data strategy: Xi, China Daily (Beijing) 9 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/09/WS5a2bba55a310eefe3e9a12ea.html>.

¹¹⁸⁴ China must accelerate implementation of big data strategy: Xi, China Daily (Beijing) 9 December 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/09/WS5a2bba55a310eefe3e9a12ea.html>.

¹¹⁸⁵ China, France agree to inject new impetus into bilateral ties, Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Calgary (Calgary) 9 January 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://calgary.china-consulate.org/eng/lgxw/t1524648.html>.

¹¹⁸⁶ China, France agree to inject new impetus into bilateral ties, Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Calgary (Calgary) 9 January 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2018. <http://calgary.china-consulate.org/eng/lgxw/t1524648.html>.

¹¹⁸⁷ China pledges "employment first" policies to create millions of new jobs, Reuters (Beijing) 11 February 2018. Access Date: 4 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-economy-employment/china-pledges-employment-first-policies-to-create-millions-of-new-jobs-idUSKBN1FW012>.

On 4 July 2018, China and Tunisia signed a partnership agreement on developing the digital economy during the Belt and Road Digital Economy Conference in Beijing.¹¹⁸⁸

On 16 July 2018, the European Union and China issued a joint statement at the 20th European Union – China Summit reaffirming that both countries were committed to advancing the digital economy by creating a favourable digital business environment that will enable organizations from both sides to fully integrate and play a constructive role in the economy.¹¹⁸⁹

On 23 August 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed China’s commitment to develop and accelerate data industrialization and industrial digitalization in his congratulatory speech for the 2018 Smart China Expo. Xi noted that China would be willing to collaborate with international community in developing the digital economy and accelerate the transition from old to new growth engines for the world economy.¹¹⁹⁰

On 12 September 2018 Hiraoki Nakanishi, chairman of the Japan Business Federation met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to improve Sino-Japanese ties. The agreements include further utilization of digital technology in order to develop economic cooperation relations between the two countries.¹¹⁹¹

On 12 September 2018, Vice Premier, Hu Chunhua’s opening speech at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN reaffirmed China’s commitment to advance three priorities between China and ASEAN: 1) building synergy between China’s and ASEAN’s development programs; 2) expanding economic and trade ties; and 3) expanding economic and trade ties.¹¹⁹² In the speech, Hu said that China’s innovation-driven development strategy and ASEAN’s “Innovation-Led Growth” share the same vision. He also mentioned that China will support and participate in the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and enhance China’s cooperation in digital economy, artificial intelligence and modern supply chain.¹¹⁹³

On 14-15 September 2018, China attended the fourth BRICS Ministers of Communication Meeting in Durban with the theme “Advancing Inclusive Growth through Industry and Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises (SMME) Participation.”¹¹⁹⁴ Ministers agreed on eleven points: support the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR); dedicate more effort towards the exchange of

¹¹⁸⁸ Tunisia, China sign deal on developing digital economy, China Daily (Beijing) 4 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201807/04/WS5b3c6a4fa3103349141e0a7f.html>.

¹¹⁸⁹ Joint Statement of the 20th EU-China Summit, European Council (Beijing) 16 July 2018. Access date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36165/final-eu-cn-joint-statement-consolidated-text-with-climate-change-clean-energy-annex.pdf>.

¹¹⁹⁰ Xi Jinping: China committed to innovation-driven development, CGTN News (Beijing) 23 August 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d414e34676a4e79457a6333566d54/share_p.html.

¹¹⁹¹ Chinese PM, Japan business execs agree to deepen cooperation, The Mainichi (Tokyo) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180912/p2g/00m/0bu/107000c>

¹¹⁹² Full text of Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua’s speech at opening ceremony of World Economic Forum on ASEAN. Econs.cn. (Beijing) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <http://www.ecns.cn/m/news/politics/2018-09-13/detail-ifyxxzwt9218821.shtml>.

¹¹⁹³ Full text of Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua’s speech at opening ceremony of World Economic Forum on ASEAN. Econs.cn. (Beijing) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <http://www.ecns.cn/m/news/politics/2018-09-13/detail-ifyxxzwt9218821.shtml>.

¹¹⁹⁴ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

information and communications technology (ICT) policies, regulation, and legislation; improve the exchange of ideas and cooperation between BRICS Members; endorse the model a Council of decentralized BRICS Institute of Future Networks; reiterate the digitalization commitment made in 2017 at Hangzhou, China; strengthening and improving the Working Group on ICT cooperation; facilitate an appropriate ICT ecosystem for the digital economy; conduct joint research, seminars and workshops to enhance cooperation; continue efforts to eliminate the digital divide between rural and urban areas; acknowledged the fast development of industrial internet in China; and congratulated South Africa for the successful hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom World 2018 in Durban.¹¹⁹⁵

On 17 September 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated that China is willing to share the development opportunities in the digital economy with other countries and called for joint efforts in promoting artificial intelligence in his congratulatory letter at the opening of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai. According to Xi, China is ready to jointly promote and join the development and exchange and cooperation in technology, data sharing, and application markets.¹¹⁹⁶

China has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to take global as well as domestic initiatives to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 10 September 2017, France, Italy, Germany, and Spain put forth a joint proposal for a unified digital taxation mechanism aimed towards multinational enterprises (MNEs).¹¹⁹⁷ The proposal suggested eliminating the taxation discrepancies between EU member-states by taxing MNEs on revenue rather than profit, in order to rectify low tax receipts from these companies.¹¹⁹⁸

On 29 September 2017, France put the matter of digital taxation on the agenda of the Tallinn Digital Summit between European Heads of State and Government to ensure that tech giants pay a fair contribution of their earnings in the countries that they operate in.¹¹⁹⁹ At the summit, President

¹¹⁹⁵ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹¹⁹⁶ China willing to share opportunities in digital economy: Xi, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 17 September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/17/c_137474152.htm.

¹¹⁹⁷ Germany, France, Italy, Spain seek new EU tax on digital firm revenue, MNE Tax 10 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://mnetax.com/germany-france-italy-spain-seek-new-tax-digital-firm-revenue-23398>.

¹¹⁹⁸ Germany, France, Italy, Spain seek new EU tax on digital firm revenue, MNE Tax 10 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://mnetax.com/germany-france-italy-spain-seek-new-tax-digital-firm-revenue-23398>.

¹¹⁹⁹ Regulation of the digital economy in France and Europe, Government of France (Paris) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/regulation-of-the-digital-economy-in-france-and-europe>.

Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel held bilateral talks to discuss increasing cooperation between Germany and France in the digital economy.¹²⁰⁰

On 5 October 2017, Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Finance, and Mounir Mahjoubi, Secretary of State in charge of Digital Affairs, signed three decrees to improve transparency and loyalty obligations on the part of digital platforms such as search engines, social media websites, and price comparison websites.¹²⁰¹ According to these decrees, platforms will have to specify listing and classification criteria such as sponsorship and verification of consumer opinions.¹²⁰²

On 11 December 2017, Secretary Mahjoubi announced a national strategy of digital inclusion.¹²⁰³ This strategy allows the French government to find and integrate French people who have trouble with the internet by working with regions, departments, and social operators to ensure digital inclusion.¹²⁰⁴

On 18 December 2017, Minister Le Maire asked his counterparts in the Group of 20 to consider joint regulation of bitcoin.¹²⁰⁵ Several European countries have been pushing for global bitcoin regulation amid mounting alarm that the world's most popular digital currency is being used by money-launderers, drug traffickers and terrorists.¹²⁰⁶

On 18 December 2017, Minister Le Maire launched a lawsuit against American e-commerce giant Amazon for imposing unfair commercial relationships to suppliers in the country. The DGCCRF, the French body in charge of fraud control, said in a statement on Monday that Le Maire is seeking a fine of EUR10 million.¹²⁰⁷

On 19 January 2018, Françoise Nyssen, the Minister of Culture, announced an upcoming digital economy conference that aims to bring together experts from France and the United Kingdom in cybersecurity, digital skills, artificial intelligence, data, and digital government.¹²⁰⁸ Matt Hancock, the UK's Digital and Culture Secretary, announced that the UK and France would be strengthening ties

¹²⁰⁰ Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

¹²⁰¹ Regulation of the digital economy in France and Europe, Government of France (Paris) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/regulation-of-the-digital-economy-in-france-and-europe>.

¹²⁰² Regulation of the digital economy in France and Europe, Government of France (Paris) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/regulation-of-the-digital-economy-in-france-and-europe>.

¹²⁰³ Mounir Mahjoubi: le gouvernement lancera un plan d'intégration numérique, Linfo.re (Saint-Denis) 11 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.linfo.re/france/societe/732241-mounir-mahjoubi-le-gouvernement-lancera-un-plan-d-integration-numerique>.

¹²⁰⁴ Inclusion numérique: l'Etat veut jouer collectif pour avancer dès 2018, La Tribune Bordeaux (Bordeaux) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://objectifaquitaine.latribune.fr/politique/2017-12-12/inclusion-numerique-l-etat-veut-jouer-collectif-pour-avancer-des-2018-761358.html>.

¹²⁰⁵ Germany Joins French-led Moves to Regulate Bitcoin at G-20 Level, Bloomberg (New York City) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-18/europe-wants-to-regulate-bitcoin-to-clamp-down-on-illegal-risks>.

¹²⁰⁶ Bitcoin Might Soon Face Tougher Regulations in Europe, Fortune (New York City) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://fortune.com/2017/12/18/bitcoin-regulation-eu-money-laundering-drug-terrorists/>.

¹²⁰⁷ French economy minister files lawsuit against Amazon, News 1130 (Vancouver) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.news1130.com/2017/12/18/french-economy-minister-files-lawsuit-against-amazon/>.

¹²⁰⁸ UK-France Summit 2018: Documents, UK Government (London) 19 January 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <http://tech.newstatesman.com/news/uk-france-tech-summit>.

in technology and innovation in order to improve both digital economies while fostering cross-channel collaboration.¹²⁰⁹

On 16 February 2018 Secretary Mahjoubi met with United States Ambassador Jamie McCourt to look at Franco-American cooperation in the digital economy and how digital technology promotes entrepreneurship and insertion that benefit society and the economy.¹²¹⁰

On 9 March 2018, the US and France held a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Paris, France for discussions on previous science and technology endeavors and future initiatives in “artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced energy technologies and clean energy, ocean observation and exploration, and cancer research.”¹²¹¹

On 14 March 2018, Minister Le Maire stated that the French government would be taking tech giants Google and Apple to court over “abusive business practices” against smaller business rivals and app developers in France.¹²¹²

On 6 April 2018, the government of France announced plans to use 10,000 digital training courses in order to offer job opportunities for one million young people and one million low-skilled job seekers.¹²¹³

On 23 May 2018, President Emmanuel Macron of France received 50 large technology groups for the Tech for Good summit at the Elysée. The summit had the goal of giving a more modern and digital image of France to attract foreign companies. No government announcements about digital inclusion or entrepreneurship were made.¹²¹⁴

On 4 September 2018, Bruno Le Maire, the French Minister of Economy, and Nadia Calviño, the Spanish Minister of Economy, met in Paris to discuss the digital economy and their priorities for the European Union. They both shared the will to respond to the challenges posed by the taxation of the digital economy, reiterating their support for the European proposal for taxation of digital giants such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon.¹²¹⁵

¹²⁰⁹UK-France Summit 2018: Documents, UK Government (London) 19 January 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <http://tech.newstatesman.com/news/uk-france-tech-summit>.

¹²¹⁰Ambassador Jamie McCourt meets with Mounir Mahjoubi, State Secretary for Digital Technology, US Embassy & Consulates in France (Paris) 16 February 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://fr.usembassy.gov/ambassador-jamie-mccourt-meets-mounir-mahjoubi-state-secretary-digital-technology/>.

¹²¹¹Joint Statement on U.S.-France Science and Technology Cooperation, U.S. Department of State (Washington,DC) 9 March 2018. Access Date: 12 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/stc/rls/press/279139.htm>

¹²¹²France Threatens Apple, Google Over 'Abusive' Business Practice, TeleSUR (Caracas) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/France-Threatens-Apple-Google-Over-Abusive-Business-Practice-20180314-0033.html>.

¹²¹³Le gouvernement veut former deux millions de jeunes et de chômeurs aux métiers du numérique, Numerama (Rezé) 6 April 2018. Access Date: 7 September 2018. <https://www.numerama.com/politique/341236-le-gouvernement-veut-former-deux-millions-de-jeunes-et-de-chomeurs-aux-metiers-du-numerique.html>.

¹²¹⁴Que faut-il retenir du sommet "Tech for good" organisé par Macron? (Paris) 24 May 2018. Access Date: 7 September 2018. https://www.challenges.fr/high-tech/que-faut-il-retenir-du-sommet-tech-for-good-organise-par-macron_589259.

¹²¹⁵La France et l'Espagne favorables à la taxation des géants du numérique (Morocco) 4 September 2018. Access Date: 7 September 2018. <https://www.laquotidienne.ma/article/alaune/la-france-et-l-espagne-favorables-a-la-taxation-des-geants-du-numerique>.

France has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jane Huang

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 27 July 2017, the German government-funded Fraunhofer Society announced that its Industrial Data Space will be available for international implementation.¹²¹⁶ The Industrial Data Space is a research project that aims to secure data sharing based on standardized communication interfaces.¹²¹⁷ Its key feature is data sovereignty, which allows users to monitor and maintain control of their proprietary data, by enabling them to decide who has the right to access these data and for what purpose.¹²¹⁸ The Federal Ministry of Education and Research granted the Fraunhofer Society EUR5 million to assist in its efforts to increase the security of the global digital economy.¹²¹⁹

On 10 September 2017, Germany put forth a joint proposal — along with European Union members France, Italy, and Spain — for a unified digital taxation mechanism aimed towards Multinational Enterprises (MNEs).¹²²⁰ The proposal suggested eliminating the taxation discrepancies between EU member-states by taxing MNEs on revenue rather than profit, in order to rectify low tax receipts from these companies.¹²²¹

On 28 September 2017, Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the EU Digital Summit in Tallinn, Estonia.¹²²² Merkel used this summit as a platform to reiterate Germany's plan for the advancement of digitalisation and the digital economy in Europe, which was released in the run-up to the summit.¹²²³ Firstly, there must be an agreed upon legal framework that protects all actors in the

¹²¹⁶ Industrial Data Space International Implementation, Fraunhofer Society (Munich) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/press/research-news/2017/july/german-government-and-fraunhofer-drive-forward-plans-to-implement.html>.

¹²¹⁷ Industrial Data Space International Implementation, Fraunhofer Society (Munich) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/press/research-news/2017/july/german-government-and-fraunhofer-drive-forward-plans-to-implement.html>.

¹²¹⁸ Industrial Data Space International Implementation, Fraunhofer Society (Munich) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017. <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/press/research-news/2017/july/german-government-and-fraunhofer-drive-forward-plans-to-implement.html>.

¹²¹⁹ Industrial Data Space International Implementation, Fraunhofer Society (Munich) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017.

¹²²⁰ Germany, France, Italy, Spain seek new EU tax on digital firm revenue, MNE Tax 10 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://mnetax.com/germany-france-italy-spain-seek-new-tax-digital-firm-revenue-23398>.

¹²²¹ Germany, France, Italy, Spain seek new EU tax on digital firm revenue, MNE Tax 10 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://mnetax.com/germany-france-italy-spain-seek-new-tax-digital-firm-revenue-23398>. <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/press/research-news/2017/july/german-government-and-fraunhofer-drive-forward-plans-to-implement.html>.

¹²²² Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

¹²²³ Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

European digital economy.¹²²⁴ Secondly, all actors must make full use of the advantages of digital technologies, including high-performance networks, 5G and fibre optics, which will lay the necessary foundations for the digital economy.¹²²⁵ Lastly, in order to bridge the digital gap that exists among the various actors in the digital economy, people, companies and governments must be able to exercise their rights freely in order to generate trust in the digital world.¹²²⁶ Merkel also held bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss increasing cooperation between Germany and France in the digital economy.¹²²⁷

On 3 October 2017, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Matthias Machnig and Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development Alexey Gruzdev met in Berlin to discuss trade and increasing cooperation in the realm of digitalisation and the digital economy between Russia and Germany.¹²²⁸

On 5 October 2017, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy held a convention to discuss new ways of coordinating digitalisation policy and creating a regulatory environment for the digital economy.¹²²⁹ The convention was attended by members of the German Bundestag, the Presidents of the Bundeskartellamt, Germany's Competition Authority, and the Bundesnetzagentur, Germany's Network Agency, as well as representatives of the business and science sectors.¹²³⁰

On 24 January 2018, representatives from the Federal Ministries of Economic Affairs and the Interior met with officials from the business associations and data protection authorities to continue discussions on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation and the 2018 Federal Data Protection Act.¹²³¹ The discussions were launched in the summer of 2017 with the goal of helping small and medium sized enterprises adjust their data processing systems to the new data

¹²²⁴ Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

¹²²⁵ Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

¹²²⁶ Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

¹²²⁷ Angela Merkel Attends EU Digital Summit, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2017_en/2017-09-28-tallinn-digitalgipfel_en.html.

¹²²⁸ Russia and Germany to Intensify Cooperation in Realm of Digital Economy, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 October 2017. Date of Access: 20 November 2017. <http://economy.gov.ru/en/home/about/structure/dep25/2017031005>.

¹²²⁹ German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Digitilisation Convention, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 5 October 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171006-bmwi-diskutiert-bessere-koordinierung-der-digitalisierungspolitik-und-einrichtung-einer-digitalagentur.html>.

¹²³⁰ German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Digitilisation Convention, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 5 October 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171006-bmwi-diskutiert-bessere-koordinierung-der-digitalisierungspolitik-und-einrichtung-einer-digitalagentur.html>.

¹²³¹ The Federal Economic Affairs Ministry and the Federal Ministry of the Interior Continue dialogue with Industry on the Implementation of the European General Data Protection Regulation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180124-gem-bmwi-und-bmi-setzen-dialog-mit-der-wirtschaft-zur-umsetzung-der-eu-datenschutz-grundverordnung-fort.html>.

protection standards, which take effect 25 May 2018.¹²³² The meeting also served as a platform to discuss questions of data processing, the future role of corporate data protection officers and the possibility of introducing industry-specific codes of conduct.¹²³³

On 27 March 2018, Matthias Machnig, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy attended the conference of G7 Innovation Ministers in Montreal. The main focus of the conference was on digitalization and its impact on the economy and society. State Secretary Machnig mentioned: “All the G7 partners are facing similar challenges in the field of digitalisation. Our aim is to stimulate innovation in order to maintain our economies’ competitive edge in the long term, and to grasp the opportunities offered by digitalisation for growth and prosperity.”¹²³⁴

On 17 April 2018, the Mittelstand 4.0 Competence Centre Cottbus, organized by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) to support small and medium enterprises in their digital transformation officially launched.¹²³⁵ This is the twenty-fourth competence centre launched by. The Competence Centre Cottbus focuses on digitalization initiatives such as “Work 4.0” and “Logistics 4.0.”¹²³⁶ A special feature of this centre is that it offers the social partners services relating to digitization.¹²³⁷ The BMWi is supporting this competence centre with approximately 3.6 million euros over the next three years.¹²³⁸

¹²³² The Federal Economic Affairs Ministry and the Federal Ministry of the Interior Continue dialogue with Industry on the Implementation of the European General Data Protection Regulation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180124-gem-bmwi-und-bmi-setzen-dialog-mit-der-wirtschaft-zur-umsetzung-der-eu-datenschutz-grundverordnung-fort.html>.

¹²³³ The Federal Economic Affairs Ministry and the Federal Ministry of the Interior Continue dialogue with Industry on the Implementation of the European General Data Protection Regulation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180124-gem-bmwi-und-bmi-setzen-dialog-mit-der-wirtschaft-zur-umsetzung-der-eu-datenschutz-grundverordnung-fort.html>.

¹²³⁴ State Secretary Machnig: G7 intensify dialogue and cooperation on artificial intelligence, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 March 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180327-machnig-g7-intensify-dialogue-and-cooperation-on-artificial-intelligence.html>.

¹²³⁵ Altmaier: Competence Center Cottbus supports Brandenburger Mittelstand in digitization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 17 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-04-17-altmaier-kompetenzzentrum-cottbus-unterstuetzt-brandenburger-mittelstand-bei-der-digitalisierung.html>

¹²³⁶ Altmaier: Competence Center Cottbus supports Brandenburger Mittelstand in digitization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 17 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-04-17-altmaier-kompetenzzentrum-cottbus-unterstuetzt-brandenburger-mittelstand-bei-der-digitalisierung.html>

¹²³⁷ Altmaier: Competence Center Cottbus supports Brandenburger Mittelstand in digitization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 17 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-04-17-altmaier-kompetenzzentrum-cottbus-unterstuetzt-brandenburger-mittelstand-bei-der-digitalisierung.html>

¹²³⁸ Altmaier: Competence Center Cottbus supports Brandenburger Mittelstand in digitization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 17 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-04-17-altmaier-kompetenzzentrum-cottbus-unterstuetzt-brandenburger-mittelstand-bei-der-digitalisierung.html>

On 19 July 2018, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy published a notice establishing the Mittelstand 4.0 Competence Centre Retail.¹²³⁹ This competence centre is intended to support medium-sized retailers through structural change and offer assistance.¹²⁴⁰ Competence Centre Retail is also aimed at business-to-business trade, as online retail and platform technologies change supply and service relationships.¹²⁴¹

Germany has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Domenic Colangelo and Elie Atieh

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives or through domestic initiatives.

On 18 July 2017, the fifth Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held in Hangzhou, China to reinforce cooperation and collaboration among the BRICS countries in areas of science, technology, and innovation.¹²⁴²

On 13 November 2017, the Indian government proposed a subsidy of INR3,600 to private telecommunication companies through viability gap funding.¹²⁴³

On 27 November 2017, the Indian government and the United States held the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad, India.¹²⁴⁴ The summit aims to support women entrepreneurs in key industry sectors — Energy and Infrastructure, Healthcare and Life Sciences, Financial Technology and Digital Economy, and Media and Entertainment.¹²⁴⁵

¹²³⁹ BMWi Establishes New SME 4.0 Competence Centre Retail, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin). 24 July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-24-bmwi-richtet-neues-mittelstands-4-0-kompetenzzentrum-einzelhandel-ein.html>.

¹²⁴⁰ BMWi Establishes New SME 4.0 Competence Centre Retail, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin). 24 July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-24-bmwi-richtet-neues-mittelstands-4-0-kompetenzzentrum-einzelhandel-ein.html>.

¹²⁴¹ BMWi Establishes New SME 4.0 Competence Centre Retail, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin). 24 July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.mittelstand-digital.de/MD/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-24-bmwi-richtet-neues-mittelstands-4-0-kompetenzzentrum-einzelhandel-ein.html>.

¹²⁴² Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

¹²⁴³ 2 Government plans Rs 3,600 crore subsidy to telcos for BharatNet, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 13 November 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/government-to-start-rs-34000-crore-bharatnet-phase-2-from-tomorrow/articleshow/61615774.cms>.

¹²⁴⁴ Plenary Speakers and US Government Principals at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (Washington, D.C.) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275892.htm>.

¹²⁴⁵ Plenary Speakers and US Government Principals at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (Washington, D.C.) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275892.htm>.

On 28 November 2017, the Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) released a paper about recommendations on net neutrality.¹²⁴⁶

On 20 December 2017, the Consumer Affairs Division of the TRAI opened a consultation paper on making information and communications technologies (ICT) accessible for persons with disabilities.¹²⁴⁷

On 17 January 2018, the TRAI held an Open House Discussion in New Delhi for a consultation paper on inputs for formulation of national telecom policy.¹²⁴⁸

On 24 January 2018, the TRAI held an Open House Discussion in Bengaluru for a consultation paper on inputs for formulation of national telecom policy.¹²⁴⁹

On 2 February 2018, the TRAI released the recommendations for the National Telecom Policy 2018. Its target is to attract an investment of USD100 billion in communication and to create 2 million jobs in the ICT sector by 2022.¹²⁵⁰

On 19 February 2018, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said his ministry is working to make India's digital sector a USD1 trillion economy in the next five years.¹²⁵¹

On 19 February 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke at the WCIT-NILF 2018 forum. The WCIT brings together leaders in the IT industry, government leaders, and academics to combine business, technology, and leadership.¹²⁵²

On 8 May 2018, the Department of Telecommunications released the draft of the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018. "The telecommunications sector is a critical enabler for Digital India and this proposed new policy is designed to empower Indian telecom to fulfill this designated role to achieve the larger vision," said D S Rawat, Secretary General, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM).¹²⁵³

¹²⁴⁶ Recommendations on Net Neutrality, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (New Delhi) 28 November 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. https://www.traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_NN_2017_11_28.pdf.

¹²⁴⁷ Consultation Paper on Making ICT Accessible for Persons with Disabilities, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (New Delhi) 20 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018.

https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Press_Release_No107_20122017.pdf.

¹²⁴⁸ OHD on Consultation Paper on "Inputs for Formulation of National Telecom Policy - 2018" at New Delhi, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (New Delhi) 17 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.traigov.in/news-updates/ohd-consultation-paper-inputs-formulation-national-telecom-policy-2018-new-delhi>.

¹²⁴⁹ OHD on Consultation Paper on "Inputs for Formulation of National Telecom Policy - 2018" at Bengaluru, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (New Delhi) 17 January 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://www.traigov.in/news-updates/ohd-consultation-paper-inputs-formulation-national-telecom-policy-2018-new-delhi>.

¹²⁵⁰ TRAI releases recommendations for National Telecom Policy 2018, targets investment of \$100 billion by 2022, First Post (Mumbai) 2 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.firstpost.com/tech/news-analysis/traireleases-recommendations-for-national-telecom-policy-2018-targets-investment-of-100-billion-by-2022-4333569.html>.

¹²⁵¹ India to be \$1 trillion digital economy in 5 years: Ravi Shankar Prasad, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 19 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://telecom.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/india-to-be-1-trillion-digital-economy-in-5-years-ravi-shankar-prasad/62992237>.

¹²⁵² WCIT India 2018, NASSCOM (New Delhi) Access Date: 3 March 2018 <http://www.nasscom.in/wcit-nilf2018/>

¹²⁵³ NDPC 2018 draft well thought through, says ASSOCHAM, The Economic Times Telecom (New Delhi) 8 May 2018. Access Date: 20 May 2018. <https://telecom.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/ndcp-2018-draft-well-thought-through-says-assocham/64076304>.

On 12 August 2018, the Indian Government announced an INR10,000 crore connectivity plan for northeastern states as part of the Digital North-East Vision 2022.¹²⁵⁴

On 29 – 31 August 2018, Minister of Internet Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad met Google CEO Sundar Pichai at Google's headquarters in Mountain View, California to discuss digital transformation in India.¹²⁵⁵ He emphasized the necessity for data security in India and pushed to contain the personal information of Indian users within India.¹²⁵⁶

On 5 September 2018, Minister of Internet Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad extended the deadline for public feedback on the draft personal data protection bill to 30 September 2018.¹²⁵⁷

On 10 September 2018, the Indian Government launched the Pan-Africa E-Digital Knowledge and Health Network.¹²⁵⁸ It aims to provide free tele-education courses in various academic disciplines and provide free continuing medical education.¹²⁵⁹

On 13 September 2018, Cisco Systems and the Department of Telecommunications entered into a partnership to demonstrate how 5G can be used to solve problems faced by users in education, healthcare and agriculture through the Internet of Things, surveillance, and artificial intelligence.¹²⁶⁰

On 14-15 September 2018, India attended the fourth BRICS Ministers of Communication Meeting in Durban with the theme “Advancing Inclusive Growth through Industry and Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises (SMME) Participation.”¹²⁶¹ Ministers agreed on eleven points: support the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR); dedicate more effort towards the exchange of information and communications technology (ICT) policies, regulation, and legislation; improve the exchange of ideas

¹²⁵⁴ Govt announces ₹10,000-crore connectivity plan for NE states, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 12 August 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/govt-announces-10000-crore-connectivity-plan-for-ne-states/articleshow/65372585.cms>.

¹²⁵⁵ Ravi Shankar Prasad meets Sundar Pichai in Mountain View; talks about digital transformation, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 30 August 2018. Access date: 29 September 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/ravi-shankar-prasad-meets-sundar-pichai-in-mountain-view-talks-about-digital-transformation/articleshow/65609651.cms>.

¹²⁵⁶ Ravi Shankar Prasad meets Sundar Pichai in Mountain View; talks about digital transformation, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 30 August 2018. Access date: 29 September 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/ravi-shankar-prasad-meets-sundar-pichai-in-mountain-view-talks-about-digital-transformation/articleshow/65609651.cms>.

¹²⁵⁷ Government extends deadline for public comments on draft data protection bill to September 20, The Financial Express (New Delhi) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 22 September 2018. <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/technology/government-extends-deadline-for-public-comments-on-draft-data-protection-bill-to-september-30/1303797/>.

¹²⁵⁸ India scores over China; establishes leadership role in African education sector, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/india-scores-over-china-establishes-leadership-role-in-african-education-sector/articleshow/65773308.cms>.

¹²⁵⁹ India scores over China; establishes leadership role in African education sector, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/india-scores-over-china-establishes-leadership-role-in-african-education-sector/articleshow/65773308.cms>.

¹²⁶⁰ Cisco, BSNL team up for 5G, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-policy/cisco-bsnl-team-up-for-5g/articleshow/65814531.cms>.

¹²⁶¹ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

and cooperation between BRICS Members; endorse the model a Council of decentralized BRICS Institute of Future Networks; reiterate the digitalization commitment made in 2017 at Hangzhou, China; strengthening and improving the Working Group on ICT cooperation; facilitate an appropriate ICT ecosystem for the digital economy; conduct joint research, seminars and workshops to enhance cooperation; continue efforts to eliminate the digital divide between rural and urban areas; acknowledged the fast development of industrial internet in China; and congratulated South Africa for the successful hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom World 2018 in Durban.¹²⁶²

On 16 September 2018, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that it will launch three more satellites to provide high-speed bandwidth connectivity to rural areas as part of the government's Digital India programme.¹²⁶³

On 19-20 September 2018, the 5G Congress 2018 was held under the theme "Developing a Roadmap for the Next Wireless Revolution." Minister of State Manoj Sinha addressed the delegates and emphasized the important of 5G in helping India bridge the digital divide.¹²⁶⁴

On 26 September 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which aims to expand broadband coverage and encourage more efficient spectrum usage. The NDCP's plan is to attract USD100 billion investment and create 40 lakh jobs by 2022.¹²⁶⁵

On 28 September 2018, the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), an agency of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) extended the deadline for starting mandatory testing of telecom equipment to 1 April 2019. The government plans to increase the number of TEC designated laboratories from 25 to 100.¹²⁶⁶

On 29 September 2018, Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan announced that the department was looking for solutions to India's call drop problem. She explained that the problem was occurring due to many calls being made using 2G, which causes congestion as operators are phasing out 2G towers and installing 4G towers.¹²⁶⁷

India has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

¹²⁶² Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹²⁶³ ISRO to launch three more satellites for bandwidth connectivity, The Economic Times Telecom (Andhra Pradesh) 17 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/isro-to-launch-three-more-satellites-for-bandwidth-connectivity/65836378>.

¹²⁶⁴ 5G Congress addressed by policy makers, regulators, industry leaders, experts, The Economic Times Telecom (New Delhi) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/5g-congress-addressed-by-policy-makers-regulators-industry-leaders-experts/65993456>.

¹²⁶⁵ New telecom policy to help firms cut cost, red tape: Report, The Economic Times Telecom (New Delhi) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/new-telecom-policy-to-help-firms-cut-cost-red-tape-report/65995976>

¹²⁶⁶ DoT extends mandatory testing of mobile devices, telecom gear to April 2019, The Economic Times Telecom (New Delhi) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/dot-extends-mandatory-testing-of-mobile-devices-telecom-gear-to-april-2019/65980873>

¹²⁶⁷ Mobile calls in the drop zone — without a parachute, The Economic Times Telecom (New Delhi) 29 September 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2018. <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/mobile-calls-in-the-drop-zone-without-a-parachute/66002477>

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ingrid Chen

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy, taking into account its commitment to improvement strategies and offer of contribution to international development of the digital economy sector.

On 9 August 2017, President Joko Widodo signed an e-commerce road map that will provide guidelines for Indonesia's digital economy sector.¹²⁶⁸ It will issued at the end of the year and will regulate technology, as well as cover issues such as logistics, cyber securities, taxation, human resources development, and consumer protection in Indonesia.¹²⁶⁹

On 7 September 2017 in a keynote address to the Indonesia-Singapore Business Forum at Marina Bay Cruise Center in Singapore, President Widodo stated “we must arrange relations between Indonesia and Singapore to respond to the digital revolution.”¹²⁷⁰ Indonesia aims to increase the supply of digital products from the Indonesian city of Batam to Singapore. Indonesia will use Batam as a digital bridge to link Singapore to other digital communities in various Indonesian cities in future.¹²⁷¹

On 7 September 2017, during leaders talks held in Singapore, President Widodo and Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong agreed to renew the Bilateral Investment Treaty between the two countries, which highlights digital economic cooperation, according to a statement made by Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi.¹²⁷²

On 15 September 2017, Indonesia participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic (APEC) forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹²⁷³ The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free small and medium-sized enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹²⁷⁴

¹²⁶⁸ Indonesia issues e-commerce map, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 9 August 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/08/09/indonesia-issues-e-commerce-road-map.html>.

¹²⁶⁹ Indonesia issues e-commerce map, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 9 August 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/08/09/indonesia-issues-e-commerce-road-map.html>.

¹²⁷⁰ Indonesia invites Singapore to invest in digital economy sector, Antara News (Singapore) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/112573/indonesia-invites-singapore-to-invest-in-digital-economy-sector>.

¹²⁷¹ Indonesia invites Singapore to invest in digital economy sector, Antara News (Singapore) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/112573/indonesia-invites-singapore-to-invest-in-digital-economy-sector>.

¹²⁷² Indonesia, Singapore mark 50 years relations, highlight digital economic cooperation, Antara News (Jakarta) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017 <http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/112596/indonesia-singapore-mark-50-years-relations-highlight-digital-economic-cooperation>.

¹²⁷³ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹²⁷⁴ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

On 20 September 2017 at the Indonesia Business Digital Expo 2017 in a seminar titled 'New Economy in the Digital Age,' President Joko Widodo stated "A few months ago, the government established a State Code and Cyber Agency," a move taken in an effort to increase cyber security in Indonesia.¹²⁷⁵

On 23 January 2018 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland delegates from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Indonesia, launched the "Digital ASEAN" initiative which aims to develop the regional digital economy and establish the Board of Governors to help ASEAN move forward in a digital economy.¹²⁷⁶

On 10 April 2018, the Indonesia-Africa Forum 2018 was held in Bali. The meeting discussed opportunities for and steps towards cooperation in the digital economy.¹²⁷⁷

On 31 August 2018, Indonesia and Australia released a joint declaration to express their commitment to "support strengthening links between our business communities" including micro and SMEs in the digital economy.¹²⁷⁸

Indonesia has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Stacy Chen

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 5 September 2017, Italy awarded a second lot of the public tender for the Public Connectivity System (PCS) for the purpose of developing integrated Information Technologies services to facilitate interoperability of public administrations through a suite of web portals and mobile applications speeding up access to public channels and increase information transparency.¹²⁷⁹

On 10 September 2017, Italy put forth a joint proposal with European Union members France, Germany, and Spain, for a unified digital taxation mechanism for multinational enterprises

¹²⁷⁵ Jokowi promises to streamline regulations to boost digital economy, Antara News (Jakarta) 20 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/112710/jokowi-promises-to-streamline-regulations-to-boost-digital-economy>.

¹²⁷⁶ Indonesia encourages growth of digital economy, Antara News (Jakarta) 5 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/114504/indonesia-encourages-growth-of-digital-economy>.

¹²⁷⁷ Press Release, Indonesia and Africa Synergize Cooperation in Indonesia-Africa Forum 2018 (Bali) 10 April 2018. Access Date: 25 April 2018. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/en/berita/Pages/Indonesia-and-Africa-to-Synergize-Cooperation-in-Indonesia-Africa-Forum-2018-.aspx>.

¹²⁷⁸ Joint Statement, Joint Declaration on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia (Barton) 31 August 2018. Access Date: 13 September 2018. <https://dfat.gov.au/geo/indonesia/Pages/joint-declaration-comprehensive-strategic-partnership-between-the-commonwealth-of-australia-and-republic-of-indonesia.aspx>.

¹²⁷⁹ Indra signs a new framework contract for €109 million as part of the digitalization project of the Italian public administration, Indra (Rome) 5 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.indracompany.com/en/noticia/indra-signs-new-framework-contract-eu109-million-part-digitalization-project-italian-public>.

(MNEs).¹²⁸⁰ The proposal suggested eliminating the taxation discrepancies among EU members by taxing MNEs on revenue rather than profit to rectify low tax receipts from these companies.¹²⁸¹

On 29 September 2017, Italy participated, along with other EU members, in the Tallinn Digital Summit. The purpose was to discuss concepts that would undergird EU digital policy until 2025.¹²⁸² The formulation of specific legislative proposals was not the central focus of the summit.¹²⁸³

On 13 October 2017, the Budget Commission of the Lower House approved, as part of the 2018 budget, a measure requiring companies to pay a 3 per cent tax on intangible digital products such as advertising and sponsored links embedded in webpages.¹²⁸⁴

On 4 July 2018, the Italian embassy in Berlin hosted the first Italian-German conference on smart cities, attended by public and private sector leaders.¹²⁸⁵ The conference focused on the growing importance of metropolitan areas as the primary players in sustainable development and on the contribution that large Italian and German cities may make to the development of policies on sustainable mobility, digital transformation and participatory urban development.¹²⁸⁶ Italy, specifically, held up the cities of Turin, Milan, and Florence as standards of good practice in smart city administration.¹²⁸⁷

On 5 September 2018, the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Guglielmo Picchi, spoke at the Economic and Environmental Forum of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).¹²⁸⁸ The Undersecretary emphasized Italy's focus on strengthening dialogue in several issue areas including innovation and digital technologies, while

¹²⁸⁰ Germany, France, Italy, Spain seek new EU tax on digital firm revenue, MNE Tax 10 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://mnetax.com/germany-france-italy-spain-seek-new-tax-digital-firm-revenue-23398>.

¹²⁸¹ Germany, France, Italy, Spain seek new EU tax on digital firm revenue, MNE Tax 10 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://mnetax.com/germany-france-italy-spain-seek-new-tax-digital-firm-revenue-23398>.

¹²⁸² Estonia sees digital summit as success in itself, EUObserver (Tallin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://euobserver.com/eu-presidency/139204>.

¹²⁸³ Estonia sees digital summit as success in itself, EUObserver (Tallin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://euobserver.com/eu-presidency/139204>.

¹²⁸⁴ Italian budget commission approves web tax on digital services, Reuters (Rome) 19 December 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-tax-digital/italian-budget-commission-approves-web-tax-on-digital-services-idUSKBN1ED14F>.

¹²⁸⁵ Italy's Economic Diplomacy, 3 August: latest news from the world, Farnesina (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/diplomazia-economica-italiana-03-agosto-ultime-news-dal-mondo.html.

¹²⁸⁶ Italy's Economic Diplomacy, 3 August: latest news from the world, Farnesina (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/diplomazia-economica-italiana-03-agosto-ultime-news-dal-mondo.html.

¹²⁸⁷ Italy's Economic Diplomacy, 3 August: latest news from the world, Farnesina (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/diplomazia-economica-italiana-03-agosto-ultime-news-dal-mondo.html.

¹²⁸⁸ Undersecretary Guglielmo Picchi at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Farnesina (Rome) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/partecipazione-del-sottosegretario-guglielmo-picchi-al-forum-economico-ambientale-dell-osce.html.

acknowledging the security and co-operation difficulties that lay ahead in governing the current digital transformation.¹²⁸⁹

On 14 September 2018, the Ministry of Economic Development launched a call for applications seeking 30 experts for a Group responsible for crafting a National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence. The Ministry is seeking to build a balanced group composed of individuals from the private and public sectors, academia, the labour market, and from consumers. The Group will craft strategies to improve AI research, promote investment, attract skilled workers and develop business in the field, and encourage the development of the data-economy, while also assessing the legal and regulatory framework as well as the potential socio-economic impacts of Artificial Intelligence.¹²⁹⁰

Italy has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ben Falconer

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 15 September 2017, Japan participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹²⁹¹The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free small and medium-sized enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹²⁹²

On 25 September 2017, in a Joint Press Statement for the 8th United States-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Japan and the United States stated their commitment to further cooperation between the two countries to develop the digital economy.¹²⁹³

On 16 October 2017, Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso and US Vice President Mike Pence issued a joint press release which stated that the US and Japan are collaborating on specific sectors to promote economic benefits and job creation. These sectors include the digital economy.¹²⁹⁴

¹²⁸⁹ Undersecretary Guglielmo Picchi at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Farnesina (Rome) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/partecipazione-del-sottosegretario-guglielmo-picchi-al-forum-economico-ambientale-dell-osce.html.

¹²⁹⁰ Artificial intelligence (AI): call for experts, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 14 September 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php/en/news/2038605-artificial-intelligence-ai-call-for-experts>.

¹²⁹¹ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹²⁹² Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹²⁹³ White House Press Release, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 September 2017. Access Date: 17 November 2017. <http://www.meti.go.jp/press/2017/09/20170925004/20170925004-2.pdf>.

On 11 November 2017, at the 25th APEC Economic Leader's Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam, as a member of APEC, Japan issued a joint statement that stated its commitment to strengthening worker training in order to increase employability, mobility and preparedness for the digital age. Japan also committed to strengthening the capabilities of MSMEs to compete in international markets, as well as improving access to Internet and digital infrastructure.¹²⁹⁵

From 27 November 2017 to 30 November 2017, Luxembourg and Japan held a conference titled "Luxembourg and Japan — A Shared Digital Future." Topics discussed included "big data, High Performance Computing and connected cars and devices," particularly concerning the role of cooperation between the two countries in future innovation and enhancement of living standards.¹²⁹⁶

On 19 December 2017, Minister of Economy Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko, in an interview with TASS Russian News Agency, stated that the two countries would continue to cooperate in accordance to their 2016 eight-point cooperation plan, and that they are looking into specifying Japanese-Russian cooperation in such new areas as the digital economy and boosting labour productivity.¹²⁹⁷

On 23 January 2018, Japan hosted 11 countries including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam at negotiations in Tokyo to settle the terms of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The CPTPP will replace the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which failed after the withdrawal of the US. This partnership will "promote the ease of data flows in the digital economy."¹²⁹⁸

On 17-18 April 2018, Japan and the European Union attended the 7th EU-Japan ICT Strategies Workshop to discuss the transformation and development of their economies to the digital age. The two countries also aim to cooperate regularly on digital economy aims and thus achieve increased closer cooperation.¹²⁹⁹

On 27 July 2018, in a Joint Press Statement for the 9th U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Japan and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to further cooperation between the two countries to develop the digital economy.¹³⁰⁰

On 30 August 2018, H.E. Soe Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance of Myanmar, and H.E. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan co-chaired the 10th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting. Economic Ministers and Representatives from Cambodia, Lao

¹²⁹⁴ White House Press Release, Office of the Vice President (Washington D.C.) October 16 2017. Access Date: 17 November 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/10/16/joint-press-release-vice-president-mike-pence-and-deputy-prime-minister>.

¹²⁹⁵ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Ministers (Da Nang, Vietnam) 11 November 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2017/1111_amm.

¹²⁹⁶ Press Release, Luxembourg and Japan: A Shared Future, Digital Economy and Smart Mobility 11 December 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.luxinnovation.lu/news/luxembourg-japan-a-shared-digital-future/>.

¹²⁹⁷ Japan banking on cooperation with Russia in digital economy sector for 2018, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 19 December 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <http://tass.com/economy/981808>.

¹²⁹⁸ CPTPP a boost for Japan's regional trade leadership, East Asia Forum (Canberra) 27 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/02/27/cptpp-a-boost-for-japans-regional-trade-leadership/>.

¹²⁹⁹ Press Release, EU and Japan intensify bilateral cooperation on digital economy issues (Tokyo) 20 April 2018, Access Date: 6 July 2018. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bangladesh/43252/eu-and-japan-intensify-bilateral-cooperation-digital-economy-issues_en.

¹³⁰⁰ White House Press Release, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 9 August 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/07/284592.html>.

PDR, Thailand and Vietnam as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN attended the meeting. During the meeting, the participating countries committed to further upgrades to the development of digital infrastructure and SMEs.¹³⁰¹

On 12 September 2018 Hiraoki Nakanishi, chairman of the Japan Business Federation met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to improve Sino-Japanese ties. The agreements include further utilization of digital technology in order to develop economic cooperation relations between the two countries.¹³⁰²

Japan issued joint statements with multiple countries expressing its commitment to improving the digital economy and aid SMEs. Whilst Japan has made these commitments, it has yet to adopt any specific domestic or international policies.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Stacy Chen

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to foster favorable conditions for the digital economy. It has helped facilitate economic restructuring and development globally and has also made plans to create domestic digital infrastructure.

On 24 July 2017, Deputy Prime Minister Kim Dong-Yeon met with President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Suma Chakrabarti.¹³⁰³ The meeting discussed possible means to strengthen relations and achieve the goals of the EBRD.¹³⁰⁴ The meeting was centered around its major initiatives including creating an inclusive market economy.¹³⁰⁵

On 31 July 2017, the Ministry of Science and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hosted a workshop to facilitate global entrepreneurship.¹³⁰⁶ The purpose was to “nurture heads of promising SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] and ventures in ICT.”¹³⁰⁷ This 12-day event was held at Stanford University and hosted heads of 23 companies.¹³⁰⁸

¹³⁰¹ Joint Media Statement of the 10th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting (Singapore) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 4 Oct 2018. <https://asean.org/joint-media-statement-10-th-mekong-japan-economic-ministers-meeting/>.

¹³⁰² News Article, The Mainichi (Kyoto) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 13 September 2018. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180912/p2g/00m/0bu/107000c>

¹³⁰³ Deputy Prime Minister Kim Meets with EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 24 July 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4340>.

¹³⁰⁴ Deputy Prime Minister Kim Meets with EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 24 July 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017.

[http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=.](http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=)

¹³⁰⁵ Deputy Prime Minister Kim Meets with EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 24 July 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017.

<http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4340>.

¹³⁰⁶ Global Entrepreneurship Workshop to Support 23 Promising SMEs and Ventures in ICT Enter Global Markets, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 31 July 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017.

[http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mld=.](http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mld=)

¹³⁰⁷ Global Ministry of Entrepreneurship Science and ICT Workshop (Seoul) 23 July 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=20388>.

¹³⁰⁸ Global Ministry of Entrepreneurship Science and ICT Workshop (Seoul) 23 July 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=20388>.

On 6 September 2017, the Ministry of Science and ICT hosted a five-day roadshow in Manila, Philippines and Hanoi, Vietnam to support the expansion of South Korean IT firms into Southeast Asian markets.¹³⁰⁹ Eighteen Korean Companies showcased their services and goods to buyers, investors and businesses.¹³¹⁰ This roadshow is also designed to digitalize the Southeast Asian market by providing services such as mobile communications and ecommerce payment systems. One introduced product was “Infosonics,” a technology capable of paying with cell phone speakers.¹³¹¹

On 6 September 2017, Minister of Science and ICT You Young Min met with the Russian Minister of Economic Development.¹³¹² The meeting resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between Korea and Russia to “cooperate on science, technology and innovation.”¹³¹³ Both countries agreed to hold joint projects and supportive exchanges between firms to further evolve both economies.¹³¹⁴

On 15 September 2017, Korea participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹³¹⁵ The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free SMEs from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹³¹⁶

On 29 December 2017, the Economic Policy Bureau published the 2018 Economic Policies that outlined Korea’s economic policies for 2018 to establish a stronger economy.¹³¹⁷ Under the section on “Creating jobs and improving income,” the document outlined the introduction of a new mobile plan with reduced costs was suggested.¹³¹⁸ Under the section on “Growth through innovation,” the

¹³⁰⁹ Domestic ICT SMEs Finding Markets in Southeast Asia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=Mjc0>.

¹³¹⁰ Domestic ICT SMEs Finding Markets in Southeast Asia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=>.

¹³¹¹ Domestic ICT SMEs Finding Markets in Southeast Asia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=>.

¹³¹² Korea and Russia reinforce cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation through Science Technology Commercialization, Startups and Innovative firms, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=Mjc0>.

¹³¹³ Korea and Russia reinforce cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation through Science Technology Commercialization, Startups and Innovative firms, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=Mjc0>.

¹³¹⁴ Korea and Russia reinforce cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation through Science Technology Commercialization, Startups and Innovative firms, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=Mjc0>.

¹³¹⁵ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹³¹⁶ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹³¹⁷ 2018 Economic policies, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 29 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2017. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4418>.

¹³¹⁸ 2018 Economic policies, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 29 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2017. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4418>.

Bureau stated that it will “launch an innovative venture fund worth around USD2.7 trillion” to foster digital ventures.¹³¹⁹

On 13 February 2018, Deputy Prime Minister Kim Dong Yeon participated in the annual Korea-Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister meeting.¹³²⁰ In the meeting, Kim underlined Korea’s commitment to developing bilateral ties with Uzbekistan. One area of agreed cooperation includes E-governments, which would involve holding “joint seminars on creating smart and safe cities.”¹³²¹ Moreover, several Korean companies in IT software attended the conference and was able to directly interact with Uzbek officials.¹³²²

On 21 March 2018, the Ministry of Economy and Finance released a strategy for short and long term economic growth.¹³²³ The strategy includes increasing investment in “future growth engines” such as driverless cars, fintech, and smart cities.¹³²⁴ Moreover, the Ministry has plans to create more jobs in tech industries. This plan also includes foreign entrepreneurs with proposed selections of the “200 most brilliant business ideas and help them be commercialized.”¹³²⁵

On 21 June 2018, the US and Republic of Korea held Cyber Consultations for continued commitment of cyber policy and enhancement of digital economy through joint cooperation.

On 30 July 2018, the Ministry of Science and ICT published a report detailing its strengthened cooperation with Russia.¹³²⁶ The “Innovation Platform MoU” that was signed with Russia establishes a cooperative system that focuses on the growth of small and medium-sized companies.¹³²⁷ The

¹³¹⁹ 2018 Economic policies, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 29 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2017. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4418>.

¹³²⁰ Korea and Uzbekistan Agree to Enhance Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 14 February 2018. Access Date: 14 March 2018. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4440>.

¹³²¹ Korea and Uzbekistan Agree to Enhance Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 14 February 2018. Access Date: 14 March 2018. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4440>.

¹³²² Korea and Uzbekistan Agree to Enhance Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 14 February 2018. Access Date: 14 March 2018. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4440>.

¹³²³ Government focuses both on Short-Term Incentives and Long-Term Measures, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 21 March 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4454>.

¹³²⁴ Government focuses both on Short-Term Incentives and Long-Term Measures, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 21 March 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4454>.

¹³²⁵ Government focuses both on Short-Term Incentives and Long-Term Measures, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 21 March 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4454>.

¹³²⁶ Strengthen Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT Cooperation with Russia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelD=msse42&artId=1390184>.

¹³²⁷ Strengthen Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT Cooperation with Russia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelD=msse42&artId=1390184>.

development of these companies will be developed in part through digitalization, such as the development of “high-speed internet, 5G mobile communication, software, big data,” and more.¹³²⁸

On 18 August 2018, the Ministry of Economy and Finance released its “Growth through Innovation” plan for 2019.¹³²⁹ The plan includes the expansion of “a digital platform for big data analytics.”¹³³⁰ In order to create a data platform, the government “will focus on promoting big data and AI.”¹³³¹ This will also be supplemented with blockchain technology development, with a particular focus on data management security and bolstering the sharing economy.¹³³² Moreover, the Korean government aims to provide financial support to make big data more accessible to small businesses.¹³³³

Korea has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Luciano Kwon

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 6 September 2017, Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alibaba to increase co-operation between the company and the Ministry of Economy.¹³³⁴ Alibaba and its partners will share access to their trading platforms and expertise in logistics and cross-border payment platforms, both to enhance cross-border e-commerce capabilities and to attract Chinese tourists to Mexico.¹³³⁵ Alibaba will also train Mexican SMEs best practices related to e-commerce trends, logistics, digital payments and analytics.¹³³⁶

¹³²⁸ Strengthen Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT Cooperation with Russia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018.

<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelD=msse42&artId=1390184>.

¹³²⁹ ‘Growth through Innovation’ Investment Plan, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4532>.

¹³³⁰ ‘Growth through Innovation’ Investment Plan, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4532>.

¹³³¹ ‘Growth through Innovation’ Investment Plan, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4532>.

¹³³² ‘Growth through Innovation’ Investment Plan, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4532>.

¹³³³ ‘Growth through Innovation’ Investment Plan, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4532>.

¹³³⁴ The Ministry of Economy of Mexico and Alibaba Group Sign MoU to Jointly Promote Mexican Products through E-Commerce in China, Alibaba Group (Hangzhou) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.alibabagroup.com/en/news/article?news=p170906>.

¹³³⁵ The Ministry of Economy of Mexico and Alibaba Group Sign MoU to Jointly Promote Mexican Products through E-Commerce in China, Alibaba Group (Hangzhou) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.alibabagroup.com/en/news/article?news=p170906>.

¹³³⁶ The Ministry of Economy of Mexico and Alibaba Group Sign MoU to Jointly Promote Mexican Products through E-Commerce in China, Alibaba Group (Hangzhou) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.alibabagroup.com/en/news/article?news=p170906>.

On 16 October 2017, the Coordinación de Estrategia Digital Nacional led a one-day high-level seminar “Think Big: Data Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Mexican civil servants, data scientists, entrepreneurs and educators attended the seminar.¹³³⁷

On 18 October 2017, the Office of the President collaborated with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to organize the webinar “The Future of Open Government Data in Mexico: Challenges and Experiences in OECD Countries,” which was attended by high-level public officials from several major OECD members.¹³³⁸

On 20 November 2017, the Competition Commissioners of all three signatory countries (Mexico, Canada and the United States) of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) met to discuss, among other things, enforcement approaches in the digital economy and opportunities for inter-agency collaboration.¹³³⁹ Mexico has promoted digital economy concerns extensively amidst ongoing NAFTA re-negotiations.¹³⁴⁰ Mexico aims to “update NAFTA with the developments that have occurred in the energy sector in Mexico and regionally, promote the development of digital economy, e-commerce and financial services provision through digital platforms, seek improved access for Mexican financial service providers and investors, and promote greater integration of telecommunication markets, among others.”¹³⁴¹

From 9 January 2018 to 12 January 2018, the Mexican government, as part its Mexico 4.0 industrial plan, sent 20 Mexican tech startups to the Consumers Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada to showcase Mexico’s technology entrepreneurs and startups.¹³⁴²

On 23 January 2018 Mexico attended a summit hosted by Japan with 11 countries including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam at negotiations in Tokyo to settle the terms of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The CPTPP will replace the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which failed after the withdrawal of the US. This partnership will “promote the ease of data flows in the digital economy.”¹³⁴³

¹³³⁷ Seminar and Training on “Big Data, Digital Economy, and Sustainable Development Mexico City, October 16-19, 2017, Data-Pop Alliance (Mexico) 25 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://datapopalliance.org/data-pop-eclac-cdmx-oct17/>.

¹³³⁸ Webinar: The Future of Open Government Data in Mexico, OECD (Paris) 18 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. On 6 September 2017, Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alibaba to increase co-operation between the company and the Ministry of Economy.¹³³⁸ Alibaba and its partners will share access to their trading platforms and expertise in logistics and cross-border payment platforms, both to enhance cross-border e-commerce capabilities and to attract Chinese tourists to Mexico.¹³³⁸ Alibaba will also train Mexican SMEs best practices related to e-commerce trends, logistics, digital payments and analytics.¹³³⁸

¹³³⁹ Competition Bureau reinforces ties with US and Mexican competition authorities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/competition-bureau/news/2017/11/competition_bureaureinforcestieswithusandmexicancompetitionautho.html.

¹³⁴⁰ The Mexican agenda for the modernization of the NAFTA, C.D. Howe Institute (Toronto) 17 August 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.cdhowe.org/intelligence-memos/dionisio-p%C3%A9rez-j%C3%A1come-mexican-agenda-modernization-nafta>.

¹³⁴¹ The Mexican agenda for the modernization of the NAFTA, C.D. Howe Institute (Toronto) 17 August 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.cdhowe.org/intelligence-memos/dionisio-p%C3%A9rez-j%C3%A1come-mexican-agenda-modernization-nafta>.

¹³⁴² Mexico's CES 2018 presence is the start of something big, Engadget (Las Vegas) 12 January 2018. Access Date: 15 January 2018. <https://www.engadget.com/2018/01/12/mexico-ces/>.

¹³⁴³ CPTPP a boost for Japan’s regional trade leadership, East Asia Forum (Canberra) 27 February 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/02/27/cptpp-a-boost-for-japans-regional-trade-leadership/>.

On 15 April 2018, Foreign Secretary Luis Videgaray visited Boston, where he spent time strengthening ties with Boston's innovation community by visiting Mexican entrepreneurs working in the city and academics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.¹³⁴⁴

On 27 August 2018, Mexico and the United States reached a new understanding on the overhauling of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Among the new provisions were a zero-tariff level for digital content such as e-books and software, the facilitation of supplier use of e-signatures and authentication, and a dollar-value increase from USD50 to USD100 in Mexico's minimum threshold (the de minimis threshold) of goods exempt from customs duties and taxes.¹³⁴⁵

Mexico has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ben Falconer

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through both global and domestic initiatives.

On 28 July 2017, Russia approved the Digital Economy program which includes statutory regulation, fundamental technologies and research to create the competencies that Russia needs for further digital transformation, infrastructure and information security.¹³⁴⁶

On 4 September 2017, President Vladimir Putin took part in a meeting with members of the BRICS Business Council.¹³⁴⁷ He stated new technology solutions help Russia to find markets in the BRICS countries not only for large companies, but also for small and medium business.¹³⁴⁸

On 6 September 2017, the Minister of Economic Development met with Korean Minister of Science and Information and Communications Technology You Young Min.¹³⁴⁹ The meeting resulted in an Memorandum of Understanding between Korea and Russia to "cooperate on science, technology

¹³⁴⁴ Foreign Secretary Videgaray Strengthens Ties with Mexicans, Officials and Academics in Boston, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 April 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/foreign-secretary-videgaray-strengthens-ties-with-mexicans-officials-and-academics-in-boston-155922?idiom=en>.

¹³⁴⁵ US and Mexico reach agreement on trade relations; NAFTA fate uncertain, Ernst and Young (International) 29 August 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018. [https://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/US_and_Mexico_reach_agreement_on_trade_relations;_NAFTA_fate_uncertain/\\$FILE/2018G_010971-18Gbl_Indirect_US%20MX%20reach%20agreement%20on%20trade%20relations%20NAFTA%20fate%20uncertain.pdf](https://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/US_and_Mexico_reach_agreement_on_trade_relations;_NAFTA_fate_uncertain/$FILE/2018G_010971-18Gbl_Indirect_US%20MX%20reach%20agreement%20on%20trade%20relations%20NAFTA%20fate%20uncertain.pdf).

¹³⁴⁶ "Digital Economy" Program Implementation, The Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 July 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://ac.gov.ru/en/projects/014097.html>

¹³⁴⁷ Meeting with BRICS Business Council members, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Xiamen) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55525>.

¹³⁴⁸ Meeting with BRICS Business Council members, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Xiamen) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55525>.

¹³⁴⁹ Korea and Russia reinforce cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation through Science Technology Commercialization, Startups and Innovative firms, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mid=Mjc0>.

and innovation.”¹³⁵⁰ Both countries agreed to hold joint projects and supportive exchanges between firms to further evolve both economies.¹³⁵¹

On 15 September 2017, Russia participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹³⁵²The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free small and medium-sized enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹³⁵³

On 10 October 2017, President Putin held a meeting on the use of digital technology in finance and the implementation of innovative financial tools, where he addressed the need to use the advantages that are offered by new technology solutions in the banking sphere.¹³⁵⁴ According to Putin, modern technology in the banking sphere opens new opportunities for organizations and citizens, making business activity and everyday life more convenient.¹³⁵⁵ He commented that Russia needs, based on international experience, “to build a regulatory environment that will make it possible to codify relations in this sphere, reliably protect the interests of citizens, businesses and the state, and provide legal guarantees for using innovative financial instruments.”¹³⁵⁶

On 11 October 2017, President Putin attended a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Sochi, where members signed the resolution “On the Main Areas of Implementing the Digital Agenda of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2025,” and the instruction “On Cooperation of Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union in Providing Space and Geoinformation Services on the Basis of National Sources of Earth Remote Sensing Data.”¹³⁵⁷ During the meeting, Putin stated that Russia was ready to take an active part in carrying out the digital agenda, which amounts to conducting a coordinated policy among Union members to develop the internet economy and adopt uniform standards for the exchange of information and its protection.¹³⁵⁸

On 8 November 2017, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Minister of Economic Development Maxim Oreshkin attended the 29th annual conference of foreign minister and trade ministers of the

¹³⁵⁰ Korea and Russia reinforce cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation through Science Technology Commercialization, Startups and Innovative firms, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=Mjc0>.

¹³⁵¹ Korea and Russia reinforce cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation through Science Technology Commercialization, Startups and Innovative firms, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017 <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contents.do?mId=Mjc0>.

¹³⁵² Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹³⁵³ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹³⁵⁴ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

¹³⁵⁵ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

¹³⁵⁶ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

¹³⁵⁷ Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Sochi) 11 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55819>.

¹³⁵⁸ Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Sochi) 11 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55819>.

member-economies of the APEC forum in Da Nang, Vietnam.¹³⁵⁹ Russia paid special attention to aligning integration process in the Asia-Pacific Region and Eurasia, development common approaches to the emergence of digital economy in the region, and securitising development with an emphasis on the need to counter the threat of international terrorism.¹³⁶⁰ The ministers adopted a joint statement based on the results of the conference.¹³⁶¹

On 13 November 2017, Prime Minister Medvedev attended the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Business and Investment Summit, where the theme was “Building for the Future (Infrastructure Development).” At the first session of the summit, he stated that Russia is looking for ways to adapt to new economic reality, and ready to engage proactively in promoting international cooperation in information technology, encouraging e-commerce and cross-border business activity, while ensuring national and information security.¹³⁶² He also stated that Russia has already adopted a special strategy for the development of an information society and a program on the digital economy.¹³⁶³ In addition, he said that it is Russia’s strategic priority to promote cooperation with all countries within the Asia-Pacific Region and contribute proactively to resolving regional issues.¹³⁶⁴

On 7 December 2017, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia issued a joint statement on issues related to interconnectedness and linking of integration process in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region at the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vietnam.¹³⁶⁵ In the joint statement, the Ministers, including Lavrov, urge the participating states to use the OSCE as a platform for dialogue and concerted efforts by international and regional organizations operating in its area of responsibility, aimed at facilitating economic interconnectedness, removing barriers in various fields of economic operation,

¹³⁵⁹ Press release on the 29th meeting of foreign and trade ministers of the APEC member-economies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 8 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/forum-aziatsko-tihookeanskoe-ekonomiceskoe-sotrudnicestvo-ates-/asset_publisher/OvP3hQoCPRg5/content/id/2942671.

¹³⁶⁰ Press release on the 29th meeting of foreign and trade ministers of the APEC member-economies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 8 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/forum-aziatsko-tihookeanskoe-ekonomiceskoe-sotrudnicestvo-ates-/asset_publisher/OvP3hQoCPRg5/content/id/2942671.

¹³⁶¹ Press release on the 29th meeting of foreign and trade ministers of the APEC member-economies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 8 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/forum-aziatsko-tihookeanskoe-ekonomiceskoe-sotrudnicestvo-ates-/asset_publisher/OvP3hQoCPRg5/content/id/2942671.

¹³⁶² Address by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2017 (Manila) 13 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/30099/>.

¹³⁶³ Address by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2017 (Manila) 13 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/30099/>.

¹³⁶⁴ Address by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2017 (Manila) 13 November 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/30099/>.

¹³⁶⁵ Joint Statement by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation on Issues Related to the Interconnectedness and Linking of Integration Processes in the OSCE Region at the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting (Vienna) 8 December 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2018. http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/kg//asset_publisher/sEkQTukf0R39/content/id/2983422.

ensuring sustainable economic growth, developing digital economy and promoting a more dynamic interaction of integration processes in the OSCE region.¹³⁶⁶

On 20 December 2017, Presidential Adviser German Klimenko chaired a meeting on the development of digital technology in healthcare, where representatives of legislative and executive bodies, regional healthcare ministers and representatives of the medical and IT communities took part.¹³⁶⁷ In the meeting, Klimenko highlighted the importance of moving beyond pilot projects and creating end user products in digital medicine. He commented, “ongoing cooperation in this area shows us that we can make competitive products. To do so, we need enthusiastic people and involvement of regions, since every region has its strong points in healthcare.”¹³⁶⁸

On 18 January 2018, as Russia assumed the chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) bodies, Putin sent a message to the heads of EAEU member states.¹³⁶⁹ He stated that Russia believes it is necessary to accelerate the EAEU’s common digital agenda, coordinate actions for advancing the internet economy, developing common online trade rules of conduct, information exchange and security standards.¹³⁷⁰ He also mentioned, “it is also necessary to introduce high technologies into public administration, industrial production, customs regulation and other areas.”¹³⁷¹

On 2 February 2018, Prime Minister Medvedev took part in Digital Agenda in the Globalisation Era International Forum in Almaty, Kazakhstan.¹³⁷² The forum was designed to promote EAEU’s role in global digitalisation and enhance partnerships in this area among member countries, as well as focused on the integration of IT systems within the EAEU. Russia assumes the rotating presidency of the EAEU bodies in 2018.¹³⁷³ In Medvedev’s remarks, he addressed that the Digital Economy Programme is implemented along the five main axes: regulation, infrastructure, technologies advances, security, human resources and education. He stated that it is essential that EAEU countries agree on common standards and, “start working on supra-national infrastructure solutions and supra-national digital technology right away.”¹³⁷⁴

¹³⁶⁶ Joint Statement by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation on Issues Related to the Interconnectedness and Lining of Integration Processes in the OSCE Region at the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting (Vienna) 8 December 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2018.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/kg//asset_publisher/sEkQTukf0R39/content/id/2983422.

¹³⁶⁷ Joint Statement by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation on Issues Related to the Interconnectedness and Lining of Integration Processes in the OSCE Region at the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting (Vienna) 8 December 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2018.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/kg//asset_publisher/sEkQTukf0R39/content/id/2983422.

¹³⁶⁸ Meeting on the Development of Digital Technology in Healthcare (Moscow) 20 December 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/administration/56464>.

¹³⁶⁹ Message from President of Russia to heads of Eurasian Economic member states (Moscow) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56663>.

¹³⁷⁰ Message from President of Russia to heads of Eurasian Economic member states (Moscow) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56663>.

¹³⁷¹ Message from President of Russia to heads of Eurasian Economic member states (Moscow) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 Mar 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56663>.

¹³⁷² Address by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the Globalisation Era international Forum (Almaty) 2 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://government.ru/en/news/31249/>.

¹³⁷³ Address by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the Globalisation Era international Forum (Almaty) 2 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://government.ru/en/news/31249/>.

¹³⁷⁴ Address by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the Globalisation Era international Forum (Almaty) 2 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://government.ru/en/news/31249/>.

On 28 February 2018, Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin delivered a remark at the international conference Russia-Kazakhstan: A Forward-Looking Alliance.¹³⁷⁵ Karasin stated that the future of Russia-Kazakhstan economic relations system directly depends on implementing the common EAEU digital agenda, developing an online economy, the general rules of e-commerce and common standards for the exchange and protection of information.¹³⁷⁶ He also commented that the digital strategy of Kazakhstan's leadership is in full accord with Russia's vision of the bilateral and integration ties of both countries.¹³⁷⁷

On 2 April 2018, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed an order to allocate funds for financing the "The Digital Economy of the Russian Federation" program. USD53.14 million has been allotted to finance priority activities of the program.¹³⁷⁸ The priority areas for the program include "Information Society (2011-2020)," "Economic Development and Innovative Economy," "Development of the Transport System," and "Development of the Electronic and Radio electronic Industry in 2013-2025," opined the Prime Minister.¹³⁷⁹

On 19 April 2018, President Putin put digital economy on the list of main goals of the country's strategic development until 2025.¹³⁸⁰ He announced plans to make high-speed internet available throughout the country by 2024.¹³⁸¹

On 8 May 2018, President Putin signed a decree for "Russia's roadmap of strategic development," focusing on economic growth and speeding up technology development.¹³⁸² The decree encourages innovation in technology and the introduction of digital technologies.

On 14 May 2018, the leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) discussed cooperation in the energy sector, digital economy, medicine, and environment.¹³⁸³ During Russia's chairmanship period,

¹³⁷⁵ Address by Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin's remarks at the international conference Russia-Kazakhstan: A Forward-Looking Alliance (Astana) 28 February 2018. Access Date: 6 Mar 2018.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/kz/-/asset_publisher/44tjMzWwjAFr/content/id/3103140.

¹³⁷⁶ Address by Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin's remarks at the international conference Russia-Kazakhstan: A Forward-Looking Alliance (Astana) 28 February 2018. Access Date: 6 Mar 2018.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/kz/-/asset_publisher/44tjMzWwjAFr/content/id/3103140.

¹³⁷⁷ Address by Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin's remarks at the international conference Russia-Kazakhstan: A Forward-Looking Alliance (Astana) 28 February 2018. Access Date: 6 Mar 2018.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/kz/-/asset_publisher/44tjMzWwjAFr/content/id/3103140.

¹³⁷⁸ "Digital Economy" Program Implementation. The Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 July 2017. Access Date: 15 September 2018. <http://ac.gov.ru/en/projects/014097.html>.

¹³⁷⁹ Russia Moves to Fund Digital Economy in Five Sectors, Russia Briefing (Moscow) 2 April 2018. Access Date: 15 September 2018. <https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/russia-moves-fund-digital-economy-five-sectors.html/>.

¹³⁸⁰ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly 2018, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Moscow) 1 March 2018. Access Date: 15 September 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56957>.

¹³⁸¹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly 2018, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Moscow) 1 March 2018. Access Date: 15 September 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56957>.

¹³⁸² Vladimir Putin has been sworn in as President of Russia 2018, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Moscow) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/57416>.

¹³⁸³ Interaction of Parliamentarians expands partnership of Kazakhstan and Russia, BNews (Astana) 22 May 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018.

https://bnews.kz/en/news/interaction_of_parliamentarians_expands_partnership_of_kazakhstan_and_russia_the_majlis_chairman.

Russia offered joint implementation of digital projects in on-line trade, technology for monitoring the movement of goods, creation of digital transport corridors and industrial cooperation.¹³⁸⁴

On 5 July 2018, Russia signed the Action Plan for the Programme of Interregional Cooperation with Armenia for 2018-2021 during the 7th Russian-Armenian Interregional Forum.¹³⁸⁵ The agreement established cooperation between the Russian Armenian University (RAU) and Group-IB (Russia) in Information Security.¹³⁸⁶

On 30 July 2018, the Republic of Korea Ministry of Science published a report detailing its strengthened cooperation with Russia.¹³⁸⁷ The “Innovation Platform MoU” that was signed with Russia establishes a cooperative system that focuses on the growth of small and medium-sized companies.¹³⁸⁸ The development of these companies will be developed in part through digitalization, such as the development of “high-speed internet, 5G mobile communication, software, big data,” and more.

On 2-4 August 2018, Russia participated in an annual ministerial events of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Singapore where members discussed cooperating to build up their digital economies.¹³⁸⁹

On 24 August 2018, the Turkish Technology Minister met the Russian Minister of Digital Development. Discussions were centered on cooperation in technology between the two countries. Turkey and Russia seek to cooperate in a Turkish space agency.¹³⁹⁰ The Turkish Technology and Industry Minister, Mustafa Varank and Russian Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, Konstantin Noskov agreed to set up a working group in the fields of information technologies and telecommunications.¹³⁹¹

¹³⁸⁴ Interaction of Parliamentarians expands partnership of Kazakhstan and Russia, BNews (Astana) 22 May 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018.

https://bnews.kz/en/news/interaction_of_parliamentarians_expands_partnership_of_kazakhstan_and_russia_the_majilis_chairman.

¹³⁸⁵ Russian Federation: 7th Russian Armenian Interregional Forum on the Development of the Digital Economy was Held in Yerevan, MarketWatch (Yerevan) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2018.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/russian-federation-7th-russianarmenian-interregional-forum-on-the-development-of-the-digital-economy-was-held-in-yerevan-2018-07-05>.

¹³⁸⁶ Russian Federation: 7th Russian Armenian Interregional Forum on the Development of the Digital Economy was Held in Yerevan, MarketWatch (Yerevan) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2018.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/russian-federation-7th-russianarmenian-interregional-forum-on-the-development-of-the-digital-economy-was-held-in-yerevan-2018-07-05>.

¹³⁸⁷ Strengthen Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT Cooperation with Russia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018.

<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelid=msse42&artId=1390184>.

¹³⁸⁸ Strengthen Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT Cooperation with Russia, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 27 September 2018.

<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelid=msse42&artId=1390184>.

¹³⁸⁹ Comment by the Information and Press Department on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s participation in ASEAN events, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 August 2018. Accessed Date: 25 September 2018. http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3312380.

¹³⁹⁰ Turkey, Russia discuss cooperation in technology, Anadolu Agency (Salta) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2018. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/turkey-russia-discuss-cooperation-in-technology/1238529>.

¹³⁹¹ Russia Turkey Agree to Restore Visa-free Regime, Discuss Technology Cooperation, Russia Business Today (Moscow), 25 August 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2018. <https://russiabusinesstoday.com/economy/russia-turkey-agree-to-restore-visa-free-regime-discuss-technology-cooperation/>.

On 3 September 2018, Russia invited Russian regions to develop their own programmes for development of digital economy.¹³⁹² Regional programmes will become part of the “Digital Economy of the Russian Federation” national programme, with an overall focus on the “Regulation of the digital environment, Information infrastructure, Specialists in the digital economy, Information security, Digital technologies, and Digital public administration.”¹³⁹³

On 14-15 September 2018, Russia attended the fourth BRICS Ministers of Communication Meeting in Durban with the theme “Advancing Inclusive Growth through Industry and Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises (SMME) Participation.”¹³⁹⁴ Ministers agreed on eleven points: support the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR); dedicate more effort towards the exchange of information and communications technology (ICT) policies, regulation, and legislation; improve the exchange of ideas and cooperation between BRICS Members; endorse the model a Council of decentralized BRICS Institute of Future Networks; reiterate the digitalization commitment made in 2017 at Hangzhou, China; strengthening and improving the Working Group on ICT cooperation; facilitate an appropriate ICT ecosystem for the digital economy; conduct joint research, seminars and workshops to enhance cooperation; continue efforts to eliminate the digital divide between rural and urban areas; acknowledged the fast development of industrial internet in China; and congratulated South Africa for the successful hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom World 2018 in Durban.¹³⁹⁵

On 20 September 2018, President Putin attended the Second Eurasian Women’s Forum and addressed its plenary session. He acknowledged the opportunities provided by technological progress for women in areas including research, business, and volunteering.¹³⁹⁶

Russia has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Goodlet Owasu Ansah

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy

On 17 September 2017, the Saudi government’s National Digitisation Unit launched the “Fekra Tech” initiative.¹³⁹⁷ This initiative aims to make Saudi Arabia one of the world’s leading digital innovation

¹³⁹² Russian regions will draw up digital economy development programmes of their own, BitNovosti (Dzerzhynsk) 3 September 2018. Accessed Date: 25 September 2018. <https://en.bitnovosti.com/2018/09/03/russian-regions-will-draw-up-digital-economy-development-programmes-of-their-own/>.

¹³⁹³ Russian regions will draw up digital economy development programmes of their own, BitNovosti (Dzerzhynsk) 3 September 2018. Accessed Date: 25 September 2018. <https://en.bitnovosti.com/2018/09/03/russian-regions-will-draw-up-digital-economy-development-programmes-of-their-own/>.

¹³⁹⁴ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹³⁹⁵ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹³⁹⁶ Second Eurasian Women’s Forum 2018, Official Internet Resources of the President of Russia (Moscow) 20 September 2018. Accessed Date: 25 September 2018. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/58598>.

centers through an interactive platform that enables citizens and residents to share their digital ideas and projects to contribute to the growth of digitalisation in Saudi Arabia.¹³⁹⁸ Deemah Al-Yahya, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Digitization Unit, stated that this initiative would target several important sectors such as health, education and e-commerce.¹³⁹⁹

On 19 September 2017, Governor of the Communications and Information Technology Commission Abdulaziz Al-Ruwais attended a meeting of the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.¹⁴⁰⁰ Abdulaziz Al-Ruwais presented Saudi Arabia's efforts to provide fibre optic broadband to rural areas in Saudi Arabia in order bridge the digital divide, encourage digital entrepreneurship, and develop the digital economy.¹⁴⁰¹

On 22 October 2017, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah Al-Sawaha met with the United Kingdom's Cyber Security Ambassador Conrad Prince in Riyadh.¹⁴⁰² Abdullah Al-Sawaha and Conrad Prince agreed to broaden the level of collaboration between Saudi Arabia and the UK on digitalisation, particularly in the field of cyber security.¹⁴⁰³

On 9 November 2017, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding with OneWeb to connect 237,000 homes throughout the country to the internet, bringing affordable, high-speed, low latency broadband access to those living in rural and remote areas.¹⁴⁰⁴ The aim of this agreement is to reduce the digital divide in Saudi Arabia.¹⁴⁰⁵

On 19 November 2017, Deputy Minister for Planning and Development Mohammed Al-Mushaiqeh met with the Chief Technology Officer of Siemens AG Roland Busch in Riyadh.¹⁴⁰⁶ The purpose of this meeting was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to drive the digital industrial

¹³⁹⁷ Fekra Tech Initiative, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 17 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-18092017_266.aspx.

¹³⁹⁸ Fekra Tech Initiative, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 17 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-18092017_266.aspx.

¹³⁹⁹ Fekra Tech Initiative, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 17 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-18092017_266.aspx.

¹⁴⁰⁰ Meeting of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 19 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-21092017_238.aspx.

¹⁴⁰¹ Meeting of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 19 September 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-21092017_238.aspx.

¹⁴⁰² Saudi Arabia's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Meets with the United Kingdom's Cyber Security Ambassador, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 22 October 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-23102017_447.aspx.

¹⁴⁰³ Saudi Arabia's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Meets with the United Kingdom's Cyber Security Ambassador, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 22 October 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-23102017_447.aspx.

¹⁴⁰⁴ Saudi Ministry of Communication and Information Technology Signs Memorandum of Understanding with OneWeb, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 9 November 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-09112017_685.aspx.

¹⁴⁰⁵ Saudi Ministry of Communication and Information Technology Signs Memorandum of Understanding with OneWeb, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 9 November 2017. Access Date: 22 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-09112017_685.aspx.

¹⁴⁰⁶ Saudi Ministry of Planning and Development Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Siemens AG, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 19 November 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-19112017_790.aspx.

transformation in Saudi Arabia.¹⁴⁰⁷ Under the memorandum, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, in coordination with the National Digitalization Unit and relevant government bodies, will jointly work with Siemens on automation, digitalization, and cyber security.¹⁴⁰⁸ The meeting was attended by Minister Al-Swaha and German Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dieter Haller.¹⁴⁰⁹

On 18 December 2017, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology organized a workshop for representatives from private sector companies in the Communications and Information Technology Sector.¹⁴¹⁰ The workshop reviewed innovative solutions that would implement best practices in the development of digital skills for technical workers in the private sector. The workshop was also used to promote joint employment opportunities designed to better address the challenges faced by private companies in setting up adequate training programs.¹⁴¹¹

On 19 December 2017, International Data Corporation hosted the Saudi Arabian Government Congress 2017, which explored the theme of ‘Government 2030: Innovation-led Digitization’.¹⁴¹² A panel discussion explored the current state of digitization within the Kingdom’s public sector, while vendor led presentations addressed some of the challenges presented by digital transformation initiatives with both current and emerging technology.¹⁴¹³

On 28-30 January 2018, Saudi Arabia organized the the first Annual Saudi Internet of Things Conference.¹⁴¹⁴ The three-day event included panel discussions of industry professionals presenting

¹⁴⁰⁷ Saudi Ministry of Planning and Development Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Siemens AG, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 19 November 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-19112017_790.aspx.

¹⁴⁰⁸ Saudi Ministry of Planning and Development Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Siemens AG, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 19 November 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-19112017_790.aspx.

¹⁴⁰⁹ Saudi Ministry of Planning and Development Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Siemens AG, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh) 19 November 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-19112017_790.aspx.

¹⁴¹⁰ The Ministry of Communications Organizes a Workshop for Private Sector Companies, National Development Portal (Riyadh) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 3 March 2018. https://www.saudi.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/main?urile=wcm:path%3A%2FMCIT_en%2FNews%2FCONT-news-318122017.

¹⁴¹¹ The Ministry of Communications Organizes a Workshop for Private Sector Companies, National Development Portal (Riyadh) 18 December 2017. Access Date: 3 March 2018. https://www.saudi.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/main?urile=wcm:path%3A%2FMCIT_en%2FNews%2FCONT-news-318122017.

¹⁴¹² ICT Decision Makers Gather in Riyadh for IDC Saudi Arabia Government Congress 2017, International Data Corporation (Riyadh) 19 December 2017. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prCEMA43387317>.

¹⁴¹³ ICT Decision Makers Gather in Riyadh for IDC Saudi Arabia Government Congress 2017, International Data Corporation (Riyadh) 19 December 2017. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prCEMA43387317>.

¹⁴¹⁴ 1st Saudi IoT Conference to Focus on Cutting Edge Technologies, Saudi Gazette (Jeddah) 28 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/526634/BUSINESS/1st-Saudi-IoT-conference-to-focus-on-cutting-edge-technologies>.

white papers on emerging technologies in the IoT industry, and sessions highlighting how current and emerging technologies are in line with digital transformation initiatives.¹⁴¹⁵

On 22 April 2018, Saudi Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and Huawei signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable the national cadre in ICT and promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the sector to push the growth and development of the kingdom.¹⁴¹⁶ The MoU establishes an agreement between Huawei and MCIT to further develop its innovation centre in the Kingdom to include Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies designed to support Saudi entrepreneurship.¹⁴¹⁷ The centre will focus on the development and utilization of AI and IoT technologies in enabling the Kingdom's entrepreneurs to train themselves and their organizations for success, as the digital transformation becomes more comprehensive.¹⁴¹⁸

Saudi Arabia has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy domestically and internationally.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Domenic Colangelo and Elie Atieh

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global and domestic initiatives.

On 18 July 2017, the fifth Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held in Hangzhou, China to reinforce cooperation and collaboration among the BRICS countries in areas of science, technology, and innovation.¹⁴¹⁹

From 13-17 November 2017, the African Union, Department of Sciences and Technology, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development held the ninth African Union Private Sector Forum with the theme "Accelerating Africa's Industrialization through Digitalization and Youth Technopreneurship."¹⁴²⁰

On 12 December 2017, Chief Director for Telecommunications and Information Technology Policy at the Department of Telecoms and Postal Services Alf Wiltz declared the South African

¹⁴¹⁵ 1st Saudi IoT Conference to Focus on Cutting Edge Technologies, Saudi Gazette (Jeddah) 28 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/526634/BUSINESS/1st-Saudi-IoT-conference-to-focus-on-cutting-edge-technologies>.

¹⁴¹⁶ Saudi MCIT, Huawei Sign MoU to Foster Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Saudi Gazette (Jeddah) 22 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/533245/BUSINESS/Saudi-MCIT-Huawei-sign-MoU-to-foster-innovation-entrepreneurship>.

¹⁴¹⁷ Saudi MCIT, Huawei Sign MoU to Foster Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Saudi Gazette (Jeddah) 22 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/533245/BUSINESS/Saudi-MCIT-Huawei-sign-MoU-to-foster-innovation-entrepreneurship>.

¹⁴¹⁸ Saudi MCIT, Huawei Sign MoU to Foster Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Saudi Gazette (Jeddah) 22 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/533245/BUSINESS/Saudi-MCIT-Huawei-sign-MoU-to-foster-innovation-entrepreneurship>.

¹⁴¹⁹ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

¹⁴²⁰ Africa embracing Industry: 4.0, Department of Science and Technology (Cape Town) 13 November 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. <http://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/media-room/latest-news/2384-africa-embracing-industry-4-0>.

government's support for net neutrality at a press conference. He stated that net neutrality might be incorporated as a part of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Amendment Bill.¹⁴²¹

On 16 December 2017, President Jacob Zuma announced fully subsidized free education and training to all current and future poor and working class South African students at technical and vocational education training colleges starting in 2018.¹⁴²²

On 6 March 2018, the South African government announced that Minister of Science and Technology Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane would launch South Africa's science festival on 9 March 2018. The theme of this festival is "Innovation 4.0" and will focus on technology advancement and transformation.¹⁴²³

On 25-27 July 2018, the tenth BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa under the theme "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution."¹⁴²⁴ South Africa proposed the establishment of a BRICS Gender and Women's Forum and leveraging the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership towards the pursuit of Inclusive Growth and Advancing the fourth Industrial Revolution.¹⁴²⁵

On 14 August 2018, the Department of Communications cooperated with broadcasters to educate the public about digital migration.¹⁴²⁶

On 18 August 2018, Deputy Minister of Communications Pinky Kekana opened an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) centre at Zwithuzwavhudi Secondary School, Gondeni village in Vhembe district, Limpopo.¹⁴²⁷ The ICT centre is designed to provide learners and teachers with ICT skills such as basic computer skills, programming, art design, and web browsing.¹⁴²⁸

On 24 August 2018, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services and Department of Small Business Development worked alongside Brand South Africa and Standard Bank and Ericsson to host a roundtable discussion on Policy Support for SMMEs and Women in Information

¹⁴²¹ SA government still keen on net neutrality rules, Tech Central (Northwold) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 20 January 2018. <https://techcentral.co.za/sa-government-still-keen-net-neutrality-rules/78679/>.

¹⁴²² What does government's free higher education mean?, eNews Channel Africa (Johannesburg) 16 December 2018. Access Date: 19 January 2018. <https://www.enca.com/south-africa/what-does-governments-free-higher-education-mean>.

¹⁴²³ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane launches National Science Festival, South Africa, 9 March, South African Government (Cape Town) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-launches-national-science-festival-scifest-africa-9-mar-6>.

¹⁴²⁴ 5th BRICS Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministerial Meeting Held in Hangzhou, BRICS 2017 China (Hangzhou) 4 August 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. https://brics2017.org/English/Headlines/201708/t20170804_1760.html.

¹⁴²⁵ 5th BRICS Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministerial Meeting Held in Hangzhou, BRICS 2017 China (Hangzhou) 4 August 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. https://brics2017.org/English/Headlines/201708/t20170804_1760.html.

¹⁴²⁶ Communications embarks on digital migration in Free State, Department of Communications (Pretoria) 14 August 2018. Access Date: 22 August 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-local-television-manufacturers-and-broadcasters-team-drive-uptake-digital>.

¹⁴²⁷ Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana opens information and communications technology centre in Limpopo, Department of Communications (Pretoria) 16 August 2018. Access Date: 22 August 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-pinky-kekana-opens-information-communication-technology-centre-limpopo-18>.

¹⁴²⁸ Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana opens information and communications technology centre in Limpopo, Department of Communications (Pretoria) 16 August 2018. Access Date: 22 August 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-pinky-kekana-opens-information-communication-technology-centre-limpopo-18>.

Communication and Technology (ICT).¹⁴²⁹ The programme was designed to examine the role of women in ICT and focused on encouraging the participation of more women in ICTs.¹⁴³⁰

On 29 August 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the Jobs Summit from 4 — 5 October 2018 will identify solutions to job retention, job creation, and employment.¹⁴³¹ Three of the five working committees are related to the digitalization commitment: small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMME) support; education and skills; and redistribution and transformation.¹⁴³²

On 14 September 2018, Deputy President David Mabuza addressed the twenty-third Annual National Economic Development and Labour Council Summit (NEDLAC).¹⁴³³ At the Summit, the government, labour, business, and community organizations declared that they will cooperate together to solve the economic, labour, and development challenges ahead of South Africa, by investing in education, skilling, and training to prepare South African citizens for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.¹⁴³⁴

On 14-15 September 2018, South Africa hosted the fourth BRICS Ministers of Communication Meeting in Durban with the theme “Advancing Inclusive Growth through Industry and Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises (SMME) Participation.”¹⁴³⁵ Ministers agreed on eleven points: support the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR); dedicate more effort towards the exchange of information and communications technology (ICT) policies, regulation, and legislation; improve the exchange of ideas and cooperation between BRICS Members; endorse the model a Council of decentralized BRICS Institute of Future Networks; reiterate the digitalization commitment made in 2017 at Hangzhou, China; strengthening and improving the Working Group on ICT cooperation; facilitate an appropriate ICT ecosystem for the digital economy; conduct joint research, seminars and workshops to enhance cooperation; continue efforts to eliminate the digital divide between rural and urban areas; acknowledged the fast development of industrial internet in China; and congratulated

¹⁴²⁹ Brand South Africa hosts roundtable discussion on Policy Support for SMMEs and Women in Information Communication and Technology, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/brand-south-africa-hosts-roundtable-discussion-policy-support-smmes-and-women-information>.

¹⁴³⁰ Brand South Africa hosts roundtable discussion on Policy Support for SMMEs and Women in Information Communication and Technology, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/brand-south-africa-hosts-roundtable-discussion-policy-support-smmes-and-women-information>.

¹⁴³¹ President Ramaphosa Cyril commends collaboration on job creation towards Jobs Summit, The Presidency (Cape Town) 29 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-cyril-commends-collaboration-job-creation-towards-jobs-summit-29-aug>.

¹⁴³² President Ramaphosa Cyril commends collaboration on job creation towards Jobs Summit, The Presidency (Cape Town) 29 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-cyril-commends-collaboration-job-creation-towards-jobs-summit-29-aug>.

¹⁴³³ Deputy President David Mabuza: 23rd Annual National Economic Development and Labour Council Summit, South African Government (Cape Town) 14 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/address-deputy-president-david-dabede-mabuza-occasion-23rd-annual-nedlac-summit-saint>.

¹⁴³⁴ Deputy President David Mabuza: 23rd Annual National Economic Development and Labour Council Summit, South African Government (Cape Town) 14 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/address-deputy-president-david-dabede-mabuza-occasion-23rd-annual-nedlac-summit-saint>.

¹⁴³⁵ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

South Africa for the successful hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom World 2018 in Durban.¹⁴³⁶

South Africa has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ingrid Chen

Turkey: 0

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to foster favorable conditions for the digital economy through domestic and global initiatives.

On 8 September 2017, the Revenue Authority published two draft policies that will further digitalize the economy.¹⁴³⁷ The first draft revamps the current use of the Turkish e-bill.¹⁴³⁸ The official invoice system used to pay taxes and bills would be improved, resulting in less paper bills. The second draft digitizes new fields in three main areas: E-dispatch note, farmers receipts and professional service receipts.¹⁴³⁹

On 5 December 2017, Turkey hosted the IT conference.¹⁴⁴⁰ The conference, gathered IT professionals and executives from companies such as Ebay, Mastercard, Dropbox, and KPMG.¹⁴⁴¹ The conference was designed to revive development in digital infrastructure that had largely ceased in 2016. To facilitate this development, the Turkish government sponsored the conference as well as the resulting tech projects.¹⁴⁴²

On 5 December 2017, the Turkish government unveiled Law No.7061, which amends tax laws that affect e-commerce.¹⁴⁴³ This bill allowed for the Ministry of Finance to “enforce certain reporting requirements for individuals and legal persons who are service providers and carry on e-commerce

¹⁴³⁶ Declaration of the 4th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Cape Town) 15 September 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/declaration-4th-brics-communication-ministers-meeting-adopted-ministers-communications-15>.

¹⁴³⁷ Turkey moves to enlarge e-bill and digitize logistics, agriculture and professional service invoicing, Revenue administration (Istanbul) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://eespa.eu/turkey-moves-to-enlarge-e-bill-digitize-logistics-agriculture-and-professional-service-invoicing/>.

¹⁴³⁸ Turkey moves to enlarge e-bill and digitize logistics, agriculture and professional service invoicing, Revenue administration (Istanbul) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://eespa.eu/turkey-moves-to-enlarge-e-bill-digitize-logistics-agriculture-and-professional-service-invoicing/>.

¹⁴³⁹ Turkey moves to enlarge e-bill and digitize logistics, agriculture and professional service invoicing, Revenue administration (Istanbul) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://eespa.eu/turkey-moves-to-enlarge-e-bill-digitize-logistics-agriculture-and-professional-service-invoicing/>.

¹⁴⁴⁰ Turkish government backs data center projects, DatacenterDynamics (London) 25 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.datacenterdynamics.com/events/turkish-government-backs-data-center-projects/98668.fullarticle>.

¹⁴⁴¹ Turkish government backs data center projects, DatacenterDynamics (London) 25 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.datacenterdynamics.com/events/turkish-government-backs-data-center-projects/98668.fullarticle>.

¹⁴⁴² Turkish government backs data center projects, DatacenterDynamics (London) 25 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.datacenterdynamics.com/events/turkish-government-backs-data-center-projects/98668.fullarticle>.

¹⁴⁴³ Turkish to enact new law to increase tax revenues, EY Tax Insights (Istanbul) 5 December 2017. Access Date: 14 March 2017. <http://taxinsights.ey-vx.com/archive/archive-news/turkey-enacts-new-law-to-increase-tax-revenues.aspx>.

activities.”¹⁴⁴⁴ A Value Added Tax will now apply to “nonresident persons who engage in e-commerce activities are required to declare and pay VAT in Turkey relating to their services provided electronically.”¹⁴⁴⁵

On 1 March 2018, Turkey held a large cryptocurrency event, Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference, in Istanbul.¹⁴⁴⁶ This academic conference was designed to study and discuss the role of cryptocurrencies. Turkey is currently a hub of cryptocurrencies with BTCTurk and Lira-Bitcoin as well as Bitcoin ATMs in Istanbul’s airport.¹⁴⁴⁷ The blockchain and bitcoin is part of Turkey’s move towards accepting Cryptocurrencies since Murat Cetinkaya, president of the Central Bank of Turkey, suggested that cryptocurrency could ensure financial stability.¹⁴⁴⁸

On 3 August 2018, the Istanbul Blockchain and Innovation Center, Turkey’s first university blockchain center, was founded at Bahçeşehir University.¹⁴⁴⁹ The director of the center, Bora Erdamar stated that it would be the “most important center of research and development and innovation in Turkey in which scientific studies and publications are made in blockchain technologies.”¹⁴⁵⁰ Erdamar additionally noted that this center will help train Turkey’s “human resources in blockchain and enable the country to lead the world in this area.”¹⁴⁵¹

On 24 August 2018, the Turkish Technology Minister met the Russian Minister of Digital Development. Discussions were centered on cooperation in technology between the two countries. Turkey and Russia seek to cooperate on a Turkish space agency.¹⁴⁵² The Turkish Technology and Industry Minister, Mustafa Varank and Russian Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, Konstantin Noskov agreed to set up a working group in the fields of information technologies and telecommunications.¹⁴⁵³

On 18 September 2018, Turkey’s technology and industry minister, Mustafa Varnak, gave a speech regarding digitalization at a conference held by the Turkish Industry and Business Association in

¹⁴⁴⁴ Turkish to enact new law to increase tax revenues, EY Tax Insights (Istanbul) 5 December 2017. Access Date: 14 March 2017. <http://taxinsights.ey-vx.com/archive/archive-news/turkey-enacts-new-law-to-increase-tax-revenues.aspx>.

¹⁴⁴⁵ Turkish to enact new law to increase tax revenues, EY Tax Insights (Istanbul) 5 December 2017. Access Date: 14 March 2017. <http://taxinsights.ey-vx.com/archive/archive-news/turkey-enacts-new-law-to-increase-tax-revenues.aspx>.

¹⁴⁴⁶ Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference Turkey: Istanbul to discuss blockchain technologies and future of digital economy, CalvinAyre (Istanbul) 28 December 2017. Access date: 17 January 2018. <https://calvinayre.com/2017/12/28/press-releases/blockchain-bitcoin-conference-turkey-istanbul-discuss-blockchain-technologies-future-digital-economy/>.

¹⁴⁴⁷ Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference Turkey: Istanbul to discuss blockchain technologies and future of digital economy, CalvinAyre (Istanbul) 28 December 2017. Access date: 17 January 2018. <https://calvinayre.com/2017/12/28/press-releases/blockchain-bitcoin-conference-turkey-istanbul-discuss-blockchain-technologies-future-digital-economy/>.

¹⁴⁴⁸ Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference Turkey: Istanbul to discuss blockchain technologies and future of digital economy, CalvinAyre (Istanbul) 28 December 2017. Access date: 17 January 2018. <https://calvinayre.com/2017/12/28/press-releases/blockchain-bitcoin-conference-turkey-istanbul-discuss-blockchain-technologies-future-digital-economy/>.

¹⁴⁴⁹ Turkey inaugurates first university blockchain center, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 4 August 2018. Access date: 27 January 2018. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/2018/08/04/turkey-inaugurates-first-university-blockchain-center>.

¹⁴⁵⁰ Turkey inaugurates first university blockchain center, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 4 August 2018. Access date: 27 January 2018. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/2018/08/04/turkey-inaugurates-first-university-blockchain-center>.

¹⁴⁵¹ Turkey inaugurates first university blockchain center, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 4 August 2018. Access date: 27 January 2018. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/2018/08/04/turkey-inaugurates-first-university-blockchain-center>.

¹⁴⁵² Turkey, Russia discuss cooperation in technology, Anadolu Agency (Salt) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2018. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/turkey-russia-discuss-cooperation-in-technology/1238529>.

¹⁴⁵³ Russia Turkey Agree to Restore Visa-free Regime, Discuss Technology Cooperation, Russia Business Today (Moscow), 25 August 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2018. <https://russiabusinessesstoday.com/economy/russia-turkey-agree-to-restore-visa-free-regime-discuss-technology-cooperation/>.

Istanbul.¹⁴⁵⁴ In the speech he announced that digital transformation centers will be open in November. These centers would provide experimental training and consultancy services for industrialists.

Turkey has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through domestic initiatives but not on a global stage.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Luciano Kwon

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 26 July 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, High Commissioner Vicki Treadell and Malaysia's Treasury Secretary-General Mohd Irwan Serigar launched the UK Mega Tech digital partnership between Malaysia and the UK.¹⁴⁵⁵ The program will involve 50 representatives of UK technology companies coming over to Malaysia.¹⁴⁵⁶ They will undergo various business matching sessions, pitching events and panel discussions about the technology scene.¹⁴⁵⁷

On 15 September 2017, the UK government announced plans to update data protection legislation by introducing the Data Protection Bill, which "will make data protection laws fit for the digital age in which an ever increasing amount of data is being processed and empower people to take control of their data."¹⁴⁵⁸

On 20 September 2017, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation Jo Johnson and US Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Judith G. Garber signed an agreement for the initiation of collaborations for Science and Technology between the two countries.¹⁴⁵⁹ The agreement confirms the UK's investment of USD88 million in funding and creation of 4000 jobs in Physics Projects Long Baseline

¹⁴⁵⁴ Turkey to establish digital transformation centers, AA (Istanbul) 18 September 2018. Access date: 27 September 2018. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkey-to-establish-digital-transformation-centers/1258349>.

¹⁴⁵⁵ UK to bring largest tech delegation to Malaysia, strengthen digital partnership, TechWire Asia 16 July 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <http://techwireasia.com/2017/07/uk-bring-largest-tech-delegation-malaysia-strengthen-digital-partnership/>.

¹⁴⁵⁶ UK to bring largest tech delegation to Malaysia, strengthen digital partnership, TechWire Asia 16 July 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <http://techwireasia.com/2017/07/uk-bring-largest-tech-delegation-malaysia-strengthen-digital-partnership/>.

¹⁴⁵⁷ UK to bring largest tech delegation to Malaysia, strengthen digital partnership, TechWire Asia 16 July 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <http://techwireasia.com/2017/07/uk-bring-largest-tech-delegation-malaysia-strengthen-digital-partnership/>.

¹⁴⁵⁸ Data laws to be made fit for digital age, Department for Digital, Cultural, Media, and Sport (London) 14 September 2017. Access Date: 18 January 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/data-laws-to-be-made-fit-for-digital-age>.

¹⁴⁵⁹ Joint Statement by the Governments of the United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the US-U.K. Science and Technology Agreement, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/09/274314.html>.

Neutrino Facility and Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment and enhancement in digital research skills in museums.¹⁴⁶⁰

On 19 October 2017, the UK government passed reform to the Electronic Communications Code (ECC) “to reduce the costs of housing phone masts and other communications infrastructure on private land, allowing the development of faster and more reliable broadband and mobile services, particularly in rural areas.”¹⁴⁶¹ The government hopes that “These reforms will help to drive investment and stimulate the continued growth, rollout and maintenance of communication technology infrastructure.”¹⁴⁶²

On 19 October 2017, Minister for Digital Matt Hancock announced that the government was working towards enacting the Data Protection Bill, which would update data protection laws, in order to “raise the overall cyber resilience of the UK economy.”¹⁴⁶³

On 22 October 2017, Cyber Security Ambassador Conrad Prince met with Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah Al-Sawaha in Riyadh.¹⁴⁶⁴ The two agreed to broaden the level of collaboration between Saudi Arabia and the UK on digitalisation, particularly in the field of cyber security.¹⁴⁶⁵

On 31 October 2017, Minister Hancock announced that the government “legislated for Digital Skills Entitlement in the Digital Economy Act” and is working towards creating policies with the Department of Education, which aims to support a “thriving digital sector, and a digital infrastructure that is not only fit for the present but the future, with easy and ubiquitous access for everyone in this country to the growing opportunities digital technology offers.”¹⁴⁶⁶

On 22 November 2017, Chancellor Phillip Hammond announced several national budget digital economy allocations.¹⁴⁶⁷ “These include GBP500 million of support for 5G mobile networks, full fiber broadband and artificial intelligence and GBP540 million to support the growth of electric cars, including more charging points. A further GBP2.3 billion is allocated for investment in research and

¹⁴⁶⁰ Joint Statement by the Governments of the United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the US-U.K. Science and Technology Agreement, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/09/274314.html>.

¹⁴⁶¹ Government plans reform to boost UK’s digital infrastructure, government computing, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 October 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-to-boost-uks-digital-infrastructure>.

¹⁴⁶² “Government plans reform to boost UK’s digital infrastructure”, Government Computing (London) 19 October 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-to-boost-uks-digital-infrastructure>.

¹⁴⁶³ Address by MP Matt Hancock to the Association of British Insurers, Insurance in the Digital World Conference (London) 19 October 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/insurance-in-the-digital-world>.

¹⁴⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology Meets with the United Kingdom’s Cyber Security Ambassador, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 22 October 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-23102017_447.aspx

¹⁴⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology Meets with the United Kingdom’s Cyber Security Ambassador, Saudi Ministry of Communication and Technology (Riyadh). 22 October 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2017. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-23102017_447.aspx.

¹⁴⁶⁶ Address by MP Matt Hancock at the techUK’s annual conference, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 October 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/supercharging-the-digital-economy>.

¹⁴⁶⁷ GBP80 mn for UK Geospatial Commission — Open map data key to digital economy, GeoSpatial World 24 November 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/uk-geospatial-commission-gets-80mn-budget/>.

development and GBP30 million to develop digital skills distance learning courses.”¹⁴⁶⁸ As well, GBP80 million were dedicated to render public the government’s geospatial mapping data, targeting SMEs in particular.¹⁴⁶⁹

On 22 November 2017, the UK government incorporated a new income tax aimed at the prevention of UK-earned profit offshoring to low-tax jurisdictions in the budget.¹⁴⁷⁰ This new tax is part of an interim approach as the UK continues to formulate its approach to taxing the digital economy.¹⁴⁷¹

On 30 November 2017, the UK government committed to establishing five international tech hubs in emerging markets in the coming year in order to aid in the establishment of partnerships between UK and international tech firms.¹⁴⁷²

On 25 January 2018, the UK published a new digital charter that will allow the UK to “ensure that innovative businesses in the tech sector can thrive and the public can have the confidence and trust in the development of new technologies.”¹⁴⁷³ With the Digital Charter, the government aims to keep the internet free, open and accessible.¹⁴⁷⁴

On 25 January 2018, the government stated that it will continue to protect people through the Internet Safety Strategy, by “ensuring data is used in a safe and ethical way,” and making sure that personal data is respected and used appropriately.¹⁴⁷⁵

On 23 May 2018, the government implemented the Data Protection Act which aims to support businesses and organizations within the UK transition to the “digital age,” and “empower people to take control of their data.”¹⁴⁷⁶

On 6 June 2018, Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries Margot James stated that the UK will invest GBP1 billion of funding to improve the UK’s connectivity.¹⁴⁷⁷ It was also stated that the

¹⁴⁶⁸ UK government pledges cash to boost the digital economy, Beta News (United Kingdom) 22 November 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://betanews.com/2017/11/22/uk-government-cash-digital/>.

¹⁴⁶⁹ GBP80 mn for UK Geospatial Commission — Open map data key to digital economy, GeoSpatial World 24 November 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/uk-geospatial-commission-gets-80mn-budget/>.

¹⁴⁷⁰ UK government pledges cash to boost the digital economy, Beta News (London) 22 November 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://betanews.com/2017/11/22/uk-government-cash-digital/>.

¹⁴⁷¹ Corporate tax and the digital economy: position paper, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 November 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/corporate-tax-and-the-digital-economy-position-paper>.

¹⁴⁷² Big Investment in the Digital Sector, Enjoy Digital 30 November 2017. Access Date: 2 December 2017. <https://www.enjoy-digital.co.uk/news/big-investment-in-the-digital-sector/>.

¹⁴⁷³ Digital Charter will set new online standards for years to come, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 27 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-charter-will-set-new-online-standards-for-years-to-come>.

¹⁴⁷⁴ Digital Charter will set new online standards for years to come, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 27 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-charter-will-set-new-online-standards-for-years-to-come>.

¹⁴⁷⁵ Digital Charter will set new online standards for years to come, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 27 January 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-charter-will-set-new-online-standards-for-years-to-come>.

¹⁴⁷⁶ Data Protection Act 2018, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 23 May 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/data-protection-act-2018>.

¹⁴⁷⁷ Ensuring UK businesses lead the way in the era of global connectivity, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 6 June 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/margot-james-ensuring-uk-businesses-lead-the-way-in-the-era-of-global-connectivity>.

government believes “every individual and every business should have the opportunities, skills and confidence needed to reap the benefits of digital technology.”¹⁴⁷⁸

On 13 June 2018, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Matt Hancock announced that “new tech hubs to connect businesses in the UK with those in emerging digital markets will be launched in Brazil and South Africa.”¹⁴⁷⁹

On 5 July 2018, Digital Secretary Matt Hancock announced “a package of measures to strengthen ties between the UK and France’s digital industries.”¹⁴⁸⁰ The government aims to forge closer relations between the UK and France by “boosting both countries’ digital economies.”¹⁴⁸¹

On 27 August 2018, the government announced a new GBP1 million Digital Skills Innovation Fund which “will help people from underrepresented groups gain the skills they need to work in digital roles.”¹⁴⁸² The government stated that the funding was “part of a push to improve diversity in the digital economy.”¹⁴⁸³

The UK has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Cameron Ting

United States: +1

The United States has complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 14 September 2017, Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Jonathan Nash met with Nepali Minister of Finance Gyanendra Bahadur Karki to

¹⁴⁷⁸Margot James - ‘Ensuring UK businesses lead the way in the era of global connectivity’, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 6 June 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/margot-james-ensuring-uk-businesses-lead-the-way-in-the-era-of-global-connectivity>.

¹⁴⁷⁹Brazil and South Africa tech hubs launched to drive international growth, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 13 June 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brazil-and-south-africa-tech-hubs-launched-to-drive-international-growth>.

¹⁴⁸⁰UK and France to strengthen ties in AI and data, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-france-to-strengthen-ties-in-ai-and-data>.

¹⁴⁸¹UK and France to strengthen ties in AI and data, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-france-to-strengthen-ties-in-ai-and-data>.

¹⁴⁸²New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs>.

¹⁴⁸³New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 20 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs>.

sign a USD500 million compact for South Asia to improve global infrastructure connectivity and economic development.¹⁴⁸⁴

On 15 September 2017, the United States participated in the meeting of economy ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum that issued a joint statement on “Enhancing MSMEs’ [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”¹⁴⁸⁵The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business practices to free small and medium-sized enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.¹⁴⁸⁶

On 20 September 2017, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Judith G. Garber and UK Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation Jo Johnson signed an agreement for the initiation of collaborations for Science and Technology between the two countries.¹⁴⁸⁷ The agreement confirms the UK’s investment of USD88 million in funding and creation of 4,000 jobs in Physics Projects Long Baseline Neutrino Facility and Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment and enhancement in digital research skills in museums.¹⁴⁸⁸

On 10 October 2017, the Department of State held a forum on Blockchain Technology. The forum educated participants in applications of Blockchain Technology, highlighting fostering of partnerships with organizations with transformative technology to aid in assisting the world’s most vulnerable populations, foreign aid, and delivery of services.¹⁴⁸⁹

On 16 October 2017, Vice President Mike Pence and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso issued a joint press release which stated that the US and Japan are collaborating on specific sectors to promote economic benefits and job creation. These sectors include the digital economy.¹⁴⁹⁰

On 23 October 2017, Acting Assistant Secretary Garber and European Director General for Research and Innovation Robert Smits discussed further transatlantic cooperation under Horizon 2020, in research and innovation for new technologies and scientific discoveries.¹⁴⁹¹

¹⁴⁸⁴ US and Nepal Sign \$500 Million Compact, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 14 September 2017. Access Date: 23 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/09/274139.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁵ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹⁴⁸⁶ Joint Statement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) 15 September 2017, Access Date: 20 November 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2017_sme.

¹⁴⁸⁷ Joint Statement by the Governments of the United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the US-U.K. Science and Technology Agreement, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/09/274314.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁸ Joint Statement by the Governments of the United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the US-U.K. Science and Technology Agreement, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 September 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/09/274314.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan to Deliver Remarks at US Department of State’s Forum on Blockchain Technology, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/10/274686.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁰ White House Press Release, Office of the Vice President (Washington D.C.) October 16 2017. Access Date: 17 November 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/10/16/joint-press-release-vice-president-mike-pence-and-deputy-prime-minister>.

On 26 October, the US and Brazil jointly hosted the Digital Economy Conference in Sao Paulo to bring together representatives of the public and private sectors to discuss the future of the digital economy, opportunities in Brazil and the challenges of creating methods that stimulate innovation.¹⁴⁹²

On 6 November 2017, the US signed a new USD525 million compact with the Côte d'Ivoire to encourage economic and global infrastructure connectivity growth in the West African region.¹⁴⁹³

On 27 November 2017, the US and Indian governments held the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad, India.¹⁴⁹⁴ The summit aims to support women entrepreneurs in key industry sectors — Energy and Infrastructure, Healthcare and Life Sciences, Financial Technology and Digital Economy, and Media and Entertainment.¹⁴⁹⁵

On 20 December 2017, the Department of Commerce renewed the Charter for the Digital Economy Board of Advisors.¹⁴⁹⁶ The Department of Commerce's Digital Economy Board of Advisors provides independent advice and recommendations on a broad range of policy issues impacting the digital economy.¹⁴⁹⁷ The Board consists of leaders in industry and civil society who are prominent experts in their fields and recognized for their professional achievements.¹⁴⁹⁸

On 12 January 2018, the Department of Commerce released a report proposing steps the Department can take to advance the Internet of Things (IoT).¹⁴⁹⁹ The report examines the benefits

¹⁴⁹¹ US-EU Joint Consultative Group Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 27 October 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/10/275153.html>.

¹⁴⁹² Technology companies discuss the future of the digital economy in Brazil, US Embassy & Consulates in Brazil (Sao Paulo) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2018. <https://br.usembassy.gov/technology-companies-discuss-future-digital-economy-brazil/>.

¹⁴⁹³ Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan at Signing of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact With the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 6 November 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275320.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁴ Plenary Speakers and US Government Principals at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (Washington, D.C.) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275892.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁵ Plenary Speakers and US Government Principals at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (Washington, D.C.) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275892.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁶ Notice of Renewal of the Digital Economy Board of Advisors Charter, US Department of Commerce (Washington) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2018/notice-renewal-digital-economy-board-advisors-charter>.

¹⁴⁹⁷ Notice of Renewal of the Digital Economy Board of Advisors Charter, US Department of Commerce (Washington) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2018/notice-renewal-digital-economy-board-advisors-charter>.

¹⁴⁹⁸ Notice of Renewal of the Digital Economy Board of Advisors Charter, US Department of Commerce (Washington) 2 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2018/notice-renewal-digital-economy-board-advisors-charter>.

¹⁴⁹⁹ US Department of Commerce Releases Green Paper Proposing Approach for Advancing Growth of Internet of Things, US Department of Commerce (Washington) 12 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2017/01/us-department-commerce-releases-green-paper-proposing-approach-advancing>.

and challenges of the evolving IoT landscape and suggests that the US government should continue to foster an enabling environment for innovative technology to grow and thrive.¹⁵⁰⁰

On 16 January 2018, the White House signed new agreements for improved economic cooperation with Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev.¹⁵⁰¹ The agreement was signed to establish a sustainable digital economy and infrastructure development through modernization of regional power grids and energy security in Kazakhstan.¹⁵⁰²

On 1 February 2018, the US and the European Union held the 15th Information Society Dialogue.¹⁵⁰³ The discussions held during the dialogue confirm the shared focus of both the United States and European Union on digital economy development in personal data protection and free flow of data.¹⁵⁰⁴

On 23 February 2018, Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven Ciobo jointly announced that Australia and the US "agree to intensify cooperation to support the growth of digital trade between our countries, ensure an open, free and secure Internet, and advocate the liberalization and facilitation of global digital trade."¹⁵⁰⁵

On 9 March 2018, the US and France held a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Paris, France for discussions on previous science and technology endeavors and future initiatives in "artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced energy technologies and clean energy, ocean observation and exploration, and cancer research."¹⁵⁰⁶

On 20 April 2018, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon, Jr. and Polish Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin signed an Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation at the Department of State for fostering of joint research for both nations.¹⁵⁰⁷

On 2 May 2018, the Global Engagement Center (GEC) announced a Technology Series to aid in counter of foreign propaganda and disinformation technology through demonstrations on bot

¹⁵⁰⁰ US Department of Commerce Releases Green Paper Proposing Approach for Advancing Growth of Internet of Things, US Department of Commerce (Washington) 12 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2017/01/us-department-commerce-releases-green-paper-proposing-approach-advancing>.

¹⁵⁰¹ The United States and Kazakhstan - An Economic Partnership for the 21st Century (Washington, D.C.) 16 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/01/277475.html>.

¹⁵⁰² The United States and Kazakhstan - An Economic Partnership for the 21st Century (Washington, D.C.) 16 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/01/277475.html>.

¹⁵⁰³ Joint Statement on United States of America and European Union Holding the 15th Information Society Dialogue (Washington, D.C.) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/02/277835.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁴ Joint Statement on United States of America and European Union Holding the 15th Information Society Dialogue (Washington, D.C.) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/02/277835.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁵ United States and Australia Intensify Cooperation on Digital Trade, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 23 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/february/united-states-and-australia>.

¹⁵⁰⁶ U.S.-France Science and Technology Cooperation, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 9 March 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/03/279146.htm>.

¹⁵⁰⁷ U.S.-Poland Science and Technology Agreement Signing Ceremony at Department of State, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 April 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/04/280655.htm>.

network detection, blockchain-enabled content authentication, and counter-messaging automation.¹⁵⁰⁸

On 14 May 2018, the US and Brazil released a joint statement from their third meeting for Internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Working Group, announcing continued exploration of best practices for Internet policy and cyber defense.¹⁵⁰⁹

On 21 June 2019, the US and Republic of Korea held Cyber Consultations for continued commitment of cyber policy and enhancement of digital economy through joint cooperation.¹⁵¹⁰

On 8 July 2018, the Department of State organized the TechGirls exchange program in the US, which brought together 28 girls from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia to foster technical and networking skills in tech careers.¹⁵¹¹

On 27 July 2018, the US met with Japan and the Republic of Korea for a trilateral cyber experts meeting in Washington for continued confirmation of commitment in promotion of Internet, cyber security, and international cyber stability.¹⁵¹²

On 27 July 2018, the US and Japan released a joint statement regarding the US-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on Internet Economy; both G20 members announced their continued commitment to development of the global digital economy policy environment and to transparency of Internet governance.¹⁵¹³

On 22 August 2018, the US and Ghana held a Cyber Study to facilitate cooperation on cyber and Internet policy between the two countries.¹⁵¹⁴

On 27 August 2018, Mexico and the United States reached a new understanding on the overhauling of the North American Free Trade Agreement.¹⁵¹⁵ Among the new provisions were a zero-tariff level for digital content such as e-books and software, the facilitation of supplier use of e-signatures and authentication, and a dollar-value increase from USD50 to USD100 in Mexico's minimum threshold (the de minimis threshold) of goods exempt from customs duties and taxes.¹⁵¹⁶

¹⁵⁰⁸The Global Engagement Center's Technology Series to Counter Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 2 May 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/05/281796.htm>

¹⁵⁰⁹ U.S.-Brazil Bilateral Cooperation on Cyber and Internet Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 14 May 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/05/282074.htm>.

¹⁵¹⁰ The 5th U.S.-Republic of Korea Bilateral Cyber Consultations, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/06/283418.htm>.

¹⁵¹¹ TechGirls From the Middle East and North Africa Invest in STEM Futures, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 8 July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/07/283866.htm>.

¹⁵¹² US-Japan-ROK Experts Meeting on Cybersecurity, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/07/284670.htm>.

¹⁵¹³ Joint Statement on the 9th U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/07/284592.htm>

¹⁵¹⁴ U.S.-Ghana Cyber Study Visit, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 22 August 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/08/285345.html>.

¹⁵¹⁵ Trump announces US-Mexico trade deal, The Guardian (Washington) 28 August 2018. Access Date: 12 September 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/aug/27/trump-nafta-us-mexico-trade-understanding-latest>.

¹⁵¹⁶ Trump announces US-Mexico trade deal, The Guardian (Washington) 28 August 2018. Access Date: 12 September 2018.

The US has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Stephanie Le

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy.

On 13 July 2017, the EU opened the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's in-house science and knowledge service.¹⁵¹⁷ The JRC research facilities are located in Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium), Karlsruhe (Germany), and Petten (Netherlands). The centre encourages education in science while also supporting academia and small and medium-sized enterprises.¹⁵¹⁸

On 17 July 2017, the EU held a Digital Single Market conference for free movement of data. The conference aimed to discuss the maximization of growth in EU and to help to establish a single market for digital solutions.¹⁵¹⁹

On 18 July 2017, the EU held an informal meeting between EU competitiveness and telecommunications ministers and entrepreneurs and scientists at the Tallinn Creative Hub in Estonia, focusing on the free movement of data for the European data economy.¹⁵²⁰

On 11 August 2017, the European Commission approved high-speed Internet solutions for rural areas of Germany.¹⁵²¹ The funding will improve connectivity of rural areas for lower costs through the introduction of virtual unbundled local access in vectoring technology.¹⁵²²

On 5 September 2017, the EU launched the fifth EU Prize for Women Innovators. The prize is intended to honour women entrepreneurs that have brought their innovations to market successfully. The program promotes research, innovation, and raises awareness for women in entrepreneurial careers.¹⁵²³

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/aug/27/trump-nafta-us-mexico-trade-understanding-latest>.

¹⁵¹⁷ Joint Research Centre opens its laboratories to wider scientific community, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-13-07-2017.html>.

¹⁵¹⁸ Joint Research Centre opens its laboratories to wider scientific community, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-13-07-2017.html>.

¹⁵¹⁹ Digital single market conference on the free movement of data, Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Tallinn) 17 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://www.eu2017.ee/political-meetings/digital-single-market-conference-free-movement-data>.

¹⁵²⁰ Informal meeting of competitiveness and telecommunications ministers (COMPET), Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Tallinn) 18 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017.

<https://www.eu2017.ee/political-meetings/informal-meeting-competitiveness-and-telecommunications-ministers>.

¹⁵²¹ State aid: Commission approves high speed internet solutions for rural areas in Germany, European Commission (Brussels) 11 August 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-11-08-2017.html>.

¹⁵²² State aid: Commission approves high speed internet solutions for rural areas in Germany, European Commission (Brussels) 11 August 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-11-08-2017.html>.

¹⁵²³ Application for 2018 edition of the Women Innovators Prize opens today, European Commission (Brussels) 5 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-05-09-2017.html>.

On 6 September 2017, the EU provided Poland with EUR1 billion to finance energy networks and scientific research, with the European Investment Bank (EIB) providing EUR250 million to improve electricity distribution and EUR730 million for scientific research institutes and universities.¹⁵²⁴

On 18 September 2017, the European Commission presented a renewed Industrial Policy Strategy for innovation, digitalization, and decarbonization.¹⁵²⁵ The new strategy focuses on the circular economy, mobility, intellectual property, public procurement, skills and sustainable finance, proposals on trade, investment screening, cybersecurity and data.¹⁵²⁶

On 19 September 2017, the European Commission proposed measures to improve the EU's cybersecurity capacity with tools in dealing with cyber-attacks on Europe.¹⁵²⁷ The new rules also govern the free flow of non-personal data in EU.¹⁵²⁸

On 26 September 2017, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology opened in Brussels to support the EU's digital economic growth by fostering entrepreneurs and innovators.¹⁵²⁹

On 28 September 2017, the European Commission presented guidelines for the prevention, detection, and removal of illegal content containing hatred, violence, and terrorism online. The new guidelines will continue efforts to maintain citizen's trust and comfort in the digital economy and its influence on innovation, growth, and jobs.¹⁵³⁰

On 2 October 2017, the European Commission launched efforts to support schools in using digital technologies through the Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering Innovation through Educational technology (SELFIE) tool.¹⁵³¹ The tool will help schools improve the efficient use of digital technology in their teaching.¹⁵³²

¹⁵²⁴ €1 billion for Poland under Juncker Plan and InnovFin Science, European Commission (Brussels) 6 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/katainen/announcements/eu1-billion-poland-under-investment-plan-and-innovfin-science_en.

¹⁵²⁵ State of the Union 2017: Commission presents strategy for a smart, innovative and sustainable industry, European Commission (Brussels) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-18-09-2017.html>.

¹⁵²⁶ State of the Union 2017: Commission presents strategy for a smart, innovative and sustainable industry, European Commission (Brussels) 18 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-18-09-2017.html>.

¹⁵²⁷ State of the Union 2017: Commission scales up its response to cyber-attacks and proposes a framework for the free flow of non-personal data in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 19 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-19-09-2017.html>.

¹⁵²⁸ State of the Union 2017: Commission scales up its response to cyber-attacks and proposes a framework for the free flow of non-personal data in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 19 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-19-09-2017.html>.

¹⁵²⁹ Commissioner Navracsics attends inauguration of new liaison office of European Institute of Innovation and Technology in Brussels, European Commission (Brussels) 26 September 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-26-09-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁰ Security Union: Commission steps up efforts to tackle illegal content online, European Commission (Brussels) 28 September 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-28-09-2017.html>.

¹⁵³¹ Are European schools making the most of digital technologies? — Trial of a new tool for self-assessment, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-10-2017.html>.

¹⁵³² Are European schools making the most of digital technologies? — Trial of a new tool for self-assessment, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-10-2017.html>.

On 3 October 2017, the EIB assisted in providing loans of EUR125 million to Swedish broadband provider in expansion of fibre network in cities and rural areas of Sweden and EUR20 million for CS Group in France to support the development of research and innovation in cybersecurity systems.¹⁵³³

On 6 October 2017, the European Commission pledged to spread the e-government in Estonia's electronic identification across the EU.¹⁵³⁴

On 27 October 2017, the European Commission announced funding of EUR30 billion for research and innovation programs for Horizon 2020. Through the next 3 years, the commission will support research towards the digital economy, among others.¹⁵³⁵

On 3 November 2017, the European Union and Tanzania signed an agreement in the support of rural electrification in the country.¹⁵³⁶ The EU will provide EUR50 million in support of the initiative.¹⁵³⁷

On 21 October 2017, the European Commission launched the Broadband Competence Offices and toolkit for rural broadband and planned concrete deadlines for providing more broadband in rural areas of EU.¹⁵³⁸

On 25 November 2017, the European Commission adopted rules for the improvement of safety of electronic payments in shop locations and online stores.¹⁵³⁹ The rules were adopted as part of the EU's revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) for the modernization of payment services currently being used in Europe.¹⁵⁴⁰

On 29 November 2017, the European Commission announced new measures to protect the intellectual property rights to encourage European companies, with a highlight on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups, to invest in innovation.¹⁵⁴¹

¹⁵³³ Investment Plan supports the digital economy: high speed broadband in Sweden and cyber security systems in France, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-03-10-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁴ Commission welcomes the Tallinn Declaration on e-government, European Commission (Brussels) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-06-10-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁵ Commission to invest €30 billion in new solutions for societal challenges and breakthrough innovation, European Commission (Brussels) 27 October 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-27-10-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁶ EU supports rural electrification in Tanzania, European Commission (Brussels) 3 November 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-03-11-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁷ EU supports rural electrification in Tanzania, European Commission (Brussels) 3 November 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-03-11-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁸ European Commission acts for better broadband in rural areas, European Commission (Brussels) 21 November 2017. Access Date: 26 November 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-21-11-2017.html>.

¹⁵³⁹ Payment services: Consumers to benefit from safer and more innovative electronic payments, European Commission (Brussels) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-25-11-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁰ Payment services: Consumers to benefit from safer and more innovative electronic payments, European Commission (Brussels) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-25-11-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴¹ Intellectual property: Protecting Europe's know-how and innovation leadership, European Commission (Brussels) 29 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-29-11-2017.html>.

On 30 November 2017, the Competitive Council reached an agreement on the approach to establish a Single Digital Gateway proposed for the general public to access high quality information, online administrative procedures, and assistance services.¹⁵⁴²

On 5 December 2017, the European Commission announced measures to improve the value-added tax (VAT) for online companies in the EU.¹⁵⁴³ The measures will introduce a new system that simplifies the process for SMEs and start-ups to buy and sell their good online to consumers.¹⁵⁴⁴

On 11 December 2017, the European Commission implemented new guidelines to reduce costs and help both member states and in simplifying cross-border investments in the EU.¹⁵⁴⁵

On 11 December 2017, Italy became the first member state to implement their electronic identification system enabling citizens and businesses to access online public services and private services across the EU.¹⁵⁴⁶

On 14 December 2017, European negotiators agreed on new regulation for the improvement of cross-border delivery of parcels that will support e-commerce in Europe and help both business and the general public to have easier access to buying and selling products online.¹⁵⁴⁷

On 15 December 2017, the European Commission announced it will award a total of EUR5 million for social innovations as part of their Horizons 2020 project. The innovations must use Blockchain technology and encourage effective solutions using distributed ledger technology.¹⁵⁴⁸

On 19 December 2017, the European Commission approved State aid for the Irish taxation scheme. The scheme will run for six years and will attract and retain employees for companies to contribute to economic growth and innovation.¹⁵⁴⁹

On 21 December 2017, the EU signed an arrangement for a permanent Computer Emergency Response Team for EU institutions, bodies, and agencies that will ensure protection against cyber attacks.¹⁵⁵⁰

¹⁵⁴² eGovernment: Member States reach agreement on Single Digital Gateway, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-30-11-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴³ VAT: Commission welcomes agreement on simpler and more efficient rules for businesses that sell goods online, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-05-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁴ VAT: Commission welcomes agreement on simpler and more efficient rules for businesses that sell goods online, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-05-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁵ Capital Markets Union: Commission announces new tax guidelines to make life easier for cross-border investors, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-11-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁶ Commission welcomes Italy's efforts to notify eID led by private sector, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-11-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁷ E-commerce: agreement for more affordable package delivery, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-14-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁸ €5 million prize for innovations that use blockchain technology for social good, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-15-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁹ State Aid: Commission approves Irish support scheme for SMEs, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-19-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁰ Fight against cyber threats: EU establishes a permanent Computer Emergency Response Team for EU institutions, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-21-12-2017.html>.

On 21 December 2017, the Members of the European Parliament signed a declaration for net neutrality ensuring the continued implementation of open Internet ecosystems.¹⁵⁵¹

On 11 January 2018, the European Commission announced an investment of EUR1 billion for the creation of a world-class European supercomputing infrastructure to benefit areas of society like health care, renewable energy, car safety, and cybersecurity.¹⁵⁵²

On 13 January 2018, Payment Services Directive 2 (PSD2), administered by the European Commission to regulate payment services and payment service providers throughout the EU came into force.¹⁵⁵³ PSD2 aims to modernize Europe's payment services in keeping pace with the evolving market.¹⁵⁵⁴

On 18 January 2018, European Union members were given new rules to improve the flexibility for setting the VAT.¹⁵⁵⁵ The new rules will allow the states to foster more favourable tax environments for SMEs to flourish by reducing VAT fraud and supporting businesses.¹⁵⁵⁶

On 18 January 2018, the European Union introduced new requirements for payment card schemes and processing entities to increase competition for card payment market.¹⁵⁵⁷ The requirements aim to reduce costs for consumers through reduced processing costs and retailers through selection of the best card transaction processors.¹⁵⁵⁸

On 22 January 2018, the EU created the Counterfeit and Piracy Watch-List to identify counterfeiting, piracy, and other intellectual property abuse.¹⁵⁵⁹ The watch-list aims to inform consumers of counterfeit marketplace material and reprimand merchants.¹⁵⁶⁰

On 23 January 2018, Spain and the EIB signed three deals worth EUR255 million through the European Fund for Strategic Investments. The three new projects focus on digitalization.¹⁵⁶¹

¹⁵⁵¹ Internet Governance Forum: European Commission and European Parliament commit to an open internet, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-21-12-2017.html>.

¹⁵⁵² Commission proposes to invest EUR 1 billion in world-class European supercomputers, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-11-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵³ Payment services: Consumers to benefit from cheaper, safer and more innovative electronic payments, European Commission (Brussels) 12 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-12-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁴ Payment services: Consumers to benefit from cheaper, safer and more innovative electronic payments, European Commission (Brussels) 12 January 2018. Access Date: 14 January 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-12-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁵ VAT: More flexibility on VAT rates, less red tape for small businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-18-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁶ VAT: More flexibility on VAT rates, less red tape for small businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-18-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁷ Competition: Commission welcomes new rules that benefit consumers by promoting more competition in processing of card payments, European Commission (Brussels) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-18-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Competition: Commission welcomes new rules that benefit consumers by promoting more competition in processing of card payments, European Commission (Brussels) 18 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-18-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁹ Commission launches consultation on future "Counterfeit and Piracy watch-List", European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-22-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁰ Commission launches consultation on future "Counterfeit and Piracy watch-List", European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-22-01-2018.html>.

On 24 January 2018, the European Commission launched new guidance and online tools for the EU's new data protection rules.¹⁵⁶² The guidance and online tools created by the Commission aim to aid the implementation of the protection program and establish trust in digital privacy.¹⁵⁶³

On 31 January 2018, the European Commission endorsed provisions for cross-border data flows and personal data protection during trade.¹⁵⁶⁴ The Commission provided mechanisms under the data protection legislation for data flow between EU and other countries.¹⁵⁶⁵

On 1 February 2018, the European Commission created the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum.¹⁵⁶⁶ The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum will play an active role in helping Europe to seize new opportunities offered by blockchain, build expertise and show leadership in the field. It will be gathering information, monitoring and analysing trends, addressing challenges and exploring blockchains' socioeconomic potential.¹⁵⁶⁷ It will enable cross border cooperation on practical use cases, bringing Europe's best experts together and promoting an open forum for blockchain technologists, innovators, citizens, industry stakeholders, public authorities, regulators and supervisors, to discuss and develop new ideas in order to learn, engage and contribute in an open way.¹⁵⁶⁸

On 1 February 2018, the United States and EU held the 15th Information Society Dialogue.¹⁵⁶⁹ The discussions held during the dialogue confirm the shared focus of both the US and EU on digital economy development in personal data protection and free flow of data.¹⁵⁷⁰

On 1 February 2018, the European Commission launched a EUR50 million pilot to support the creation of cybersecurity competence centres across the EU.¹⁵⁷¹ The project selected will be used in the creation of the competence network to strengthen cybersecurity in the EU.¹⁵⁷²

¹⁵⁶¹ Investment Plan in Spain: European Investment Bank launches three new projects worth €255 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-397_en.htm.

¹⁵⁶² Commission publishes guidance on upcoming new data protection rules, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-24-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶³ Commission publishes guidance on upcoming new data protection rules, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-24-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁴ Commission publishes guidance on upcoming new data protection rules, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-24-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁵ Commission publishes guidance on upcoming new data protection rules, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-24-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁶ The Commission launches the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-31-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁷ The Commission launches the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-31-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁸ The Commission launches the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-31-01-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁹ Joint Statement on United States of America and European Union Holding the 15th Information Society Dialogue, US State Department (Washington, D.C.) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/02/277835.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁰ Joint Statement on United States of America and European Union Holding the 15th Information Society Dialogue, US State Department (Washington, D.C.) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 5 March 2018. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/02/277835.html>.

¹⁵⁷¹ €50 million pilot project launched to support network of cybersecurity competence centres, European Commission (Brussels) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-01-02-2018.html>.

On 2 February 2018, the European Commission approved public funding for electronic data boxes in the Czech Republic.¹⁵⁷³ The service aims to improve electronic communication for internal communication between public administration and for communication between citizens, administrations, and companies.¹⁵⁷⁴

On 15 February 2018, the European Commission announced enforcement of EU consumer rules for social media companies.¹⁵⁷⁵ The consumer rules are enforced to protect citizens and companies infringing on EU consumer rights will face sanctions.¹⁵⁷⁶

On 2 March 2018, the European Parliament, European Council, and European Commission signed a provisional agreement to improve the EU's telecom and radio spectrum policy.¹⁵⁷⁷ The agreement introduced new measures for the European Electronic Communications Code.¹⁵⁷⁸ Some of the measures include expanding 5G availability, 20-year investments for spectrum licenses, and improvement of planned radio spectrum assignment procedures.¹⁵⁷⁹

On 20 March 2018, Commissioner Mariya Gabriel announced the launch of WiFi4EU portal that would create WiFi hotspots in 6,000 municipalities, allowing for increased accessibility for citizens and fostering of local digital services.¹⁵⁸⁰

On 27 March 2018, the European Commission released a joint statement with the European Parliament and Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU regarding the removal of boundaries for digital subscriptions.¹⁵⁸¹

On 10 April 2018, the European Commission with representatives from EU members, industry, academia and civil society representatives held Digital Day for discussions for declarations aimed at

¹⁵⁷² €50 million pilot project launched to support network of cybersecurity competence centres, European Commission (Brussels) 1 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-01-02-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷³ State aid: Commission approves public compensation for electronic data boxes service in the Czech Republic, European Commission (Brussels) 2 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-02-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁴ State aid: Commission approves public compensation for electronic data boxes service in the Czech Republic, European Commission (Brussels) 2 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-02-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁵ Social media companies need to do more to fully comply with EU consumer rules, European Commission (Brussels) 15 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-15-02-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁶ Social media companies need to do more to fully comply with EU consumer rules, European Commission (Brussels) 15 February 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-15-02-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁷ Key agreements on radio spectrum pave the way for 5G, European Commission (Brussels) 2 March 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-03-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁸ Key agreements on radio spectrum pave the way for 5G, European Commission (Brussels) 2 March 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-03-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁹ Key agreements on radio spectrum pave the way for 5G, European Commission (Brussels) 2 March 2018. Access Date: 6 March 2018. <http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-02-03-2018.html>.

¹⁵⁸⁰ Statement by Commissioner Mariya Gabriel on the launch of the WiFi4EU portal and the creation of free Wi-Fi hotspots in EU municipalities (Brussels) 20 March 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-2243_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸¹ Travel with your digital subscriptions: Joint statement by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU (Brussels) 27 March 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-2341_en.htm.

artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain technologies, personalized healthcare, Innovation Radar, and 5G connectivity.¹⁵⁸²

On 25 April 2018, the European Commission proposed a new plan of action to improve the personalization of health care through the digitalization of health data and use of digital tools for mobile health applications.¹⁵⁸³

On 25 April 2018, the European Commission announced a new approach to increase public and private investment in AI and urged member states to update on their education systems from European Pillar of Social Rights.¹⁵⁸⁴

On 26 April 2018, the European Commission proposed new rules to protect small businesses in the digital economy through increase of transparency in terms and conditions for professional users, effective dispute handling, and creation of an EU observatory to monitor the compliance of these rules.¹⁵⁸⁵

On 26 April 2018, the European Commission, Council, and Parliament reached an agreement for revision of rules applying to audiovisual media; the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) includes improved country of origin principle, protection of minors from harmful content, disallowance of hate speech, promotion of European content, increased flexibility in television advertising, and allowance of independence for audiovisual regulators.¹⁵⁸⁶

On 16 May 2018, EU member leaders and the European Commission held discussions in Sofia on the management of the transformation to a data-based global economy with highlights on regulations for the protection of personal data through the General Data Protection Regulation.¹⁵⁸⁷

On 18 May 2018, the European Commission released the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) for 2018; the report incorporates progress of digitalization of EU members through connectivity, human capital, use of Internet service, integration of digital technology, and digital public services.¹⁵⁸⁸

On 6 June 2018, the European Commission proposed the creation of a Digital Europe Program to increase the budget of digital projects, from Connecting Europe Facility, to EUR3 billion.¹⁵⁸⁹

On 19 June 2018, the European Parliament, Council, and Commission released new rules regarding restrictions on the processing and storage of data in the EU, allowing for enhancement of the European Data Economy.¹⁵⁹⁰

¹⁵⁸² Digital Day 2018: EU countries to commit to doing more together on the digital front (Brussels) 9 April 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-2902_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸³ The digital transformation of healthcare (Brussels) 25 April 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-3367_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸⁴ Artificial intelligence: Commission outlines a European approach to boost investment and set ethical guidelines (Brussels) 25 April 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3362_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸⁵ Online platforms: Commission sets new standards on transparency and fairness (Brussels) 26 April 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3372_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸⁶ Audiovisual media services: breakthrough in EU negotiations for modern and fairer rules (Brussels) 26 April 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3567_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸⁷ EU Leaders' meeting in Sofia: Completing a trusted Digital Single Market for the benefit of all (Brussels) 15 May 2018. Access Date 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3740_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸⁸ Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2018 (Brussels) 18 May 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-3737_en.htm.

¹⁵⁸⁹ EU budget: Commission proposes €9.2 billion investment in first ever digital programme (Brussels) 6 June 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4043_en.htm.

On 19 June 2018, Mariya Gabriel, the Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, held the Digital4Her conference in Brussels to foster the development of digital, STEM, and networking skills among girls.¹⁵⁹¹

On 26 June 2018, The European Commission announced the launching of a Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans that comprised of improvement in connectivity, cybersecurity, digitalization, research and innovation for the six participating Western Balkan members.¹⁵⁹²

On 16 July 2018, the joint statement issued at the 20th European Union – China Summit reaffirmed that both countries were committed in advancing the digital economy by creating a favourable digital business environment that will enable organizations from both sides to fully integrate and play a constructive role in the economy.¹⁵⁹³

The EU has fostered favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy through global initiatives and domestic initiatives.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Stephanie Le

¹⁵⁹⁰ Digital Single Market: EU negotiators reach a political agreement on free flow of non-personal data (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4227_en.htm.

¹⁵⁹¹ DIGITAL4HER CONFERENCE (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_AGENDA-18-4132_en.htm.

¹⁵⁹² European Commission launches Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans (Brussels) 25 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4242_en.htm.

¹⁵⁹³ Joint Statement of the 20th EU-China Summit, European Council (Beijing) 16 July 2018. Access date: 18 September 2018. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36165/final-eu-cn-joint-statement-consolidated-text-with-climate-change-clean-energy-annex.pdf>.