

Joint Statement
of the first meeting of the Canada-European Union Digital Partnership Council

December 8, 2025, Montréal

The first meeting of the **Canada - European Union (EU) Digital Partnership Council** took place in Montréal, Quebec on December 8, 2025. The meeting was co-chaired by the Honourable Evan Solomon, Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, and Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Technological Sovereignty, Security and Democracy. Canada and the European Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”) reaffirmed the importance of their Digital Partnership anchored in the **New EU-Canada Strategic Partnership of the Future**, adopted at the **Canada-EU Leaders Summit on June 23, 2025**, and its links with the **Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and other key bilateral initiatives.

The Participants recognize the importance the Digital Partnership plays in advancing their interests to **boost competitiveness, innovation and economic resilience**. They also recognize the potential of the Digital Partnership to promote business-to-business exchanges, including for start ups and to accelerate investments in the technology sector. The Participants also understand that effective, **smart regulations that are not unduly burdensome**, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), will facilitate trade, investment and economic growth and engender trust in society. Finally, the Participants acknowledge their shared interest in **advancing digital sovereignty** over technology, data, and digital infrastructure, in accordance with international law, and underscore the vital importance of cooperation in areas of mutual interest among trusted allies.

1. Enabling Innovation & Research

Canada and the EU are both prioritizing emerging technology and digital innovation to improve productivity and competitiveness, as well as tackle shared challenges in key strategic sectors, while fostering societal trust in these emerging technologies. In alignment with the EU’s **Apply AI Strategy**, the **EU AI Continent Action Plan and related work on AI Factories and AI Gigafactories**, the European Data Union Strategy, the **Pan-Canadian AI Strategy**, the **Sovereign AI Compute Strategy**, and the opportunities created by association with **Horizon Europe**, both Participants intend to:

- collaborate on accelerating **sectoral AI adoption**, for example in healthcare, manufacturing, energy, culture, science and public services, by exchanging on policy approaches and sharing best practices, including through joint workshops. Building on the 2025 G7 Leaders’ Statement on AI for Prosperity, the Participants also intend to jointly **address challenges related to AI adoption by SMEs**, such as awareness of AI opportunities, barriers to commercialization, integration and deployment, access to compute infrastructure, and skills development, including addressing the AI skills gap, while expanding AI-focused talent exchanges, underpinned by a **Canada – EU**

Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence annexed to this Statement.

- explore scientific cooperation on fundamental AI research, building on the Pan Canadian AI Strategy, **Resource for AI Science in Europe (RAISE)** and the **Frontier AI initiative**, to advance next-generation AI architectures and agentic systems that can drive scientific discovery and innovation across key sectors.
- examine **adoption of emerging technologies broadly** in our respective jurisdictions, by committing to launching a preliminary discussion on challenges and opportunities related to SMEs' adoption of such technologies.
- continue to cooperate in leveraging Canada's association to Pillar II of Horizon Europe, **the EU's 2021-2027 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation** and commit to seizing opportunities for stronger collaboration in high priority topics such as quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and high-performance computing.
- explore opportunities to deepen the collaboration in **quantum** research, development and innovation in areas of interest including quantum computing and simulation, quantum networking and communication, quantum sensing and metrology, building on ongoing collaborations in the ongoing joint Horizon Europe projects and by promoting the exchange of researchers, engineers, experts and students between Canada and the EU.
- further enhance cooperation on **AI innovation** by collaborating on the deployment, access and use of advanced large European and Canadian AI Infrastructures, and deepening research partnerships.
- explore bilateral collaboration, under the leadership of Environment and Climate Change Canada and the EU's Destination Earth, in the field of hydrometeorological sciences, including **Earth system modeling**, open data sharing and AI-based tools for weather forecasting to enhance service delivery.
- explore scientific cooperation to enable the co-development of advanced **AI models for the public good**, with a focus on the development and innovative deployment of digital twins, from global to local/urban applications, for weather and environmental disaster preparedness, crisis management (wildfires, floods), reconstruction, and many other societal applications.

2. Promoting fair, predictable and trust based digital economies

Canada and the EU recognize the important role regulation plays in bringing fairness and predictability to the market as well as creating trust among consumers and citizens that their

privacy and rights are protected. The Participants also note that balanced and proportionate regulations can support innovation and competitiveness, particularly by ensuring that SMEs can thrive and contribute fully to our shared prosperity. Furthermore, both Participants are taking action to simplify and streamline regulatory compliance. While working independently, the Participants recognize the critical importance of fostering interoperability between our respective regimes, and therefore envisage to:

- deepen our understanding of the **regulatory environment** in the digital sphere, starting with organizing a discussion on our respective current and envisaged approaches to simplification in this field
- advance **regulatory cooperation** under the Digital Partnership, notably in AI and cybersecurity, so as to launch exploratory talks towards the potential future mutual recognition of the results of conformity assessments for AI enabled and cybersecurity products, in line with the procedure set out in the EU AI Act, including through the CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment.
- continue to exchange information on the development of **AI standards**, including between the Standards Council of Canada and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), and on **regulatory sandboxes**, executed under the **Canada – EU Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence**.
- deepen bilateral engagement on **AI Safety** between the Canadian AI Safety Institute (CAISI) and the EU AI Office, with the possibility of laying out more detailed cooperation in the future to collaboratively advance AI safety research
- continue engagement through **multilateral AI collaboration** at the International Network of AI Safety Institutes and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), to support the safe and responsible development and deployment of artificial intelligence.
- continue our dialogue on **cybersecurity regulation**, including by launching exploratory technical talks on our respective frameworks and on how mutual recognition of the results of conformity assessment for cybersecurity of connected products could potentially be achieved, including through the CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment. This will comprise targeted workshops to discuss respective legal frameworks, procedures and actors, including related to accreditation.
- continue our collaboration on **digital credentials and trust services**, including on technical interoperability for specific use cases of Canadian and EU digital credential technologies (including solutions based on digital wallets), joint testing of technologies and standards' development linked to Canada's framework and the EU

Digital Identity framework, carried out under the **Canada – EU Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Credentials and Trust Services**.

- strengthen cooperation in **standardization** of the digital economy through bilateral cooperation between Canadian (SCC) and European Standards Organisations (CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI), promoting our shared values and interests in key emerging technologies, contributing to the competitiveness of our industries and shaping a global digital transformation that is human-centric, trustworthy and respects human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- as agreed at the Canada-EU Leaders Summit in June 2025, modernize our approach to digital trade by working towards a **Digital Trade Agreement** that will complement CETA and create new opportunities for enterprises in the EU and Canada, by bringing our preferential trade partnership into the digital domain.
- reaffirm the shared commitment to work together on **online platform governance**, including information sharing on our respective legislative and regulatory efforts and approaches to hold online platforms accountable and transparent regarding the risks stemming from their services, including risks for the mental and physical health and well-being of minors. Furthermore, both Participants will exchange best practices on whole-of-society strategies for combating **foreign interference and information manipulation and disinformation campaigns**, including efforts to raise civic and digital media literacy.
- explore closer collaboration on the strengthening of independent media and on enhancing information integrity online, including on the challenges for free and plural media posed by generative AI. The Participants reaffirm that **access to independent, reliable, pluralistic news sources and media**, including on online platforms, is integral to full democratic participation.
- reaffirm our commitment to the bottom-up, multistakeholder model of **Internet governance**, and work together and with likeminded partners through existing forums to ensure Internet governance efforts continue to uphold an Internet that is an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure, and that reflects the valuable inputs of all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic communities, youth, and Indigenous people. We also commit to promoting multistakeholder governance principles to enable all stakeholders to address emerging technologies as they intersect with the Internet in an open and inclusive manner.

3. Promoting sovereign technological capacity

As trusted partners with shared democratic values, the Participants recognize the strategic role of digital sovereignty in building the economy of the future, and the importance of

ensuring that digital technologies are developed and deployed via secure and resilient means aligned with public interest. The Participants have launched respective strategies to strengthen elements of their digital sovereignty and build digital ecosystems that reflect, protect, and project their core values, in line with international law. Against this background, both Participants recognize the need to more deeply engage and collaborate with trusted partners on digital sovereignty. As an initial step, the Participants intend to:

- reaffirm their commitment to **resilient semiconductor supply chains** and building on established joint mechanisms, including the G7 semiconductors Point of Contact group, continue working to address mutual challenges, including fostering trustworthiness in global semiconductor supply chains, identifying vulnerabilities and advancing cooperation on the development of effective early warning mechanisms to identify potential disruptions.
- support and advance collaboration on **secure and trusted communications infrastructure** (including 5G and subsea cables). In particular, and in line with the EU-Canada Summit Statement of 23 June 2025 and the G7 Action Plan for Building a Secure and Resilient Digital Infrastructure, support secure and high-quality connectivity between the EU and Canada and with other world regions and explore new routes of international communication infrastructure to strengthen network resilience, including in the Arctic region.
- share methodologies and best practices on scaling sustainable sovereign infrastructure, including how to reduce the environmental impacts of **data centres**, supporting industry and academia's access to AI compute capacity, and advancing joint AI R&D.
- advance cooperation through a structured dialogue on **data spaces**, particularly to the development of large AI models, in sectors where common legal, technical and regulatory issues can be assessed, complementarities between respective jurisdictions can be identified and interoperability opportunities can be explored.

Recognizing the breadth and depth of collaboration between Canada and the European Union under the Digital Partnership, and reaffirming close cooperation in multilateral fora, both Participants intend to foster further opportunities for collaboration over the course of the year, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. To this end, they will also **explore opportunities to cooperate with like-minded partners in the pursuit of shared interests**. Cooperation could take the form of technical exchanges with partners on issues of common interest (e.g., secure supply chains, standardization), and as collaboration progresses, the potential for deeper collaboration among a network of like-minded partners.

Annexes:

1. EU- Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence
2. EU – Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Credentials, Digital Wallets and Trust Services

ANNEX 1

Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence

*between the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and the Department of
Industry of Canada*

Background

Canada and the EU are committed to fostering the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that respect fundamental rights and promote inclusive innovation. Central to their collaboration is the pursuit of technical standards and regulatory approaches to ensure the development and deployment of trustworthy AI systems that facilitate trade, investment and economic growth.

The Canada-EU Digital Partnership was formally established during the Canada-EU Leaders Summit of November 24, 2023, where the parties committed to *work closely on regulatory frameworks for AI to address the potential risks associated with AI systems in a balanced way, acknowledging the significant potential benefits that safe and trustworthy AI can bring when developed and used responsibly*. During the Leaders Summit of June 23, 2025, both Participants further committed to *advance regulatory cooperation under the Digital Partnership, notably in AI and cybersecurity, so as to work towards the mutual recognition of AI and cybersecurity product certification including under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement's (CETA) Protocol on Conformity Assessment*.

The June 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta similarly concluded with a Leaders' Statement on AI for Prosperity, which set out the G7 AI Adoption Roadmap, serving as a foundation for the G7 Industry, Technology and Digital ministerial meeting in December 2025.

These commitments reflect a shared understanding that the rapid evolution of AI and digital technologies requires international alignment to ensure innovation is both responsible and inclusive. To realize this potential, the Department of Industry of Canada and the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union reaffirm their commitment to shaping a global digital landscape that promotes the innovation and adoption of secure, responsible, and trustworthy AI for our publics.

Scope of Cooperation

This Memorandum of Understanding describes how the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, and the Department of Industry of Canada, hereinafter referred to as "the Participants", subject to the laws and regulations that govern each Participant and to the availability of resources, intend to enhance bilateral cooperation on AI standards, regulation, skills development, and adoption in strategic economic sectors.

Joint Initiatives

The Participants acknowledge the important role of the digital economy in growing prosperity and emphasize the importance of harnessing trade in emerging technologies to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth. To this end, the Participants intend to carry out the actions, as listed below.

- In order to **accelerate AI adoption** across key sectors such as, healthcare, manufacturing, science, energy, culture, and public services, as identified by our respective policy approaches, specifically the EU Apply AI Strategy, the EU Strategy on AI in Science and the forthcoming Canadian AI Strategy, the Participants jointly commit **to organize a first workshop** aimed at exchanging strategies, policy approaches, and best practices for sector-specific AI adoption, which will support future joint sectoral collaboration.
- The Participants intend to launch exploratory talks to facilitate mutual recognition of the results of conformity assessments for high-risk AI systems, in line with the procedure set out in the EU AI Act, including through the **CETA Protocol on the Mutual Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment** (the Protocol), which would include determining:
 - as a first step, the technical and administrative steps required to add high-risk AI systems to the Protocol; and
 - as a second step, the characteristics and competencies Conformity Assessment Bodies will need to possess to be accredited.
- In recognition of the importance of international **cooperation on AI standards** in facilitating AI-related trade, the Participants will **exchange information on ongoing AI standardization work** occurring on the committees developing key standards, CEN/CENELEC JTC 21 and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42, and in particular, cooperate on standards that will have an impact on trade. Direct cooperation on standards between the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) is being carried out as part of the CETA Regulatory Cooperation Forum activities.
- The Participants intend **to exchange information** on the implementation of the EU's **AI regulatory sandboxes**, recognizing their critical role in facilitating compliance with requirements, and accelerate responsible innovation with reduced risk and cost. Building on the 2025 G7 Leaders' Statement on AI for Prosperity, the Participants will collaborate on implementing **the AI Adoption Roadmap**, including reducing barriers to commercialization, facilitating access to compute and digital infrastructure and skills development. The Participants note that SME exporters of AI are key to providing innovative AI systems that, among other things, provide mutually beneficial enhancements to productivity.
- The Participants jointly commit to organizing information exchanges, including via targeted workshops on **AI adoption**, addressing the **AI skills gap**, and **AI infrastructure**, in particular on the EU's approach on the establishment of AI Factories and AI Gigafactories and on Canada's approach to establishing a large-scale, sovereign public AI

infrastructure, towards identifying concrete possibilities of collaboration that leverage synergies. These efforts aim to build mutual capacity and inform evidence-based policymaking, including expanding AI-focused talent exchanges to connect students and AI skilled workers with businesses, as committed to in the 2025 G7 Leaders' Statement on AI for Prosperity.

- The Participants jointly commit to launching exchanges **on the transformative impacts of AI on cultural and creative sectors**, including issues related to transparency, AI literacy, skills and education in the cultural sector, and the impact of AI on cultural sector business models.
- The Participants commit to exploring **scientific cooperation on fundamental and frontier AI research**, with a view to advancing the next generation of AI architectures and agentic systems that can accelerate scientific discovery and innovation.
- The Participants also jointly commit to exploring **scientific cooperation on AI for the public good**, co-developing **innovative AI models** to enhance mutual capacities in areas like climate change adaptation and extreme weather, disaster management and agriculture optimization. They will also discuss their support in the adoption of AI for public good solutions in low and middle-income regions, fostering local innovation clusters and sustainable development.

Other Matters

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create legal obligations or rights on either side under international or domestic law but will be based on voluntary cooperation.

It aims to implement and leverage existing cooperation mechanisms, including the Digital Partnership joint workplan to be established following the first EU-Canada Digital Partnership Council meeting, and it does not have any financial implications on either side.

The Memorandum of Understanding may continue until both Participants confirm that the objectives of this instrument have been achieved or until one side discontinues its participation in this instrument.

SIGNED, in duplicate, at [location] , this day of [month] [year], in the English and French languages, each version being equally valid.

**FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON
BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY OF
CANADA**

ANNEX 2

Memorandum of Understanding

on Digital Credentials, Digital Identity Wallets and Trust Services

Between the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and the Canadian Digital Service from the Department of Employment and Social Development of Canada

Background

Canada and the EU share a common human-centric approach to digital credentials and trust services, valuing privacy, individual control, interoperability, and democratic principles. Both seek to leverage digital technologies to provide secure, inclusive, and user-friendly services, ensuring data protection and respecting fundamental rights, as outlined in initiatives like Canada's Digital Charter and the EU's Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles.

Canada and the EU have formally committed to cooperate on digital credentials and trust services under their Canada-EU Digital Partnership, with the Canada-EU Summit Joint Statement of June 23, 2025, including a commitment to *establish interoperable digital identities and digital credentials to facilitate interactions between our citizens and our businesses* under the New Canada-EU Strategic Partnership of the Future.

The G7 Digital and Tech Ministerial Declaration (2023) committed members, including Canada and the EU, to share best practices on digital identity and credentials, and the G7 Industry, Technology and Digital Ministerial Declaration (2024) called for user-centred and inclusive digital identities, supported by appropriate governance, including security and privacy safeguards. The G7 also committed to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) mapping exercise for Digital Identity Approaches to identify commonalities to support work on future interoperability, including common concepts and definitions, use of international technical standards, and approaches to levels of assurance.

Scope of Cooperation

This Memorandum of Understanding describes how the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, and the Department of Employment and Social Development of Canada, hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”, subject to the laws and regulations that govern each side and to the availability of resources, intend to take collaborative actions on digital identity and credentials and trust services.

Joint Initiatives

The Participants recognize the strategic importance of advancing interoperability and mutual support for digital identity and digital credentials across their respective frameworks. Considering the growing need for secure, trusted, and interoperable digital trust services, both Participants reaffirm their commitment to deepening cooperation in this domain.

To this end, the Participants intend to explore the establishment of a dedicated forum for regular expert dialogue, enabling sustained engagement between relevant stakeholders. This forum would facilitate joint testing of digital credential technologies, including solutions based on digital identity wallets, promote information exchange, and support discussions on emerging policy and technical

developments. It will build on existing bilateral and multilateral information-sharing initiatives and serve as a platform for identifying strategic objectives and articulating a roadmap for future collaboration. As part of this effort, the Participants will:

- collaborate on joint use cases, pilot projects, and testing initiatives to demonstrate cross-border functionality and technical interoperability of digital identity, credentials, and trust services, building notably on Canada's framework and the EU Digital Identity Wallet framework.
- establish shared knowledge repositories to facilitate the exchange of information, best practices, and technological insights related to digital credentials and trust services.
- explore opportunities to jointly test digital credential technologies and approaches for standards and frameworks.
- discuss approaches to implementing standards and legislative frameworks on the path to achieving mutual recognition in the future.

Other matters

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create legal or financial obligations or rights on either side under international or domestic law.

It aims to implement and leverage existing cooperation mechanisms, including the Digital Partnership joint workplan to be established following the EU-Canada Digital Partnership Council meeting, and it does not have any financial implications for either Participant. Nothing in this Memorandum requires compulsory use of identity management services or trust services or use of a particular identity management service or trust service without prior consent.

The Memorandum of Understanding may continue until both Participants confirm that the objectives of this instrument have been achieved or until one Participant discontinues its participation in this instrument.

SIGNED, in duplicate, at [location] , this day of [month] [year], in the English and French languages, each version being equally valid.

**FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON
BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA**