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The
G20 Research Group
at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
in the University of Toronto
presents the

2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Interim Compliance Report

8 July 2017 to 9 January/5 March 2018*

Prepared by
Sophie Barnett, Hélène Emorine and the G20 Research Group, Toronto,
and Irina Popova, Andrey Shelepov, Andrei Sakharov and Alexander Ignatov and the
Center for International Institutions Research
of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,
Moscow

5 August 2018

www.g20.utoronto.ca
g20@utoronto.ca

“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*

* Note: For seven commitments, the assessment period was from 8 July 2017 to 9 January; for the remaining 10 commitments, the assessment period extended to 5 March 2018.

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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			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	+0.95		

Background

Less than half of the world’s population is connected to the Internet, two-thirds of whom live in developed and developing countries.⁷¹² 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.⁷¹³ Women are particularly vulnerable to this divide as there are 250 million fewer women than men are online today.⁷¹⁴ An estimated 80 per cent of the online content was

⁷¹² 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>.

⁷¹³ 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>.

⁷¹⁴ 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.⁷¹⁵ 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.⁷¹⁶ The leaders committed to “bridge the digital divide”⁷¹⁷ 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)].”⁷¹⁸ 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.”⁷¹⁹

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.⁷²⁰ The G20 also established the G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative to address the opportunities and challenges of the increasingly digital world.⁷²¹ 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).”⁷²² The G20 Task Force on the Digital Economy was created to follow through with this Initiative.⁷²³

Under the German G20 Presidency, the first digital ministerial process was set up to signal the importance of digitalisation in the global agenda.⁷²⁴ During a two-day meeting in Düsseldorf,

⁷¹⁵ 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>.

⁷¹⁶ 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>.

⁷¹⁷ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Antalya) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.pdf>.

⁷¹⁸ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Antalya) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.pdf>.

⁷¹⁹ 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>.

⁷²⁰ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Hangzhou) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>.

⁷²¹ 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>.

⁷²² G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Hangzhou) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 01 November 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>.

⁷²³ 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>.

⁷²⁴ 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 2017.⁷²⁵ 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 2017.⁷²⁶ The Roadmap identifies 11 key policy areas for leaders to act on.⁷²⁷

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.”⁷²⁸ 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.”⁷²⁹ Notably, the digital economy plays a significant role in accelerating economic development, enhancing productivity of existing industries, and cultivating new markets and industries.⁷³⁰ 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.⁷³¹

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.”⁷³² 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

⁷²⁵ “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.

⁷²⁶ 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>.

⁷²⁷ 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>.

⁷²⁸ 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>.

⁷²⁹ 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>.

⁷³⁰ 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>.

⁷³¹ 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>.

⁷³² 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:⁷³³

- Share information among leaders to identify good practices and access to technologies, including underrepresented or disadvantaged groups (1)
- Take action on the Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance Initiative (2)
- Co-operate to improve global economic development to help bridge the digital divides in the fields of infrastructure, data security and digital skills and capacity building (3)
- 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:⁷³⁴

- Encourage G20 countries to develop digital strategies that support the Connect 2020 Agenda to connect domestically all people by G20
- Work to extend coverage to underserved communities or individuals by expanding digital infrastructure
- Promote an entrepreneurial friendly environment by encouraging programmes such as angel investor networks and matchmaking services for small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs)
- Encourage co-operation between industry and academic, including increasing availability of financing
- Encourage centres of excellence, digital hubs (for Start-ups), and clusters to inform and support MSMEs to continue development on the Internet of Things
- 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
- Encourage development of national privacy strategies and promote consumer protection online to build trust among citizens using the internet

⁷³³ 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>.

⁷³⁴ 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>.

- Gather, measure and analyse data related to the digital economy to determine progress
- Support initiatives to develop digital financial services that are accessible and appropriate for women, increase female participation in science, technology, engineering and math education and employment to bridge the digital gender divide

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 through global initiatives and domestic initiatives

Compliance Director: Emily Tsui

Lead Analyst: Jacqueline Houston

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 2017.⁷³⁵ 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.⁷³⁶

On 15 November 2017, Argentina was elected as host country of the International Expo 2023 by the Bureau International des Expositions.⁷³⁷ 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.⁷³⁸ According to the Ministry of Foreign

⁷³⁵ 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>.

⁷³⁶ 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>.

⁷³⁷ 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>.

⁷³⁸ 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>.

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.⁷³⁹

On 11 December 2017, Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie delivered a speech at the Plenary Session of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference.⁷⁴⁰ 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.⁷⁴¹

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” conference in Davos.⁷⁴² During the conference, Dujovne explained two of the Argentine G20 Presidency’s priorities: the future of work and the development of infrastructure.⁷⁴³ 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.⁷⁴⁴ 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.”⁷⁴⁵

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.⁷⁴⁶ 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.⁷⁴⁷ This is expected to contribute to Argentina’s strategy of smart insertion into the world, generating a reliable, predictable and competitive business

⁷³⁹ 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>.

⁷⁴⁰ 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>.

⁷⁴¹ 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>.

⁷⁴² 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>.

⁷⁴³ 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>.

⁷⁴⁴ 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>.

⁷⁴⁵ 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>.

⁷⁴⁶ 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>.

⁷⁴⁷ 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>.

environment for Argentine exporting and importing companies.⁷⁴⁸ 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.”⁷⁴⁹

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.⁷⁵⁰ Both countries addressed the importance of cooperation in science, technology and productive innovation. As a result, cooperation agreements will be signed between the Argentinian Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation and the Skolkovo Foundation, and between the Argentine Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and its Russian counterpart.⁷⁵¹

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: Wilkey Rong

Australia +1

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

On 4 August 2017, the Health Minister approved Australia’s National Digital Health Strategy (ADHA) 2018-2022.⁷⁵² 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.⁷⁵³

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

⁷⁴⁸ 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>.

⁷⁴⁹ 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>.

⁷⁵⁰ 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>.

⁷⁵¹ 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>.

⁷⁵² 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>.

⁷⁵³ 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>.

medium-sized enterprises] Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.”⁷⁵⁴ 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.⁷⁵⁵

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.⁷⁵⁶ 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.”⁷⁵⁷ 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 2018.⁷⁵⁸ 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.⁷⁵⁹

On 4 October 2017, the Foreign Minister launched Australia’s first International Cyber Engagement Strategy.⁷⁶⁰ The paper outlines Australia’s ambitious cyber affairs agenda for the next three years.⁷⁶¹ “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.”⁷⁶² 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

⁷⁵⁴ 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.

⁷⁵⁵ 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.

⁷⁵⁶ *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>.

⁷⁵⁷ *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>.

⁷⁵⁸ *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>.

⁷⁵⁹ *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>.

⁷⁶⁰ 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>.

⁷⁶¹ 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>.

⁷⁶² 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>.

comprehensive coordinated cyber affairs.⁷⁶³ According to the executive summary, “Australia will cooperate internationally to reduce the risk of cybercrime and promote peace and stability in cyberspace.⁷⁶⁴ 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.”⁷⁶⁵

On 12 October 2017, the Australian government released its strategy to support the 5G rollout in Australia titled “5G: Enabling the Future Economy.”⁷⁶⁶ 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.⁷⁶⁷ 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.⁷⁶⁸ The government will also have working group discussions among representatives from across government and industries on regrading 5G issues.⁷⁶⁹ “Efficient rollout 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.⁷⁷⁰

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 2017.⁷⁷¹ The framework details the new era of closer economic engagement between Australia and Indonesia.⁷⁷² In particular, IA-CEPA objectives include increase connectivity within the digital economy, improving e-commerce capability and ensuring free flow of information and investment.⁷⁷³

⁷⁶³ 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>.

⁷⁶⁴ 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>.

⁷⁶⁵ 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>.

⁷⁶⁶ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

⁷⁶⁷ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

⁷⁶⁸ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

⁷⁶⁹ 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>.

⁷⁷⁰ Australia announces 5G strategy, ZD Net (Canberra). 12 October 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-announces-5g-strategy/>.

⁷⁷¹ 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>.

⁷⁷² 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>.

⁷⁷³ 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>.

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.⁷⁷⁴

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.⁷⁷⁵ This is an effort to support the future digital economy in Papua New Guinea and strengthen economic and development benefits between the two countries.⁷⁷⁶

On 16 November 2017, the Digital Transformation Agency released a draft of its Trusted Digital Identify Framework for public feedback.⁷⁷⁷ The framework describes the rules and standards of the government's digital identify program, Govpass.⁷⁷⁸ Govpass enables citizens to access government services online by proving their identity online.⁷⁷⁹

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 and enable them to succeed.⁷⁸⁰ 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.⁷⁸¹

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.”⁷⁸²

⁷⁷⁴ 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>.

⁷⁷⁵ 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>.

⁷⁷⁶ 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>.

⁷⁷⁷ 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/>.

⁷⁷⁸ 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/>.

⁷⁷⁹ 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/>.

⁷⁸⁰ 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>.

⁷⁸¹ 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>.

⁷⁸² 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 30 January 2018, the Australian government released “Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation — a Plan for Australia to Thrive in the Global Innovation Race.”⁷⁸³ It addresses the Australian economy and ways to keep their workforce strong by identifying societal challenges of the 21st century.⁷⁸⁴ The report addresses five strategic imperatives: education, industry, government, research & development and culture and ambition.⁷⁸⁵ 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.⁷⁸⁶

From 31 January 2018 to 1 February 2018, Australia and Indonesia jointly hosted the Indonesia-Australia Digital Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia.⁷⁸⁷ The conference objective is to foster new areas of cooperation, and create deeper commercial linkages between Australia and Indonesia’s digital economy.⁷⁸⁸ The two governments are currently working together to pilot the use of digital governance, new systems and big data to improve planning, decision-making, accountability and service delivery.⁷⁸⁹

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.”⁷⁹⁰

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

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

⁷⁸³ 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>.

⁷⁸⁴ 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>.

⁷⁸⁵ 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>.

⁷⁸⁶ 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>.

⁷⁸⁷ 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.

⁷⁸⁸ 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.

⁷⁸⁹ 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.

⁷⁹⁰ 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>.

Brazil: +1

Brazil has partially 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.⁷⁹¹

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.⁷⁹² 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.⁷⁹³

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.⁷⁹⁴ The Brazilian government defined "the development of collaborative economy and digital media" as one the three priority themes to consolidate tourism policies.⁷⁹⁵

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.⁷⁹⁶

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."⁷⁹⁷

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

⁷⁹¹ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018.

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

⁷⁹² Brazil and Uruguay sign agreement to facilitate bilateral trade, BrazilGovNews (Brazil) 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>.

⁷⁹³ Brazil and Uruguay sign agreement to facilitate bilateral trade, BrazilGovNews (Brazil) 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>.

⁷⁹⁴ Brazil to Chair UNWTO Executive Council from 2020, BrazilGovNews (Brazil) 12 September 2017. Access Date: 3 December 2017. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/09/brazil-to-chair-unwto-executive-council-from-2020>.

⁷⁹⁵ Brazil to Chair UNWTO Executive Council from 2020, BrazilGovNews (Brazil) 12 September 2017. Access Date: 3 December 2017. <http://www.brazilgovnews.gov.br/news/2017/09/brazil-to-chair-unwto-executive-council-from-2020>.

⁷⁹⁶ 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/>.

⁷⁹⁷ 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>.

having to resubmit documents already in government databases.”⁷⁹⁸ The government hopes that this will bring “improvements and efficiency gains to erode barriers imposed on workers and entrepreneurs.”⁷⁹⁹

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.”⁸⁰⁰ 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.”⁸⁰¹

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).⁸⁰² The program 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.⁸⁰³

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

⁷⁹⁸ 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>.

⁷⁹⁹ 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>.

⁸⁰⁰ 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>.

⁸⁰¹ 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>.

⁸⁰² CanCode 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>.

⁸⁰³ CanCode 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>.

Program to develop industry and innovation ready talent for the digital economy.⁸⁰⁴ 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.⁸⁰⁵

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.”⁸⁰⁶ 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.⁸⁰⁷

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 our creative industries thrive and succeed in the digital age.⁸⁰⁸

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.⁸⁰⁹

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.⁸¹⁰ This 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 2022.⁸¹¹

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

⁸⁰⁴ Minister 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/>.

⁸⁰⁵ Minister 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/>.

⁸⁰⁶ 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.

⁸⁰⁷ 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.

⁸⁰⁸ Creative Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 September 2017. Access Day: 21 November 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/creative-canada.html>

⁸⁰⁹ Expanding 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.

⁸¹⁰ Helping 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.

⁸¹¹ 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>.

communities from Stratton to Kejick.⁸¹² 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.⁸¹³

On 12 October 2017, Minister Bains announced the shortlisted applicants to the Innovation Superclusters Initiative (ISI).⁸¹⁴ 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.⁸¹⁵ 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.⁸¹⁶

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.⁸¹⁷ BizPaL is a free online business permit and licence service that saves time and money for Canada's entrepreneurs and SMEs.⁸¹⁸

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 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.⁸¹⁹

⁸¹² 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.

⁸¹³ 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.

⁸¹⁴ 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>.

⁸¹⁵ 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>.

⁸¹⁶ 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>.

⁸¹⁷ 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_canadaandmanitobajoinforcestolaunchbizpalinthew.html.

⁸¹⁸ 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_canadaandmanitobajoinforcestolaunchbizpalinthew.html.

⁸¹⁹ 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>.

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.⁸²⁰ 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.⁸²¹

On 14 December 2017, Minister Bains and Bardish 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.⁸²² This program will use procurement to help Canadian small businesses innovate and create employment opportunities for Canadians.⁸²³

On 18 December 2017, Minister Bains and Bardish Chagger launched the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative (VCCI).⁸²⁴ 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.⁸²⁵ It enables companies to hire additional talent, market-test new products, and expand to new markets in Canada and abroad.⁸²⁶

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.⁸²⁷ This funding will allow more than 1500 households in 70 rural and remote communities in Newfoundland and Labrador to do business online, participate in distance education, and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the digital age.⁸²⁸ 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

⁸²⁰ 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>.

⁸²¹ 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>.

⁸²² 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>.

⁸²³ 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>.

⁸²⁴ 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>.

⁸²⁵ 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>.

⁸²⁶ 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>.

⁸²⁷ 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>.

⁸²⁸ 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>.

or more.⁸²⁹ 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.⁸³⁰

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.⁸³¹

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.⁸³² The program aims to encourage more girls, Indigenous Canadians, and other under-represented groups to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.⁸³³

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.”⁸³⁴

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 strategies.⁸³⁵ Navdeep Bains announced Canada’s five superclusters: the Ocean Supercluster, the

⁸²⁹ 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>.

⁸³⁰ 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>.

⁸³¹ More 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>.

⁸³² CanCode 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.

⁸³³ CanCode 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.

⁸³⁴ 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/>.

⁸³⁵ Government 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>.

SCALE.AI Supercluster, the Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster, the Protein Industries Supercluster, and the Digital Technology Supercluster.⁸³⁶

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.⁸³⁷ 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.⁸³⁸

On 13 March 2018, Minister Bains 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.⁸³⁹

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

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.⁸⁴⁰

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."⁸⁴¹ The APEC Economic Ministers, on behalf of their countries, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ethical business

⁸³⁶ Government 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>.

⁸³⁷ Government 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.

⁸³⁸ Government 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.

⁸³⁹ Government 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>.

⁸⁴⁰ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

⁸⁴¹ 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.

practices to free Small Medium Enterprises from the high costs of corruption and support their ability to access global markets.⁸⁴²

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.⁸⁴³ China recognizes that expanding the digital industry is crucial in driving economic growth.⁸⁴⁴ The country is a world leader in 5G, research and development of next generation of internet technology and standards making.⁸⁴⁵ “According to MIIT, China is currently making a series of positive progress in the 5G vision, needs, concepts, wireless technology and network architecture as well as speeding up the 5G planning.”⁸⁴⁶

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.⁸⁴⁷ His opening speech identified specific terms such as artificial intelligence and digital China as priorities in the country’s development plans.⁸⁴⁸ The speech called for accelerating and integrating the internet, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI) with the economy.⁸⁴⁹ President Xi also stated he 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.⁸⁵⁰

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 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. The Minister has been quoted to

⁸⁴² 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.

⁸⁴³ 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.

⁸⁴⁴ 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.

⁸⁴⁵ 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.

⁸⁴⁶ 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.

⁸⁴⁷ 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>.

⁸⁴⁸ 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>.

⁸⁴⁹ 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>.

⁸⁵⁰ 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>.

have said that China “will actively implement the G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative,” at the 4th World Internet Conference.⁸⁵¹

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.⁸⁵² 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.⁸⁵³ 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.⁸⁵⁴ 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.⁸⁵⁵ He indicated nationwide information-sharing platform should be set up with the use of e-government and smart city systems.⁸⁵⁶ 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.⁸⁵⁷

On 9 January 2018, President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed to advance their comprehensive strategic partnership.⁸⁵⁸ 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,” as one of the several areas addressed.⁸⁵⁹

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.⁸⁶⁰

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

⁸⁵¹ 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.

⁸⁵² 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>.

⁸⁵³ 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>.

⁸⁵⁴ 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>.

⁸⁵⁵ 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>.

⁸⁵⁶ 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>.

⁸⁵⁷ 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>.

⁸⁵⁸ 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>.

⁸⁵⁹ 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>.

⁸⁶⁰ 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>.

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, Italy put forth a joint proposal — along with European Union members France, Germany, and Spain — for a unified digital taxation mechanism aimed towards multinational enterprises (MNEs).⁸⁶¹ 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.⁸⁶²

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.⁸⁶³ At the summit, President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel held bilateral talks to discuss increasing cooperation between Germany and France in the digital economy.⁸⁶⁴

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.⁸⁶⁵ According to these decrees, platforms will have to specify listing and classification criteria such as sponsorship and verification of consumer opinions.

On 11 December 2017, Secretary Mahjoubi announced a national strategy of digital inclusion.⁸⁶⁶ 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.⁸⁶⁷

On 18 December 2017, Minister Le Maire asked his counterparts in the Group of 20 to consider joint regulation of bitcoin.⁸⁶⁸ Several European countries have been pushing for global bitcoin

⁸⁶¹ 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>.

⁸⁶² 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>.

⁸⁶³ 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>.

⁸⁶⁴ 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.

⁸⁶⁵ 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>.

⁸⁶⁶ 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>.

⁸⁶⁷ 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>.

⁸⁶⁸ 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>.

regulation amid mounting alarm that the world's most popular digital currency is being used by money-launderers, drug traffickers and terrorists.⁸⁶⁹

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.⁸⁷⁰

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.⁸⁷¹ Matt Hancock, the UK's Digital and Culture Secretary, announced that the UK and France would be strengthening ties in technology and innovation in order to improve both digital economies while fostering cross-channel collaboration.⁸⁷²

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.⁸⁷³

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.⁸⁷⁴

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.⁸⁷⁵ The Industrial Data Space is a

⁸⁶⁹ 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/>.

⁸⁷⁰ 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/>.

⁸⁷¹ 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>.

⁸⁷² 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>.

⁸⁷³ Ambassador 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/>.

⁸⁷⁴ France 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>.

research project that aims to secure data sharing based on standardized communication interfaces.⁸⁷⁶ 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.⁸⁷⁷ 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.⁸⁷⁸

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).⁸⁷⁹ 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.⁸⁸⁰

On 28 September 2017, Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the EU Digital Summit in Tallinn, Estonia.⁸⁸¹ 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.⁸⁸² Firstly, there must be an agreed upon legal framework that protects all actors in the European digital economy.⁸⁸³ 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.⁸⁸⁴ 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.⁸⁸⁵ Merkel also held bilateral talks with

⁸⁷⁵ 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>.

⁸⁷⁶ 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>.

⁸⁷⁷ 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>.

⁸⁷⁸ Industrial Data Space International Implementation, Fraunhofer Society (Munich) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 21 November 2017.

⁸⁷⁹ 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>.

⁸⁸⁰ 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>.

⁸⁸¹ 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.

⁸⁸² 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.

⁸⁸³ 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.

⁸⁸⁴ 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.

⁸⁸⁵ 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.

French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss increasing cooperation between Germany and France in the digital economy.⁸⁸⁶

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.⁸⁸⁷

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.⁸⁸⁸ 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.⁸⁸⁹

On January 24 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.⁸⁹⁰ 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 protection standards, which take effect 25 May 2018.⁸⁹¹ 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.⁸⁹²

⁸⁸⁶ 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.

⁸⁸⁷ 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/stucture/dep25/2017031005>.

⁸⁸⁸ 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>.

⁸⁸⁹ 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>.

⁸⁹⁰ 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>.

⁸⁹¹ 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>.

⁸⁹² 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>.

Germany has actively taken steps to foster favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy domestically and internationally. Germany has promoted international dialogue on digitalisation and the growth of the digital economy through public consultations and leading bilateral communication on digitalisation collaboration. It has also taken steps towards supporting domestic business and research cooperation on digitalisation through the use of grants and public incentives.

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.⁸⁹³

On 13 November 2017, the Indian government proposed a subsidy of INR3,600 to private telecommunication companies through viability gap funding.⁸⁹⁴

On 27 November 2017, the Indian government and the United States held the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad, India.⁸⁹⁵ 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.⁸⁹⁶

On 28 November 2017, the Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) released a paper about recommendations on net neutrality.⁸⁹⁷

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.⁸⁹⁸

On 24 January 2018, the TRAI held an Open House Discussion in New Delhi for a consultation paper on inputs for formulation of national telecom policy.⁸⁹⁹

⁸⁹³ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

⁸⁹⁴ 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>.

⁸⁹⁵ 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>.

⁸⁹⁶ 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>.

⁸⁹⁷ Recommendations on Net Neutrality, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (New Delhi) 28 November 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018.

⁸⁹⁸ 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. http://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/%20CP_ICT_20122017.

Also 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.⁹⁰⁰

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 2022.⁹⁰¹

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.⁹⁰²

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

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 has signed an e-commerce road map that will provide guidelines for Indonesia's digital economy sector.⁹⁰³ It is to be 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.⁹⁰⁴

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."⁹⁰⁵ Indonesia aims to increase the supply of digital products from the Indonesian city of Batam to Singapore. Indonesia will use Batam

⁸⁹⁹ 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.trai.gov.in/news-updates/ohd-consultation-paper-inputs-formulation-national-telecom-policy-2018-new-delhi>.

⁹⁰⁰ 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.trai.gov.in/news-updates/ohd-consultation-paper-inputs-formulation-national-telecom-policy-2018-new-delhi>.

⁹⁰¹ 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/trai-releases-recommendations-for-national-telecom-policy-2018-targets-investment-of-100-billion-by-2022-4333569.html>.

⁹⁰² 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://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/ites/india-to-be-1-trillion-digital-economy-in-5-years-ravi-shankar-prasad/articleshow/62986182.cms>.

⁹⁰³ 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>.

⁹⁰⁴ 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>.

⁹⁰⁵ 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>.

as a digital bridge to link Singapore to other digital communities in various Indonesian cities in future.⁹⁰⁶

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 nations, which highlights digital economic cooperation, according to a statement made by Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi.⁹⁰⁷

On 15 September 2017, Indonesia 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."⁹⁰⁸ 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.⁹⁰⁹

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.⁹¹⁰

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.⁹¹¹

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.

⁹⁰⁶ 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>.

⁹⁰⁷ 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>.

⁹⁰⁸ 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.

⁹⁰⁹ 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.

⁹¹⁰ 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>.

⁹¹¹ 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>.

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.⁹¹²

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 (MNEs).⁹¹³ 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.⁹¹⁴

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 2025.⁹¹⁵ The formulation of specific legislative proposals was not the central focus of the summit.⁹¹⁶

On 13 October 2017, Italy provided lending support to small and medium-sized enterprises through the renewal of its New Sabbatini Law under the 2018 Budget Act.⁹¹⁷ The New Sabbatini Law, originally enacted from 2014-2016, enables SMEs to access cheaper financing by lowering the lending rate by 2.75 per cent.⁹¹⁸

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.⁹¹⁹

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.

⁹¹² 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: November 25 2017. <https://www.indracompany.com/en/noticia/indra-signs-new-framework-contract-eu109-million-part-digitalization-project-italian-public>.

⁹¹³ 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>.

⁹¹⁴ 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>.

⁹¹⁵ Estonia sees digital summit as success in itself, EUObserver (Tallin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://euobserver.com/eu-presidency/139204>.

⁹¹⁶ Estonia sees digital summit as success in itself, EUObserver (Tallin) 29 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <https://euobserver.com/eu-presidency/139204>.

⁹¹⁷ Legge di Stabilità 2018, Fisco e Tasse (Rome) 17 October 2017. Access Date 25 November 2017. <https://www.fiscoetasse.com/legge-di-stabilita>.

⁹¹⁸ Legge di Stabilità 2018, Fisco e Tasse (Rome) 17 October 2017. Access Date 25 November 2017. <https://www.fiscoetasse.com/legge-di-stabilita>.

⁹¹⁹ 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>.

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.”⁹²⁰ 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.⁹²¹

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.⁹²²

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.⁹²³

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.⁹²⁴

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.⁹²⁵

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.”⁹²⁶

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

⁹²⁰ 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.

⁹²¹ 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.

⁹²² 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>.

⁹²³ 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>.

⁹²⁴ 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.

⁹²⁵ 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/>.

⁹²⁶ 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>.

(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.”⁹²⁷

Japan issued joint statements with multiple countries expressing its commitment to improving the digital economy and aid SMEs. While 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.⁹²⁸ The meeting discussed possible means to strengthen relations and achieve the goals of the EBRD.⁹²⁹ Created in 1991, the EBRD supports the transition of economies in central and eastern Europe.⁹³⁰ Accordingly, the meeting was centered around its major initiatives including creating an inclusive market economy.⁹³¹

On 31 July 2017, the Ministry of Science and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hosted a workshop to facilitate global entrepreneurship.⁹³² The purpose was to “nurture heads of promising SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] and ventures in ICT.”⁹³³ This 12-day event was held at Stanford University and hosted heads of 23 companies.⁹³⁴

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.⁹³⁵ Eighteen Korean Companies showcased their services and goods to buyers,

⁹²⁷ 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/>.

⁹²⁸ 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>.

⁹²⁹ 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=>.

⁹³⁰ EBRD President in talks in Seoul to boost ties with Korean business, EBRD (London) 7 July 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://www.ebrd.com/news/2016/ebrd-president-in-talks-in-seoul-to-boost-ties-with-korean-business.html>.

⁹³¹ 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>.

⁹³² 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=>.

⁹³³ 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>.

⁹³⁴ 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>.

⁹³⁵ 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?mld=Mjc0>.

investors and businesses.⁹³⁶ 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.⁹³⁷

On 6 September 2017, Minister of Science and ICT You Young Min met with the Russian Minister of Economic Development.⁹³⁸ The meeting resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between Korea and Russia to “cooperate on science, technology and innovation.”⁹³⁹ Both countries agreed to hold joint projects and supportive exchanges between firms to further evolve both economies.⁹⁴⁰

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.”⁹⁴¹ 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.⁹⁴²

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.⁹⁴³ Under the section on “Creating jobs and improving income,” the document outlined the introduction of a new mobile plan with reduced costs was suggested.⁹⁴⁴ Under the section on “Growth through innovation,” the Bureau stated that it will “launch an innovative venture fund worth around USD2.7 trillion” to foster digital ventures.⁹⁴⁵

On 13 February 2018, Deputy Prime Minister Kim Dong Yeon participated in the annual Korea-Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister meeting.⁹⁴⁶ In the meeting, Kim underlined Korea’s commitment

⁹³⁶ 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?mld=>.

⁹³⁷ 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?mld=>.

⁹³⁸ 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?mld=Mjc0>.

⁹³⁹ 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?mld=Mjc0>.

⁹⁴⁰ 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?mld=Mjc0>.

⁹⁴¹ 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.

⁹⁴² 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.

⁹⁴³ 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>.

⁹⁴⁴ 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>.

⁹⁴⁵ 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>.

⁹⁴⁶ 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>.

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.”⁹⁴⁷ Moreover, several Korean companies in IT software attended the conference and was able to directly interact with Uzbek officials.⁹⁴⁸

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 15 September 2017, Mexico 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.”⁹⁴⁹ 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.⁹⁵⁰

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.⁹⁵¹

From 17-19 October 2017, together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Harvard-MIT-sponsored Data-Pop Alliance, the Coordinación de Estrategia Digital Nacional led a workshop with the theme “Big Data, Economy, and Sustainable Development.”⁹⁵²

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

⁹⁴⁷ Korea and Uzbekistan Agree to Enhance Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 14 February 2018. Access Date: March 14, 2018.
<http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4440>.

⁹⁴⁸ Korea and Uzbekistan Agree to Enhance Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 14 February 2018. Access Date: March 14, 2018.

<http://english.mosf.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4440>.

⁹⁴⁹ 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.

⁹⁵⁰ 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.

⁹⁵¹ 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/>.

⁹⁵² Webinar: The Future of Open Government Data in Mexico, OECD (Paris) 18 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. 2017. <http://www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/the-future-of-open-government-data-in-mexico-webinar.html>.

Government Data in Mexico: Challenges and Experiences in OECD Countries,” which was attended by high-level public officials from several major OECD members.⁹⁵³

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.⁹⁵⁴ Mexico has promoted digital economy concerns extensively amidst ongoing NAFTA re-negotiations.⁹⁵⁵ 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.”⁹⁵⁶

On 6 September 2017, Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alibaba to increase co-operation between the company and the Ministry of Economy.⁹⁵⁷ 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.⁹⁵⁸ Alibaba will also train Mexican SMEs best practices related to e-commerce trends, logistics, digital payments and analytics.⁹⁵⁹

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.⁹⁶⁰

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

⁹⁵³ Webinar: The Future of Open Government Data in Mexico, OECD (Paris) 18 October 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. 2017. <http://www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/the-future-of-open-government-data-in-mexico-webinar.html>.

⁹⁵⁴ 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_bureauinforcestieswithusandmexicancompetitionautho.html.

⁹⁵⁵ 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>.

⁹⁵⁶ 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>.

⁹⁵⁷ 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>.

⁹⁵⁸ 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>.

⁹⁵⁹ 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>.

⁹⁶⁰ Mexico's CES 2018 presence is the start of something big, Engadget (Las Vega) 12 January 2018. Access Date: 15 January 2018. <https://www.engadget.com/2018/01/12/mexico-ces/>.

Partnership, which failed after the withdrawal of the US. This partnership will “promote the ease of data flows in the digital economy.”⁹⁶¹

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.⁹⁶²

On 4 September 2017, together with the other BRICS leaders, President Vladimir Putin took part in a meeting with members of the BRICS Business Council.⁹⁶³ During Putin’s speech, he stated that digitalisation is one of the drivers of global growth today, which plays a vital part in increasing labour productivity and improving people’s living standards.⁹⁶⁴ According to Putin, new technology solutions help Russia to find markets in the BRICS countries not only for large companies, but also for small and medium business.⁹⁶⁵ “In this respect,” said Putin, “Russia proposed to its partners that we establish cooperation between national Internet resources in small business and organize information exchange on goods and services on offer and on reliable suppliers and partners.”⁹⁶⁶

On 6 September 2017, the Minister of Economic Development met with Korean Minister of Science and Information and Communications Technology You Young Min.⁹⁶⁷ The meeting resulted in an Memorandum of Understanding between Korea and Russia to “cooperate on science, technology

⁹⁶¹ 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/>.

⁹⁶² “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>

⁹⁶³ 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>.

⁹⁶⁴ 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>.

⁹⁶⁵ 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>.

⁹⁶⁶ 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>.

⁹⁶⁷ 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.”⁹⁶⁸ Both countries agreed to hold joint projects and supportive exchanges between firms to further evolve both economies.⁹⁶⁹

On 8-9 September 2017, Russia held the Moscow Financial Forum, which focused on changing the structure of the global financial system to promote economic growth, deal with current challenges and ensure sustainable growth, as well as on international experience and national features of the digitalisation of the economy.⁹⁷⁰

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.”⁹⁷¹ 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.⁹⁷²

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.⁹⁷³ According to Putin, modern technology in the banking sphere opens new opportunities for organizations and citizens, making business activity and everyday life more convenient.⁹⁷⁴ 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.”⁹⁷⁵

On 11 October 2017, President Putin attended a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Sochi, where 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” were signed.⁹⁷⁶ During the meeting, Putin stated that Russia was ready to take an active part in carrying out the digital agenda, which amounts to

⁹⁶⁸ 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>.

⁹⁶⁹ 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>.

⁹⁷⁰ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

⁹⁷¹ 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.

⁹⁷² 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.

⁹⁷³ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

⁹⁷⁴ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

⁹⁷⁵ Moscow Financial Forum, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 September 2017. Access Date: 25 November 2017. <http://government.ru/en/news/29174/>.

⁹⁷⁶ 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>.

conducting a coordinated policy among Union members to develop the internet economy and adopt uniform standards for the exchange of information and its protection.⁹⁷⁷

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 member-economies of the APEC forum in Da Nang, Vietnam.⁹⁷⁸ 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.⁹⁷⁹ The ministers adopted a joint statement based on the results of the conference.⁹⁸⁰

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.⁹⁸¹ 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.⁹⁸² 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.⁹⁸³

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.⁹⁸⁴ 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

⁹⁷⁷ 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>.

⁹⁷⁸ 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.

⁹⁷⁹ 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.

⁹⁸⁰ 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.

⁹⁸¹ 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/>.

⁹⁸² 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/>.

⁹⁸³ 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/>.

⁹⁸⁴ 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/sEkQTukfOR39/content/id/2983422.

facilitating economic interconnectedness, removing barriers in various fields of economic operation, ensuring sustainable economic growth, developing digital economy and promoting a more dynamic interaction of integration processes in the OSCE region.⁹⁸⁵

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.⁹⁸⁶ 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.”⁹⁸⁷

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.⁹⁸⁸ 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.⁹⁸⁹ He also mentioned, “it is also necessary to introduce high technologies into public administration, industrial production, customs regulation and other areas.”⁹⁹⁰

On 2 February 2018, Prime Minister Medvedev took part in Digital Agenda in the Globalisation Era International Forum in Almaty, Kazakhstan. 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. 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.”⁹⁹¹

⁹⁸⁵ 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.

⁹⁸⁶ 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.

⁹⁸⁷ 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>.

⁹⁸⁸ 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>.

⁹⁸⁹ 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>.

⁹⁹⁰ 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>.

⁹⁹¹ 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.⁹⁹² 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.⁹⁹³ 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.⁹⁹⁴

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: Wilkey Rong

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 National Digitisation Unit launched the "Fekra Tech" initiative.⁹⁹⁵ This initiative aims to make Saudi Arabia one of the world's leading digital innovation 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.⁹⁹⁶ 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.⁹⁹⁷

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.⁹⁹⁸ Abdulaziz Al-Ruwais presented Saudi Arabia's efforts to provide fibre

⁹⁹² 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.

⁹⁹³ 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.

⁹⁹⁴ 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.

⁹⁹⁵ 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.

⁹⁹⁶ 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.

⁹⁹⁷ 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.

⁹⁹⁸ 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.

optic broadband to rural areas in Saudi Arabia in order bridge the digital divide, encourage digital entrepreneurship, and develop the digital economy.⁹⁹⁹

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.¹⁰⁰⁰ 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.¹⁰⁰¹

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.¹⁰⁰² The aim of this agreement is to reduce the digital divide in Saudi Arabia.¹⁰⁰³

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.¹⁰⁰⁴ The purpose of this meeting was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to drive the digital industrial transformation in Saudi Arabia.¹⁰⁰⁵ 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.¹⁰⁰⁶ The meeting was attended by Minister Al-Swaha and German Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dieter Haller.¹⁰⁰⁷

On December 18, 2017 the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology organized a workshop for representatives from private sector companies in the Communications and Information Technology Sector. The workshop reviewed innovative solutions that would implement best practices in the development of digital skills for technical workers in the private sector. The

⁹⁹⁹ 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.

¹⁰⁰⁰ 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.

¹⁰⁰¹ 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.

¹⁰⁰² 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.

¹⁰⁰³ 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.

¹⁰⁰⁴ 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.

¹⁰⁰⁵ 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.

¹⁰⁰⁶ 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.

¹⁰⁰⁷ 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.

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.¹⁰⁰⁸

On December 19, 2017 International Data Corporation hosted the Saudi Arabian Government Congress 2017, which explored the theme of ‘Government 2030: Innovation-led Digitization’. 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.¹⁰⁰⁹

On January 28-30, 2018 the first Annual Saudi Internet of Things Conference, hosted by the Saudi International Exhibition for the Internet of Things, took place. The three-day event included panel discussions of industry professionals presenting white papers on emerging technologies in the IoT industry, and sessions highlighting how current and emerging technologies are in line with digital transformation initiatives.¹⁰¹⁰

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

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.¹⁰¹¹

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.”¹⁰¹²

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

¹⁰⁰⁸ 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?url=wc:path%3A%2FMCIT_en%2FNews%2FCONT-news-318122017.

¹⁰⁰⁹ 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>.

¹⁰¹⁰ 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>.

¹⁰¹¹ Ninth BRICS Summit opens, BRICS 2017 (Hangzhou) 9 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2018. <https://www.brics2017.org/English/>.

¹⁰¹² 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.¹⁰¹³

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 2018.¹⁰¹⁴

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.¹⁰¹⁵

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: +1

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.¹⁰¹⁶ The first draft revamps the current use of the Turkish e-bill.¹⁰¹⁷ 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.¹⁰¹⁸

On 5 December 2017, the IT conference, CD Turkey, was held.¹⁰¹⁹ The conference, backed by the Turkish government, gathered IT professionals and executives from companies such as Ebay,

¹⁰¹³ 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/>.

¹⁰¹⁴ 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>.

¹⁰¹⁵ 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>.

¹⁰¹⁶ 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/>.

¹⁰¹⁷ 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/>.

¹⁰¹⁸ 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/>.

¹⁰¹⁹ 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>.

Mastercard, Dropbox, and KPMG.¹⁰²⁰ 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.¹⁰²¹

On 5 December 2017, the Turkish government unveiled Law No.7061, which amends tax laws that affect e-commerce.¹⁰²² 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 activities.”¹⁰²³ 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.”¹⁰²⁴

On 1 March 2018, Turkey held a large cryptocurrency event, Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference, in Istanbul.¹⁰²⁵ 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.¹⁰²⁶ 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.¹⁰²⁷

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

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

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.

¹⁰²⁰ 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>.

¹⁰²¹ 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>.

¹⁰²² 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>.

¹⁰²³ Turkish to enact new law to increase tax revenues, EY Tax Insights (Istanbul) 05 December 2017. Access Date: March 14, 2017 <http://taxinsights.ey-vx.com/archive/archive-news/turkey-enacts-new-law-to-increase-tax-revenues.aspx>.

¹⁰²⁴ Turkish to enact new law to increase tax revenues, EY Tax Insights (Istanbul) 05 December 2017. Access Date: March 14, 2017 <http://taxinsights.ey-vx.com/archive/archive-news/turkey-enacts-new-law-to-increase-tax-revenues.aspx>.

¹⁰²⁵ 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/>.

¹⁰²⁶ 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/>.

¹⁰²⁷ 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/>.

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 "The program will involve 50 representatives of UK technology companies coming over to Malaysia ... They will undergo various business matching sessions, pitching events and panel discussions about the technology scene."¹⁰²⁸

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."¹⁰²⁹

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.¹⁰³⁰ The agreement confirms the UK's investment of USD88 million in funding and creation of 4000 jobs in Physics Projects Long Baseline Neutrino Facility and Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment and enhancement in digital research skills in museums.¹⁰³¹

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."¹⁰³² The government hopes that "These reforms will help to drive investment and stimulate the continued growth, rollout and maintenance of communication technology infrastructure."¹⁰³³

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."¹⁰³⁴

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.¹⁰³⁵ The two agreed to

¹⁰²⁸ 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/>.

¹⁰²⁹ 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>.

¹⁰³⁰ 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>.

¹⁰³¹ 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>.

¹⁰³² 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>.

¹⁰³³ "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>.

¹⁰³⁴ 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>.

broaden the level of collaboration between Saudi Arabia and the UK on digitalisation, particularly in the field of cyber security.¹⁰³⁶

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.”¹⁰³⁷

On 22 November 2017, Chancellor Phillip Hammond announced several national budget digital economy allocations.¹⁰³⁸ “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 development and GBP30 million to develop digital skills distance learning courses.”¹⁰³⁹ As well, GBP80 million were dedicated to render public the government’s geospatial mapping data, targeting SMEs in particular.¹⁰⁴⁰

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.¹⁰⁴¹ This new tax is part of an interim approach as the UK continues to formulate its approach to taxing the digital economy.¹⁰⁴²

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.¹⁰⁴³

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

¹⁰³⁵ 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

¹⁰³⁶ 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.

¹⁰³⁷ 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>.

¹⁰³⁸ 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/>.

¹⁰³⁹ 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/>.

¹⁰⁴⁰ 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/>.

¹⁰⁴¹ 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/>.

¹⁰⁴² 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>.

¹⁰⁴³ 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/>.

in the development of new technologies.”¹⁰⁴⁴ With the Digital Charter, the government aims to keep the internet free, open and accessible.¹⁰⁴⁵

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 sign a USD500 million compact for South Asia to improve global infrastructure connectivity and economic development.¹⁰⁴⁶

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.”¹⁰⁴⁷ 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.¹⁰⁴⁸

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. 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.¹⁰⁴⁹

¹⁰⁴⁴ 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>.

¹⁰⁴⁵ 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>.

¹⁰⁴⁶ 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>.

¹⁰⁴⁷ 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.

¹⁰⁴⁸ 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.

¹⁰⁴⁹ 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>.

On 10 October 2017, the Department of State held a forum on Blockchain Technology. The forum educates 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.¹⁰⁵⁰ As Deputy Secretary Sullivan states, "Blockchain has the potential to become a transformative technology of our lifetime."¹⁰⁵¹

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.¹⁰⁵²

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.¹⁰⁵³

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.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 6 November 2017, the US welcomed President of Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in the signing of a new USD525 million compact to encourage economic and global infrastructure connectivity growth in the West African region.¹⁰⁵⁵

On 27 November 2017, the US and Indian governments held the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad, India.¹⁰⁵⁶ 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.¹⁰⁵⁷

On 20 December 2017, the Department of Commerce renewed the Charter for the Digital Economy Board of Advisors. 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

¹⁰⁵⁰ 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>.

¹⁰⁵¹ 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>.

¹⁰⁵² 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>.

¹⁰⁵³ 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>.

¹⁰⁵⁴ 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/>.

¹⁰⁵⁵ 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>.

¹⁰⁵⁶ 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>.

¹⁰⁵⁷ 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>.

economy.¹⁰⁵⁸ The Board consists of leaders in industry and civil society who are prominent experts in their fields and recognized for their professional achievements.

On 12 January 2018, the Department of Commerce released a report proposing steps the Department can take to advance the Internet of Things (IoT).¹⁰⁵⁹ The report examines the benefits 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.¹⁰⁶⁰

On 16 January 2018, the White House hosted Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev to sign new agreements for improved economic cooperation.¹⁰⁶¹ An agreement between the US' GE Digital and Kazakhstan's National Wealth Fund was signed to establish a sustainable digital economy and infrastructure development through modernization of regional power grids and energy security in Kazakhstan.¹⁰⁶²

On 1 February 2018, the US and the European Union held the 15th Information Society Dialogue.¹⁰⁶³ 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.¹⁰⁶⁴

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."¹⁰⁶⁵

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

¹⁰⁵⁸ 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>.

¹⁰⁵⁹ 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>.

¹⁰⁶⁰ 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>.

¹⁰⁶¹ 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>.

¹⁰⁶² 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>.

¹⁰⁶³ 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>.

¹⁰⁶⁴ 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>.

¹⁰⁶⁵ 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>.

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.¹⁰⁶⁶ 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.¹⁰⁶⁷

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.¹⁰⁶⁸

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.¹⁰⁶⁹

On 11 August 2017, the European Commission approved high-speed Internet solutions for rural areas of Germany.¹⁰⁷⁰ The funding will improve connectivity of rural areas for lower costs through the introduction of virtual unbundled local access in vectoring technology.¹⁰⁷¹

On 5 September 2017, the fifth EU Prize for Women Innovators was launched. 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.¹⁰⁷²

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.¹⁰⁷³

¹⁰⁶⁶ 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>.

¹⁰⁶⁷ 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>.

¹⁰⁶⁸ 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>.

¹⁰⁶⁹ 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>.

¹⁰⁷⁰ 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>.

¹⁰⁷¹ 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>.

¹⁰⁷² 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>.

¹⁰⁷³ €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.

On 18 September 2017, the European Commission presented a renewed Industrial Policy Strategy for innovation, digitalization, and decarbonization.¹⁰⁷⁴ 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.¹⁰⁷⁵

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.¹⁰⁷⁶ The new rules also govern the free flow of non-personal data in EU.¹⁰⁷⁷

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.¹⁰⁷⁸

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.¹⁰⁷⁹

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.¹⁰⁸⁰ The tool will help schools improve the efficient use of digital technology in their teaching.¹⁰⁸¹

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.¹⁰⁸²

¹⁰⁷⁴ 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>.

¹⁰⁷⁵ 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>.

¹⁰⁷⁶ 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>.

¹⁰⁷⁷ 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>.

¹⁰⁷⁸ 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>.

¹⁰⁷⁹ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁰ 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>.

¹⁰⁸¹ 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>.

¹⁰⁸² 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>.

On 6 October 2017, the European Commission pledged to spread the e-government in Estonia's electronic identification across the EU.¹⁰⁸³

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.¹⁰⁸⁴

On 3 November 2017, the European Union and Tanzania signed an agreement in the support of rural electrification in the country.¹⁰⁸⁵ The EU will provide EUR50 million in support of the initiative.¹⁰⁸⁶

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.¹⁰⁸⁷

On 25 November 2017, the European Commission adopted rules for the improvement of safety of electronic payments in shop locations and online stores.¹⁰⁸⁸ 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.¹⁰⁸⁹

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.¹⁰⁹⁰

On 30 November 2017, the Competitiveness 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.¹⁰⁹¹

On 5 December 2017, the European Commission announced measures to improve the value-added tax (VAT) for online companies in the EU.¹⁰⁹² 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.¹⁰⁹³

¹⁰⁸³ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁴ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁵ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁶ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁷ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁸ 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>.

¹⁰⁸⁹ 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>.

¹⁰⁹⁰ 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>.

¹⁰⁹¹ 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>.

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.¹⁰⁹⁴

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.¹⁰⁹⁵

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.¹⁰⁹⁶

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.¹⁰⁹⁷

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.¹⁰⁹⁸

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.¹⁰⁹⁹

On 21 December 2017, the Members of the European Parliament signed a declaration for net neutrality ensuring the continued implementation of open Internet ecosystems.¹¹⁰⁰

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.¹¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁹² 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>.

¹⁰⁹³ 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>.

¹⁰⁹⁴ 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>.

¹⁰⁹⁵ 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>.

¹⁰⁹⁶ 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>.

¹⁰⁹⁷ €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>.

¹⁰⁹⁸ 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>.

¹⁰⁹⁹ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁰ 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>.

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.¹¹⁰² PSD2 aims to modernize Europe's payment services in keeping pace with the evolving market.¹¹⁰³

On 18 January 2018, European Union members were given new rules to improve the flexibility for setting the VAT.¹¹⁰⁴ The new rules will allow the states to foster more favourable tax environments for SMEs to flourish by reducing VAT fraud and supporting businesses.¹¹⁰⁵

On 18 January 2018, the European Union introduced new requirements for payment card schemes and processing entities to increase competition for card payment market.¹¹⁰⁶ The requirements aim to reduce costs for consumers through reduced processing costs and retailers through selection of the best card transaction processors.¹¹⁰⁷

On 22 January 2018, the EU created the Counterfeit and Piracy Watch-List to identify counterfeiting, piracy, and other intellectual property abuse.¹¹⁰⁸ The watch-list aims to inform consumers of counterfeit marketplace material and reprimand merchants.¹¹⁰⁹

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.¹¹¹⁰

On 24 January 2018, the European Commission launched new guidance and online tools for the EU's new data protection rules.¹¹¹¹ The guidance and online tools created by the Commission aim to aid the implementation of the protection program and establish trust in digital privacy.¹¹¹²

¹¹⁰¹ 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>.

¹¹⁰² 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>.

¹¹⁰³ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁴ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁵ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁶ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁷ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁸ 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>.

¹¹⁰⁹ 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>.

¹¹¹⁰ 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.

¹¹¹¹ 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>.

On 31 January 2018, the European Commission endorsed provisions for cross-border data flows and personal data protection during trade.¹¹¹³ The Commission provided mechanisms under the data protection legislation for data flow between EU and other countries.¹¹¹⁴

On 1 February 2018, the European Commission created the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum.¹¹¹⁵ 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.¹¹¹⁶ 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.¹¹¹⁷

On 1 February 2018, the United States and EU held the 15th Information Society Dialogue.¹¹¹⁸ 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.¹¹¹⁹

On 1 February 2018, the European Commission launched a EUR50 million pilot to support the creation of cybersecurity competence centres across the EU.¹¹²⁰ The project selected will be used in the creation of the competence network to strengthen cybersecurity in the EU.¹¹²¹

On 2 February 2018, the European Commission approved public funding for electronic data boxes in the Czech Republic.¹¹²² The service aims to improve electronic communication for internal

¹¹¹² 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>.

¹¹¹³ 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>.

¹¹¹⁴ 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>.

¹¹¹⁵ 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>.

¹¹¹⁶ 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>.

¹¹¹⁷ 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>.

¹¹¹⁸ 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>.

¹¹¹⁹ 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>.

¹¹²⁰ €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>.

¹¹²¹ €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>.

¹¹²² 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>.

communication between public administration and for communication between citizens, administrations, and companies.¹¹²³

On 15 February 2018, the European Commission announced enforcement of EU consumer rules for social media companies.¹¹²⁴ The consumer rules are enforced to protect citizens and companies infringing on EU consumer rights will face sanctions.¹¹²⁵

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.¹¹²⁶ The agreement introduced new measures for the European Electronic Communications Code.¹¹²⁷ Some of the measures include expanding 5G availability, 20-year investments for spectrum licenses, and improvement of planned radio spectrum assignment procedures.¹¹²⁸

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

¹¹²³ 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>.

¹¹²⁴ 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>.

¹¹²⁵ 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>.

¹¹²⁶ 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>.

¹¹²⁷ 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>.

¹¹²⁸ 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>.