

Annex B

Factsheet on the European Union-Singapore Digital Partnership (EUSDP)

The EUSDP is an overarching framework for all areas of digital cooperation between Singapore and the EU. These include core issues in the cross-border digital economy such as digital trade facilitation, trusted data flows, electronic payments, and standards and conformance; as well as new and emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, digital identities, and 5G/6G. The EUSDP will also support and enable broader participation in the digital economy through cooperation on digital upskilling for workers, and the digital transformation of businesses as well as public services. Collaborations on different issues will be advanced through various modalities, including Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), technical workshops, and legally binding commitments.

Under the EUSDP, the EU and Singapore have also established a Digital Partnership Council at the Minister-level to steer the EUSDP's progress and implementation, as well as identify new areas of cooperation in future. The kickoff Digital Partnership Council meeting held on 1 February 2023 welcomed the first deliverable of a set of bilateral Digital Trade Principles. Both Ministers also looked forward to collaborations on pilots and projects between Singapore and the EU, including the EU Member States, in partnership with the private sector.

Highlights of cooperation areas

Digital trade

1. Singapore and the EU have established a set of Digital Trade Principles as the first deliverable under the EUSDP. The Digital Trade Principles mark the first step towards bilateral digital trade rules between the EU and Singapore. It signals the EU and Singapore's commitment to fostering open, competitive, and fair digital markets, and enabling businesses and consumers to benefit from the cost savings and efficiency gains from digital trade between Singapore and the EU, and supports global norms in these areas. Both sides will also develop pilot projects in the digitalisation and recognition of trade administration and commercial documents, as well as e-invoicing to enable more seamless transactions and reduced cost for businesses.

Digital connectivity

2. Digital infrastructure including data centres and submarine telecommunications cables are key to facilitating cross-border connectivity between countries and across regions. Singapore and the EU will collaborate to foster an enabling environment for secure, resilient and sustainable digital infrastructure for our people and companies.

5G and beyond 5G technologies

3. To drive the development and uptake of 5G and beyond 5G technologies, Singapore and the EU will explore use cases and possible cooperation on research & development pilots.

Data flows

4. To support trusted cross-border data flows and data sharing, Singapore and the EU will work on the application of model data protection contracts and provide guidance for their use, as well as exchange information on the infrastructure and governance frameworks needed to facilitate data sharing. Both sides will also cooperate on the use of privacy enhancing technologies, including exploring industry and research collaboration.

Cybersecurity

5. To work towards the interoperability of regulatory frameworks and technical standards, Singapore and the EU will continue to strengthen cooperation and exchanges on cybersecurity certifications and standards, including exploring potential mutual recognition arrangements where appropriate.

Supply chain resilience: semiconductors

6. To strengthen our supply chain resilience, Singapore and the EU will exchange relevant information for supply chain monitoring in anticipation of disruptions. Both sides will also explore opportunities for collaboration in advanced research and cybersecurity testing for semiconductors.

Artificial Intelligence

7. To support the deployment of AI, Singapore and the EU will encourage interoperability on AI governance, standards, and testing frameworks. Both sides will also explore cooperation on AI testbeds and research collaboration on AI.

Online platforms

8. To promote a safer and human-centric online environment, Singapore and the EU will deepen our cooperation and information sharing in platform governance and regulation.

Digital identities and electronic authentication

9. To enable the use of digital identities for more seamless digital transactions, Singapore and the EU will identify and implement use cases for the use of electronic signatures and digital identities, with a view to promoting compatibility and interoperability.

Digital transformation of SMEs

10. To promote the digital transformation of our Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Singapore and the EU will cooperate on business matchmaking, as well as capability and capacity building initiatives to support SMEs in leveraging digital tools and adapting to digital trade.

Digital education and skills

11. To ensure that our citizens and businesses can benefit from digitalisation, Singapore and the EU will explore cooperation on capability and capacity building programmes in relation to digital education and skills. Both sides will also explore the development of a cross-border tech talent network, and a mentorship network for young entrepreneurs.

Digitalisation in the financial sector

12. To support digitalisation in the financial sector, Singapore and the EU will exchange information and share best practices on digital finance developments.