

Basic information	
2026/0191(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Preparatory phase in Parliament
Agreement on Electronic Commerce Subject 3.45.05 Business policy, e-commerce, after-sales service, commercial distribution 4.60.06 Consumers' economic and legal interests 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	Pending final decision on the referral		
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/07/2026	Preparatory document	COM(2026)0356 	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2026/0191(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Preparatory phase in Parliament

Documentation gateway			
European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2026)0356 	13/07/2026	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Agreement on Electronic Commerce

2026/0191(NLE) - 13/07/2026 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to approve the agreement on electronic commerce.

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: since 2017, a group of WTO members, including the European Union, has been negotiating an Agreement on electronic commerce. In December 2024, a final text was presented for incorporation into the WTO agreements, but the WTO General Council failed to reach a consensus in 2025. In March 2026, 67 members, including the EU, decided to provisionally implement the Agreement, pending its formal incorporation into Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council should approve the Agreement on electronic commerce.

The Agreement establishes the **first ever set of global baseline rules on digital trade**. It is an economy-wide agreement covering goods, services, and information. Government procurement, government services and government-held information are excluded from the Agreement's scope.

The Agreement includes:

- trade facilitation disciplines that can lead to more seamless digital trade both within countries and across borders (e.g., provisions on paperless trading, electronic contracts, electronic authentication and electronic signatures);
- provisions to improve trust in the digital trade environment for both consumers and businesses (e.g., provisions on unsolicited commercial electronic messages, online consumer protection, cybersecurity, or open internet access);
- provisions leading to a more reliable international digital trade environment, ensuring that consumers and companies continue to access the internet and electronic services at affordable prices (e.g., provisions on electronic payments or telecommunications services);
- a prohibition of customs duties on electronic transmissions;
- a development component, aiming to enable and facilitate the participation of consumers and companies from developing countries in digital trade;
- a horizontal exception for measures for the protection of personal data and privacy.

Acceptance of the Agreement shall take place by deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Director-general of the WTO. The Agreement on Electronic Commerce shall enter into force, for those members of the WTO that have accepted it, on the 30th day following the date of deposit of the 45th instrument of acceptance.