



Event Summary – EU-ROK Stakeholders Roundtable. April 29, 2025



DPA areas of strategic support:

Policy Advice

Regulatory Convergence, Standard Harmonisation, Ethical frameworks; Digital Services Interoperability

Technology Diplomacy

Artificial Intelligence (AI); Semiconductors; Data Governance and Online Platforms; Digital Identity and Interoperability; Quantum Technologies and High-Performance Computing; Cybersecurity, Digital Connectivity:5G/6G Arctic Submarine Cables

Research Cooperation

Facilitate networking and partnership-building between academic and industry organisations including through Study Visits, Outreach and Joint Networking Events

The EU–Republic of Korea (ROK) Stakeholders Consultation Roundtable, held online on 29 April 2025, brought together over 115 participants from government, academia, and industry, and academia to jointly advance strategic collaboration under the EU–ROK Digital Partnership.

The roundtable focused on key digital domains: Semiconductors, Quantum technologies & innovation, Cybersecurity, Data governance, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and 5G/6G Connectivity.

Co-organised by the European Commission Services / EU Delegation and ROK counterparts together with the Digital Partnerships in Action (DPA) project, the event reinforced strong bilateral interest in deepening digital ties, with stakeholders agreeing to regular consultations to shape the EU–Korea Digital Partnership’s strategic direction.

Opening Session:

Opening remarks by officials from the **EU Delegation to Korea**, **Korea’s Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)**, and the **European Commission** underscored the importance of mutual trust and shared innovation for achieving digital sovereignty.

Stakeholder Perspectives on the Digital Partnership:

Speakers from DIGITALEUROPE, MSIT, European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK), and Korea Industrial Technology Association (KOITA) discussed the Digital Partnership’s role in aligning standards, supporting SMEs, and facilitating regulatory convergence. Areas of interest included AI governance, digital trade, co-innovation alliances, and public–private pilot initiatives.

DIGITALEUROPE emphasised Korea’s strategic role in the EU’s tech ecosystem and advocated for joint platforms for AI and cloud interoperability.

MSIT confirmed Korea’s commitment to co-regulation, sector-specific roundtables, and alignment in standards (e.g., CRA). Proposed sector-specific roundtables to advance cooperation.

ECCK focused on regulatory harmonisation and innovation-enabling policies, urging support for SMEs and industry access. Emphasized the need for consistent rules to help businesses scale.

KOITA highlighted the digital readiness gap among Korean SMEs and proposed EU collaborations for AI and cloud integration.

- <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/partnerships>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/digital-partnerships-in-action>
- <https://x.com/DPAinnovation>
- <https://eprd.pl/en/dpa>

Sectoral Deep-Dives

Semiconductors

EU and Korea emphasized complementarity in semiconductors, focusing on AI chips, advanced packaging, and resilient supply chains. Both **MSIT** and **European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA)** outlined complementary strategies, highlighting global interdependence and joint goals in fabless R&D, supply chain transparency, and packaging innovation. Korea's mega-cluster development and the EU Chips Act offer platforms for strategic cooperation.

Quantum Technologies

Representatives from **European Quantum Industry Consortium (QuIC)** and **MSIT** described robust bilateral engagement through joint workshops and standards collaboration. Opportunities lie in Horizon Europe calls, TRL 4–6+ projects, and standard-setting for quantum communication and encryption. Korea shared its roadmap, and QuIC called for advancing TRLs, co-developing standards, and aligning on IP and trade policies.

Cybersecurity

Discussions by **MSIT** (Cybersecurity Division) and **European Commission DG CONNECT** (Cybersecurity & Digital Privacy Policy) focused on **harmonising** IoT and software certification standards between the EU's Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) and Korea's frameworks. Proposals included joint SBOM protocols, skills development exchanges, and intelligence-sharing pilots. Emphasis was placed on **public-private cooperation** and **certification**.

Data Governance

GAIA-X (European Association for Data and Cloud) and **MSIT's Data Promotion Division** introduced frameworks for secure data federation. Korea is preparing to host the Gaia-X Hub Korea and integrate with the EU's data space architecture. With Korea establishing a local **GAIA-X hub**, both sides aim to align **certification** and **trust** mechanisms, support semantic data **interoperability**, and pilot joint use cases in sectors like energy and mobility. Ongoing discussions on adequacy and participation in **EU initiatives like CIS IPCEI** are promising next steps.

Artificial Intelligence

Korea's, **Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA)** and Europe's **AI, Data and Robotics Association (ADRA)** explored mutual interest in safe, explainable AI and foundational models for robotics. Korea presented its AI certification scheme and safety mandates, while ADRA advocated interoperability and SME access to AI sandboxes. Best practice sharing and **coordination on AI regulations** (e.g., EU AI Act) were encouraged.

5G/6G Connectivity

Representatives from the **6Garrow Project** and **MSIT** discussed AI-native 6G architectures, testbed integration, and shared standards for low-latency, energy-efficient communication. Both parties support cross-border network federation and joint talent development initiatives. Both sides aim to influence global standards **via ITU/3GPP and promote interoperability**, spectrum **alignment**, and **testbed federation**.

Closing Remarks: DG CNECT and **MSIT** concluded that the roundtable which demonstrated strong momentum for a structured **EU–Korea digital alliance**, emphasizing mutual **trust**, shared **standards**, and practical implementation. Across sectors, stakeholders affirmed the need for continued **dialogue, regulatory convergence**, and deepened **industry-academic-government cooperation**. This event set the stage for future initiatives under the Digital Partnership Council and strengthened both regions' digital **sovereignty** and **global competitiveness**.