



Basic information	
2025/0273(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Preparatory phase in Parliament
EU–Korea Digital Trade Agreement Subject 3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries Geographical area South Korea	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	Pending final decision on the referral		
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade and Economic Security	ŠEFČOVIČ Maroš	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/09/2025	Preparatory document	COM(2025)0479 	Summary
15/06/2026	Legislative proposal published	13083/2025	

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/0273(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Preparatory phase in Parliament

Documentation gateway
Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	13083/2025	15/06/2026	
European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2025)0478 	10/09/2025	
Preparatory document	COM(2025)0479 	10/09/2025	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EU–Korea Digital Trade Agreement

2025/0273(NLE) - 10/09/2025 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Korea on Digital Trade.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: digital trade accounts for around 25% of total international trade and has grown faster than traditional trade. The EU is both the world's largest exporter and importer of services that can be supplied electronically, worth EUR 1.3 trillion in 2022, representing 54% of total EU trade in services.

On 27 June 2023, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations on disciplines related to digital trade with the Republic of Korea. The Commission, on behalf of the Union, and Korea launched negotiations on 31 October 2023. Negotiations were concluded in principle on 10 March 2025.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decide to approve, on behalf of the Union, the **Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Korea on Digital Trade**.

The EU-Korea Digital Trade Agreement is a **modern, stand-alone agreement with ambitious commitments** on digital trade. The agreement will strengthen online consumer protection, provide legal certainty for businesses wishing to engage in cross-border digital trade, and remove unjustified barriers to digital trade. It will complement the existing EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by deepening and supporting existing bilateral trade relations between the EU and Korea from a digital perspective.

The commitments on digital trade are **binding** and range from commitments on cross-border data flows and online consumer protection to commitments on software source code protection.

The Agreement:

- includes provisions consistent with EU practice based on the 2018 horizontal provisions on cross-border data flows and the protection of personal data and privacy in trade agreements, which recognise the right of each Party to determine the appropriate level of protection for privacy and personal data;
- provides for horizontal exceptions, a dispute settlement mechanism, and an institutional framework;
- makes applicable, through cross-references, the relevant provisions of the FTA that establish the framework for the application of the EU-Korea Digital Trade Agreement.

The Agreement will enter into force once the EU and Korea have fulfilled their respective requirements and procedures necessary for signature and conclusion, and have exchanged written notifications to this effect.