

SESSION 8

Digital Transformation: Current Priorities for Action

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- Key lessons have hopefully been learned from putting trillions of digital services at risk, keeping trading open between the US and the EU. We must look for opportunities for the US and the EU to take leadership, e.g., identifying spectrum for 6G. We must keep moving.
- **TTC:** The current situation is being helped by TTC discussions, such as the EU-US data adequacy agreement achieved in the margins of TTC 4. It is playing an important role in promoting the conversation on AI and cyber. We are talking the same language, even if we do things in different ways – we share concerns and landing spots. It is helpful to navigate conflicts. TTC rules matter beyond digital markets, e.g., infrastructures and economic growth
- **Digital Policy:** For the EU, this is becoming part of our foreign policy. The EU is trying to set global standards, already begun with the GDPR, now followed by the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act (DSA). We need to cooperate without creating imbalances and inequalities. Hopefully, there will be convergence between the EU and the US.
- **Geotechnical statecraft** capability is on the rise – the ability to use technology in diplomatic relationships. Given that technology is very often a private sector activity, it's inevitable that the private sector gets drawn into statecraft. So, private sector responsibilities exist against a backdrop of countries wanting to leverage their technologies in their own economies.
- **Connectivity:** the key to growth and sustainability. 5G and new networks mean less energy intensity and enable greener manufacturing. All actors in the digital economy need to make a fair contribution – the aim and objective are the same on both sides, but solutions might be different. Infrastructure funding conversation will be fundamental to how we can deliver virtual networks and use of the public cloud, which needs massive investment for resilience.
- **Networks and 6G:** for 5G, we coordinated on spectrum. What are the next steps on the 6G agenda? Risk-based approaches, international standards, and private 5G networks will be before 6G, which will add a factor of multiplication even before you get there. Standardization will be political, so we need to have a US-EU joint approach to ensure that the values part is fed into international developments or uses, e.g., in healthcare.
- **Data adequacy:** Now more of a discussion of personal data v nonpersonal data. Standard rules for non-personal data are being worked on in the EU.
- **Looking ahead post-2024:** Idea floated that the process should begin at TTC 5 to develop a 2025 – 2028 EU-US action plan with a view to getting a December 2024 endorsement at TTC7 under new leadership, bringing in the leaders of the legislatures. Realize that the TTC is not the end game; G7 is the next step towards a global end game.