

TTIP: an opportunity for the Digital Economy




The TTIP represents an enormous opportunity to re-balance the Digital Economy landscape


The regulatory component is key for delivering results in the TTIP negotiations

“Three essential elements:

- Ways to cooperate on **future regulations** to avoid unnecessary trade barriers,
- Ways to make **existing regulations** more compatible, and
- Supporting this work with **the right institutions**. “

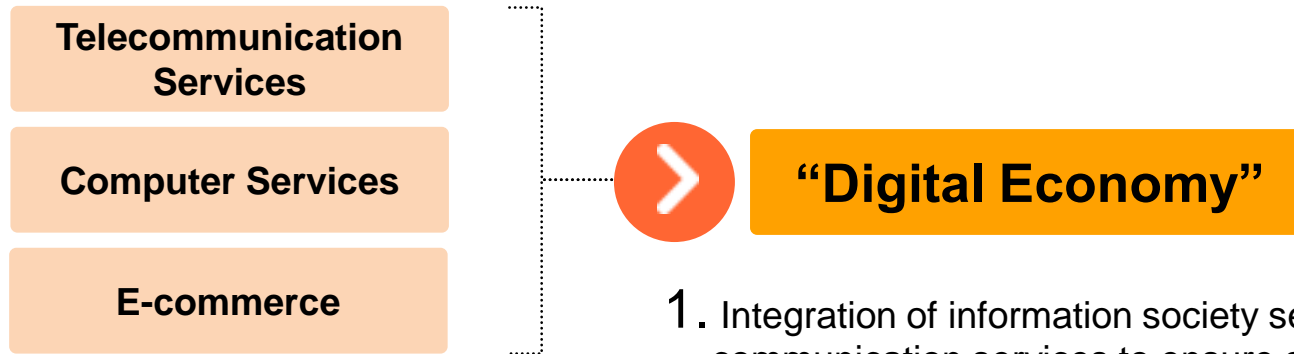
Karel De Gucht (October 10th)

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- The reality of convergence needs to be reflected on the TTIP developing **one comprehensive chapter for the Digital Economy sector**.
 - The sector needs a “**same services, same rules**” approach.
 - Ex-post monitoring of the markets, addressing any potential **abuse of dominant positions** that could have a trade restrictive effect **at any stage of the value chain**.

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- Different regulatory frameworks in the EU and the USA, have shaped the sector into **different realities**.
 - There is a chance to analyze the outcomes of each model and **set the right path for future regulations**, with less focus on the use of incumbent’s legacy networks through regulated access and more emphasis on investment and innovation.



The reality of converged services should be reflected in the TTIP negotiations



1. Integration of information society services and electronic communication services to ensure a **“same services, same rules”** approach among all actors of the value chain. Different obligations between providers of comparable services that may lead to a competitive disadvantage between actors in the digital economy value chain should be avoided.
2. Call to include reciprocal commitments to regulatory principles and practices such as:
 - Maximum **reliance on competitive forces** and ex-post examination of the markets;
 - Forbearance from **unnecessary** economic regulation; and
 - **Technological neutrality** that ensures that the integration of telecom and IT services does not place a telecom service provider at a disadvantage

Trans-border data flows: the importance of getting it right

The TTIP should promote cross-border trade in services and enhance consumer's trust in digital services. A significant amount of data flows are **personal and private data**.

Consumer's trust is the main driver for Digital Services adoption



1. Robust data protection standards help to **enhance trust** of users of services and thereby increase the international trade in services.
2. It should be guaranteed that cross-border data flows are **in compliance with data protection and security rules** in force in the country of residence of the data subjects.
3. Data protection levels are important for customers and **shall not be negotiated** in the context of trade talks.





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DRIVING THE DIGITAL FUTURE

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