Prepared by DigitalTrade4.EU

Feedback to the EU Commission: Strengthening EU Leadership in Green-Digital Trade and DPP

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About Us

The **DigitalTrade4.EU consortium** envisions a **seamlessly interconnected Europe** and **neighbouring regions** powered by harmonized standards for the digitalisation of trade documents and processes. By fostering the digital transformation of trade, we aim to promote economic integration, enhance cooperation, and ensure long-term trade facilitation across borders.

Our consortium is made up of **experts in their field**, including **107 full partners**—trade associations, logistics providers, shipping lines, banks and insurances, technology innovators, etc.—**from 17 European Union countries** (*France, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Slovenia, Denmark, Bulgaria*) and **22 non-EU countries** (*United Kingdom, Switzerland, Montenegro, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, India, Nepal, Canada, United States of America, Cameroon, Morocco, Egypt, Kenya, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Ukraine*).

Our consortium is already **aligned with the fundamentals** of the **EU Competitiveness Compass**. Learn more:

1. How DigitalTrade4.EU Can Help Achieve the Objectives of the EU Competitiveness Compass (February 2025)

   https://www.digitaltrade4.eu/how-digitaltrade4-eu-can-help-achieve-the-objectives-of-the-eu-competitiveness-compass/

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Executive Summary

DigitalTrade4.EU welcomes the European Commission's continued **leadership** in integrating green and digital agendas within global trade. Recent milestones significantly reinforce this direction, notably the **EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (DTA)[1]** which establishes robust digital trade standards, and the **UNECE Recommendation No. 49 ("Transparency at Scale")[2]** that codifies a **UN standard for Digital Product Passports (DPPs)**.

These developments underscore a strategic convergence towards a **digitally transparent, resilient, and sustainable value chain**, positioning the EU at the forefront of global trade governance. This feedback document outlines how the EU can further **consolidate its green-digital trade strategy** by intensifying **international coordination** and deepening **digital trade partnerships**, particularly across Asia through initiatives like **Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)[3] and the Global Gateway**.

A key pillar of our recommendation is championing the **global interoperability of laws and standards**, including widespread adoption of the **UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR)[4] legal framework** and the full leveraging of **eIDAS 2.0[5]** for secure digital identities. We propose a comprehensive roadmap for utilizing the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to strategically invest in dual-use **digital infrastructure**, bolster **SME support**, and harmonize global standards, thereby ensuring that **sustainability unequivocally drives competitiveness** and reinforces the EU's **strategic autonomy and global influence**.

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[1] European Commission. EU and Singapore sign landmark digital trade agreement (May 2025)
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1152
[2] UNCITRAL. Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records
https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/ecommerce/modellaw/electronic_transferable_records
[3] Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)
https://www.mti.gov.sg/Trade/Digital-Economy-Agreements/The-Digital-Economy-Partnership-Agreement
[4] UNCITRAL. Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records
https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/ecommerce/modellaw/electronic_transferable_records
[5] European Commission. Discover eIDAS
https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/discover-eidas

Introduction

Global trade is undergoing a **profound transformation**, driven by the dual imperatives of **green and digital transitions**. The European Union has taken a decisive **leadership role** in shaping this future through initiatives such as **DigitalTrade4.EU**, the **Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)**, and the **Global Gateway** strategy. These efforts are establishing new, **resilient corridors** for clean energy, infrastructure, and digital services, particularly in Asia. The recent **EU-Singapore DTA**, the EU's first bilateral agreement solely focused on digital trade, exemplifies this commitment, aiming to provide **greater clarity and legal certainty** for online transactions and setting **global standards** for data flows, e-identification, and cybersecurity.

This evolving framework aligns with the ***Strategy for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong (COM(2025) 500 final)***[6], which emphasizes making the Single Market **simple, seamless, and strong** by removing barriers, simplifying rules, and accelerating digitalization to enhance **competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy**. Furthermore, the ***Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 (JOIN(2025) 120 final)***[7] highlights the critical need to bolster **economic resilience and digital trust** in a deteriorating strategic context.

A pivotal development reinforcing the EU's vision is **UNECE Recommendation No. 49**, finalized in March 2025. This global protocol for sharing supply-chain ESG data **aligns closely with the EU's approach** of encoding carbon footprints and material data into **Digital Product Passports (DPPs)**. DigitalTrade4.EU believes that by championing such globally recognized frameworks, the EU can further its objectives of **trusted, sustainable, and interoperable trade**.

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[6] European Commission, Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. The Single Market: our European home market in an uncertain world (May 2025)
https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/single-market-our-european-home-market-uncertain-world_en
[7] European Commission. Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 (March 2025)
https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/30b50d2c-49aa-4250-9ca6-27a0347cf009_en?filename=White%20Paper.pdf

Note: In this document, the terms **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)** and **Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)** are used interchangeably and carry the same meaning and weight. This clarification is important because different sources and contexts may refer to these groups using either acronym, but both encompass the full range of smaller business categories critical for economic development.

Expectations from the Commission's Side: The Objectives

The European Commission's "Call for Evidence for an Impact Assessment" (Ref. Ares (2024)8031852-12/11/2024)[8] concerning the **Digital Product Passport (DPP) – rules for service providers** outlines critical objectives for a robust and secure DPP system. DigitalTrade4.EU recognizes and supports these aims, which are integral to the broader vision of a **functional and competitive Single Market**.

The primary objective is to establish a **reliable and secure DPP system for all its users**, ensuring a **level playing field** for economic operators. This includes setting out requirements for DPP service providers focusing on:

- **Information security and services** of DPP data.

- **Financial viability** of DPP service providers to guarantee **long-term access to DPP information**.

- Mechanisms to ensure **compliance with requirements**, potentially through **self-declaration or ex-ante certification schemes**.

These requirements are intended to **complement ongoing standardization efforts** aimed at facilitating interoperability between DPPs and stimulating innovation. The DPP, as outlined in the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)**, will electronically register, process, and share **product information on sustainability and circularity** among supply-chain businesses, authorities, and consumers. It is expected to become mandatory for certain battery types from **February 2027**, with progressive rollout for other product groups.

The Commission's consultation strategy explicitly seeks feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses, public authorities, and standardization bodies, to gather insights on **identified problems and possible solutions**. This consultative approach is essential

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[8] European Commission. Digital product passport – rules for service providers, Public consultation
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14382-Digital-product-passport-rules-for-service-providers_en

for developing a delegated act that effectively addresses concerns and avoids **disproportionate burdens, especially on SMEs**.

In the broader context of the **Single Market Strategy COM(2025) 500 final**, the Commission's objectives extend to:

- **Reducing "Terrible Ten" barriers** to market functionality, including overly complex EU rules, fragmented national regulations, and delays in standard-setting.

- **Boosting European services markets** through targeted sectoral approaches.

- **Focusing on SMEs**, simplifying compliance, and facilitating their cross-border operations.

- Achieving **more effective digitalization**, moving from a document-based to a **data-based Single Market**.

- Ensuring **more simplification** to reduce red tape and compliance costs.

- Strengthening **effective implementation and enforcement** of Single Market rules.

- Increasing **political and national engagement** to foster ownership.

- Promoting **synergy in EU spending** to support national reforms.

- Providing **more protection** against unfair trade practices.

The development of the DPP framework and its associated regulations are central to the digitalization pillar of this strategy, aiming to provide a **cohesive ecosystem of digital solutions** that facilitate and simplify doing business in the EU, enhance economic integration, and drive innovation.

Approach and Recommendations

DigitalTrade4.EU's approach is rooted in fostering a **seamlessly interconnected Europe** powered by **harmonized standards** for the digitalization of trade documents and processes. Our strategic recommendations are designed to align with and amplify the EU's objectives for a green, digital, and resilient Single Market.

1. **Champion EU-wide Adoption of the MLETR Legal Framework:** We strongly recommend that the Commission **champion the adoption of the UNCITRAL MLETR legal framework** across all Member States. This model law provides a **globally recognized legal basis** for electronic transferable records (e.g., e-bills of lading, promissory notes) to be treated as functionally equivalent to paper counterparts. Adopting MLETR is an **essential first step** to creating a **legally certain, paperless, and efficient trade environment** that aligns with key global trading partners. Singapore's adoption of MLETR, for example, demonstrated a **40% reduction in maritime trade document processing time**, proving its scalability for cross-border trade[9]. As highlighted in analysis for the French Ministries of Justice and Finance further emphasizes MLETR's role in enhancing **legal certainty, interoperability of digital rules, consumer protection, data privacy, and support for SMEs[10]**.

2. **Embrace Decentralised Architectures:** Rather than mandating a single, centralized system, the EU should **foster an environment that supports technologically neutral, decentralized, and resilient architectures** (e.g., based on DLT, peer-to-peer networks). Decentralization **enhances security by eliminating single points of failure**, increases resilience against cyberattacks, and gives economic operators **greater control over their data**. Blockchain-based systems, for instance, have demonstrated **reduced fraud risks and faster dispute resolution** by distributing data across multiple trusted nodes.

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[9] UK Government, British Chambers of Commerce Singapore, LogChain. The UK - Southeast Asia Trade Digitalisation Pilots (December 2024)
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/msmes_e/uksea_10dec24.pdf
[10] French Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, "Speeding up the Digitalisation of Trade Finance", 2023. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/2023/rapporttrade-EN.pdf

2. **Digital Product Passports (DPPs) and Extension for Dual-Use:** We **fully support** the EU's vision for **DPPs** as a **fundamental enabler of supply chain transparency and sustainability**, directly aligned with initiatives like **UNECE Recommendation No. 49 ("Transparency at Scale")**. DPPs provide **verifiable, machine-readable data** on a product's composition, origin, lifecycle, and environmental footprint, supporting critical regulations such as:

   a. **Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on F-gases:** Enables tracking of F-gas types and quantities. This tracking supports compliance with the EU's phase-down schedules for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the F-gas Regulation, ensuring transparency in refrigerant usage and facilitating recycling efforts to meet climate neutrality goals.

   b. **Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 on Explosives Precursors:** Strengthens oversight of high-risk chemicals.

   c. **Regulation (EU) 2023/955 on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):** Helps exporters demonstrate compliance by recording embodied carbon emissions.

   d. **Regulation (EU) 2017/821 (Conflict Minerals Regulation):** Ensures compliance by tracing mineral provenance.

   e. **Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 & 2021/2116 (CAP Simplification):** Provides traceable data on agricultural inputs and sustainability practices.

   f. **Circular Economy objectives (e.g., ESPR, Battery Passport):** Facilitates resource recovery and reduces waste.

   g. **Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 (Cosmetic Products Regulation):** Centralizes access to safety-critical information and manufacturing compliance.

   h. **AI-Driven Resilience Strategies:** Serves as critical data infrastructure for predicting and mitigating supply chain disruptions.

From a logistics perspective, and in line with the **EU Electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI) Regulation (EU) 2020/1056**, DPPs are **critically important** as they enable **seamless, trusted information exchange** among diverse actors across the supply chain — from **manufacturers and transporters** to **customs authorities** and **end-users.** This importance was also emphasized in our consortium's feedback

Feedback on the Future of Digital Trade, eFTI Regulation, and European Strategy[11] to the European Commission. This comprehensive **visibility** facilitates **efficient handling**, better **risk management**, **streamlined customs clearance**, and **compliance with regulatory requirements** enabled by standardized digital information exchange, while reducing operational delays. Moreover, DPPs help reduce **operational delays** by providing **real-time, accessible product data** that supports **decision-making** and **traceability** at every stage of **transport and storage**.

We also strongly recommend that the DPP framework be **extended beyond commercial applications to cover critical components, equipment, and materials within the defence supply chain**. This "dual-use" application would enable **real-time tracking of military assets**, ensuring compliance with NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) and EU Defence Directives. For these **defence-related applications**, DPPs shall operate under a **strictly controlled, conditioned-based data access model**, ensuring information access is **limited to authorized entities with appropriate security clearances**, diverging from open data principles that may apply to certain commercial DPP functionalities. This enhanced traceability directly supports the **European Defence Technology and Industrial Base (EDTIB)** and **military mobility objectives**.

To accommodate the **diverse sensitivities** of product information, a **multi-tiered access and security model** shall be implemented for DPPs:

− **Tier 1 (Public/General Access)**: Basic, non-sensitive information.
− **Tier 2 (Restricted Commercial Access):** Commercially sensitive data, accessible to authorized entities with legitimate business needs.
− **Tier 3 (Classified/Defence Access)**: Highly sensitive or classified data, restricted to duly authorized defence entities with verifiable security clearances and stringent protocols.

3. **Interlinking Digital Compliance Portals and Platforms:** To maximize efficiency, the Commission should **prioritize seamless interoperability of various digital compliance**

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[11] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14373-Electronic-freight-transport-information-eFTI-platforms-specifications-on-the-functional-requirements/F3570740_en

portals and platforms, including eFTI platforms, DPP platforms, and sector-specific portals (e.g., F-gas Portal). This interoperability is **critical to avoid data duplication, reduce administrative burdens, and streamline regulatory reporting and enforcement**. A **harmonized infrastructure shared among Member States**, including platform technology and accreditation procedures, would significantly simplify the digital ecosystem.

4. **Leverage eIDAS 2.0 for Secure and User-Controlled Digital Identity:** The **European Digital Identity (EUDI) Wallet**, established under the new **eIDAS 2.0 Regulation**, should serve as the **cornerstone of trusted digital identity** in the EU. Complemented by the **EU Business Wallet** (a key priority for 2025), these frameworks **empower citizens and businesses** by granting them **full control over their data**, enabling **secure storage and sharing of identity information, verifiable credentials, and business-related attestations** across borders. To support seamless logistics and cross-border interoperability, the EUDI and EU Business Wallets should prioritize **compatibility with international unique identity (UID) systems and registries**, such as the **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)**, to ensure alignment with global standards.

5. **Fostering Supply Chain Security and Transparency through Globally Unique Identifiers (LEI and vLEI):** A truly secure and transparent supply chain requires **unambiguous verification of the legal entities** that handle goods. We recommend mandating the use of a **globally recognized Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)**, defined under the **ISO 17442 standard**, for every economic operator involved in a transaction. This enables **real-time cross-checks** with official registries, dramatically **reducing fraud, preventing illicit trade, and enhancing compliance**. The **vLEI**, built on the KERI protocol and compatible with eIDAS 2.0, offers **quantum-secure identifiers and robust compromise recovery**, ensuring enduring trust. Integrating **LEI and vLEI into the eFTI and DPP frameworks** will:

   - **Ensure reliable identification** of all legal entities.
   - **Reduce fragmentation** by harmonizing identity frameworks.
   - **Improve regulatory compliance** (e.g., KYC, MiCA, ESAP).
   - **Bridge EU and third-country identifiers** for cross-border interoperability.

– **Leverage GLEIF's foundational role** as the global root of trust for organizational identity.

Currently, **supply chains** rely on **disparate national identifiers** (e.g., **German UID** vs. **French SIREN**), creating **inefficiencies**. A **unified LEI/vLEI system** eliminates **redundancies** by providing a **single global identifier** for **entities**, akin to the **ISO 20022 standard**[12] for **financial messaging.**

6. **Invest in Dual-Use Digital Infrastructure:** We recommend allocating a significant portion of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Digital budget to **dual-use digital infrastructure**, such as quantum-secure networks along military mobility corridors. Quantum-secure networks utilize quantum key distribution (QKD) to encrypt data, making them immune to decryption by future quantum computers. Deploying these networks along critical corridors ensures long-term protection of sensitive military and commercial data against emerging cyber threats. This ensures that **physical and digital infrastructure are co-developed** to support secure and rapid military and commercial operations. It is also essential to develop and maintain **robust EU digital infrastructure** (hardware, software, skills) while ensuring flexibility in technology choices and minimizing implementation burdens for public and private stakeholders.

7. **Trade Policy for Sustainability and ESG Integration:** The Commission must **integrate environmental goals into trade agreements** by promoting digital traceability tools like DPPs and carbon-accounting mechanisms. By advancing global protocols (e.g., UNECE's "Transparency at Scale"), the EU can **embed its green standards across supply chains**, reinforcing its **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** and circular economy objectives. Trade finance digitalization plays a **crucial role** in facilitating the flow of capital towards sustainable investments, making it easier for companies to comply with reporting requirements and access green finance. We advocate for providing companies with additional funding at cheaper rates when they boost their ESG performance, thereby increasing their **profitability, EU competitiveness, and resilience**.

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[12] ISO. ISO 20022, Universal financial industry message scheme
https://www.iso20022.org/

8. **Strengthening EU-Asia Partnerships and Global Digitalization Projects:** Deepening partnerships in the Asia-Pacific through **DEPA and the EU-Singapore DTA** is paramount. Extending these agreements to other key partners like Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam will **enhance digital and green trade corridors**, integrating EU standards on data, AI, and sustainability into regional markets. The EU should also **co-fund digitalization projects in non-European countries** leveraging EU standards and technical frameworks (financed by CEF, Digital Europe Programme) to extend EU digital infrastructure and promote interoperability globally.

9. **Enforce Platform Interoperability and Digital Sovereignty:** The Commission should ensure that **dominant online platforms allow interoperability with third-party applications** to avoid vendor lock-in. The **Court of Justice of the European Union's recent ruling (Case C-233/23)**[13] confirms that refusing interoperability can amount to an abuse of dominance. Enforcing this will **empower SMEs and strengthen the EU's digital sovereignty**, complementing initiatives like DEPA and eIDAS 2.0 that promote open, interoperable digital infrastructures.

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[13] Judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 25 February 2025.
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:62023CJ0233

Conclusion and Next Steps

The European Union stands at a critical juncture to solidify its position as a global leader in green and digital trade. The integration of **seamless technology, clear rules, and smart incentives** forms the golden triangle of modern trade governance. By intensifying international coordination, deepening digital trade partnerships, and championing global interoperability of laws and standards (MLETR, eIDAS 2.0, etc.), the EU can create a **trusted, transparent, and interoperable trade ecosystem**.

The **Digital Product Passport (DPP)**, particularly with its proposed **dual-use capabilities**, is central to this vision. It ensures that every traded good carries its **carbon footprint, compliance history, and sustainability credentials**, supporting greener markets, efficient trade routes, and enhanced economic and strategic resilience.

DigitalTrade4.EU believes that by vigorously pursuing the outlined recommendations, the European Commission can:

- **Accelerate the adoption of paperless trade** across all Member States and with key global partners.

- **Enhance supply chain security and transparency** through robust digital identity frameworks.

- **Reduce administrative burdens and compliance costs** for businesses, especially SMEs, fostering greater participation in cross-border trade.

- **Drive sustainable economic growth** by linking trade finance to verifiable ESG metrics and incentivizing green practices.

- **Strengthen the EU's geopolitical influence** by exporting its high standards for data protection, AI ethics, and environmental accountability.

We urge the Commission to translate these strategic insights into concrete actions within the upcoming **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, ensuring that budgetary allocations prioritize investments in **digital infrastructure, SME support, and global standards harmonization**. This proactive approach will not only secure Europe's prosperity but also ensure that **trade digitalization benefits the planet, people, and prosperity equally**. We stand ready to collaborate further in realizing this transformative agenda.

EU Green-Digital Trade Leadership Roadmap (DigitalTrade4.EU, 2025)

activity	objective	indicative metrics	tools/enablers
1. EU-Singapore DTA & Expand DEPA Partnerships	Strengthen digital trade diplomacy in Asia through high-standard agreements.	- 5+ new digital trade agreements with key Asian partners (e.g., Japan, India, ASEAN) by 2030 - 15% increase in EU-Asia digital services trade by 2028	DEPA framework, EU-Singapore DTA, Global Gateway Initiative, eIDAS 2.0
2. Implement Digital Product Passports (DPPs)	Ensure traceable, sustainable supply chains aligned with EU Green Deal.	- 50% adoption of DPPs by 2030 - 20% reduction in supply-chain carbon intensity by 2030	EU Sustainable Products Initiative, CBAM incentives, UNECE Recommendation 49
3. Fund Secure Digital Corridors in Asia	Build interoperable digital infrastructure for EU-Asia trade.	- ~€2B allocated via NDICI-Global Europe - 10+ blockchain-based traceability pilots by 2027	NDICI-Global Europe, ASEAN digital customs systems, EU Customs Data Hub
4. Harmonize Digital Standards (MLETR/eIDAS 2.0)	Enable cross-border recognition of e-documents and digital identities.	- 90% mutual recognition of e-signatures by 2028 - 70% SME adoption of eIDAS wallets	MLETR framework, eIDAS 2.0, EU Transport Law updates, UN/UNECE protocols
5. Implement LEI and vLEI for Supply Chain Trust	Harmonise and simplify legal entity identification across borders	- 90% entity coverage with LEI by 2030; 50% vLEI use in customs and eFTI transactions	ISO 17442, vLEI, eIDAS 2.0, UNECE UID
6. Launch Green-Digital Trade Academy	Upskill SMEs and officials on DPPs and carbon accounting.	- 40% increase in SME participation by 2027 - 60% cost savings for SMEs	Erasmus+ grants, COSME programme, tiered compliance thresholds
7. Integrate ESG into Trade Finance	Link trade finance to sustainability metrics for cheaper capital access.	- €10B/year unlocked for green trade finance - 30% lower Scope 3 emissions by 2030	InvestEU guarantees, CSRD-aligned reporting, FinTech platforms
8. Enforce Platform Interoperability	Prevent vendor lock-in and empower SMEs.	- 100% compliance with CJEU rulings by 2026 - 50% reduction in platform dominance	Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) Case C-233/23, DEPA, eIDAS 2.0, Digital Markets Act (DMA)
9. Global Digitalisation Projects with EU Standards	Extend EU digital infrastructure and norms globally.	- 20+ co-funded projects by 2030 - 80% interoperability with EU systems	Digital Europe Programme, CEF funding, EU-Asia Digital Standards Taskforce
10. Advance UNECE Transparency Protocols	Globalize EU sustainability standards for supply chains.	- 100% alignment with UNECE Rec. 49 by 2028 - 30% reduction in greenwashing claims	UNECE CEFACT, W3C Verifiable Credentials, EU CBAM registry
11. Pilot CBAM-DPP Corridors	Link trade finance to verifiable ESG metrics for tariff incentives.	- 20% CBAM compliance cost reduction - 50% DPP adoption by 2030	IoT carbon trackers, CBAM rebate schemes, EU Customs Single Window

Table 1. The roadmap above, DigitalTrade4.EU's input to the European Commission's "International Digital Strategy" operationalises the recommendations outlined in this document. For instance, Activity 1 (EU-Singapore DTA & Expand DEPA Partnerships) directly supports the harmonisation of international digital standards, while Activity 8 (Global Digitalisation Projects with EU Standards) aligns with efforts to promote dual-use infrastructure globally. These activities collectively reinforce the EU's ability to leverage digital trade diplomacy as a tool for both economic growth and strategic security.