

SINGAPORE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SIGNING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION-SINGAPORE DIGITAL TRADE AGREEMENT

1. Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu and EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič signed the European Union-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (EUSDTA) in Singapore today.
2. The EUSDTA aims to enhance digital connectivity and facilitate end-to-end digital trade between the EU and Singapore. When implemented, it will provide greater clarity and legal certainty for citizens and businesses by putting in place rules for digital trade and cross-border data flows. It will also enhance EU-Singapore relations by strengthening bilateral economic connectivity.
3. Minister Fu said, “In these uncertain and challenging times, the signing of the EUSDTA is a significant step forward in deepening digital economic cooperation between Singapore and the EU. The EUSDTA reflects our shared commitment to foster a trusted, secure and inclusive digital economy, and create new opportunities for our companies and citizens in digital trade. As the EU’s first bilateral digital economy agreement with an ASEAN country, the EUSDTA will also support greater region-to-region digital connectivity.”
4. Minister Fu and Commissioner Šefčovič also reaffirmed the strong partnership between Singapore and the EU, and the shared commitment towards upholding an open and rules-based multilateral trading system. To further strengthen trade links, both sides also exchanged views on exploring bilateral partnerships in new growth opportunities and deepening regional collaboration on key trade issues.
5. The EUSDTA is an important initiative which builds on our strong trade relations, anchored by the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA). The EU is Singapore’s fifth largest goods trading partner. In 2024, bilateral trade in goods grew to over S\$100 billion, representing 7.8% of Singapore’s total goods trade. The EU is also Singapore’s second largest services trading partner, with bilateral trade in services reaching over S\$110 billion in 2023. Investment ties remain robust, with the EU being Singapore’s second largest foreign investor and second largest overseas investment destination.

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MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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Photo of the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement Signing Ceremony



Caption: Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu and EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič signed the European Union-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (EUSDTA) today in Singapore.

Key Features of the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement

Enabling and facilitating open and secure data flows

Cross-border Data Flows

- To support trusted cross-border data flows for electronic commerce and other digitally enabled activities, Singapore and the EU commit to allow businesses to transfer data, including requirements to store data in specified locations.

Personal Data Protection

- Singapore and the EU agree to maintain a legal framework to protect the personal data of individuals, based on principles and guidelines developed by relevant international bodies. Singapore and the EU will also publish information on the personal data protection measures that their respective jurisdictions provide to individuals, including on how individuals can pursue remedies and how businesses can comply with legal requirements.

Open Government Data

- Enhancing public access to government data in digital formats fosters economic and social development, competitiveness, productivity, and innovation. To encourage the use of publicly available government data, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Singapore and the EU will cooperate to enhance and generate business and research opportunities.

Facilitating end-to-end digital trade

Electronic payments (E-payments)

- The EUSDTA recognises the benefits of supporting the development of cross-border e-payments. Singapore and the EU will foster the adoption and use of internationally accepted standards, promote interoperability, and encourage innovation and competition in payment services.

Electronic invoicing (E-invoicing)

- To drive cost-effectiveness, efficiency, accuracy, and reliability of digital trade, Singapore and the EU will ensure that the implementation of measures related to e-invoicing is designed to support cross-border interoperability between both sides' e-invoicing frameworks.

Paperless Trading

- Singapore and the EU will endeavour to make available trade documents required for import, export, or transit of goods in electronic format and accept electronic versions of these documents as the legal equivalent of paper versions.

Customs Duties

- Singapore and the EU will not impose customs duties on electronic transmissions.

Establishing trusted and secure digital systems

Source Code

- It is important to foster trust in the markets within which software developers operate, encourage innovation, and ensure that source code used by companies are protected. To this end, Singapore and the EU will not require the transfer of or access to source code as a condition of market access.

Cybersecurity

- Recognising the evolving nature of threats to cybersecurity, Singapore and the EU will collaborate to identify and mitigate these threats, as well as build the capabilities of our workforce.

Online Consumer Protection

- To enhance consumer protection, Singapore and the EU will adopt or maintain measures that guard against fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive commercial activities that cause harm to consumers engaged in electronic commerce.

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Promoting greater participation and access to opportunities in the Digital Economy for our companies and people

Digital participation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

- SMEs play a fundamental role in enhancing bilateral trade and investment. Singapore and the EU will cooperate to exchange information and best practices in leveraging digital tools and technology, to enhance SMEs' participation in digital trade opportunities.

Digital Inclusion

- Singapore and the EU recognise the importance of digital inclusion and enabling all people and businesses to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the digital economy. To this end, Singapore and the EU will cooperate to enhance digital inclusion, including through exchanges of information and best practices, as well as addressing barriers to accessing digital trade opportunities.

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EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement Infographic



Quotes from Companies, Trade Associations and Chambers on the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement

Company and Sector	Quote and Spokesperson
The European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore (EuroCham)	<p>"The EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement is a timely and strategic step toward shaping an open, trusted, and inclusive digital economy. It creates a framework for deeper cooperation on digital trade, cross-border data flows, and technology standards—supporting both innovation and supply chain resilience. At EuroCham, we see this partnership as a catalyst for stronger G2B collaboration, regulatory alignment, and SME digital inclusion. It enables businesses to trade more efficiently, scale globally with confidence, and operate within a secure and forward-looking digital environment."</p> <p>– Nele Cornelis, Executive Director, EuroCham (Singapore)</p> <p><i>EuroCham Singapore is an independent, non-profit organisation that represents the collective interests of the European business community. It promotes bilateral trade, services and investments between Europe, Singapore, and the broader region.</i></p>
Singapore Business Federation (SBF)	<p>"The EUSDTA is a timely and strategic boost for Singapore's business community, strengthening Singapore's position as a leading digital hub and trusted partner in the global economy. The EUSFTA, which eliminates all tariffs on goods into EU, was among the top three most utilised FTA among Singapore businesses in 2023. We believe the EUSDTA, which builds on the EUSFTA, will open up new avenues of growth by streamlining digital transactions, improving regulatory transparency, and promoting a secure digital environment. We look forward to helping our businesses leverage the EUSDTA to create new opportunities for sectors ranging from e-commerce to financial services."</p> <p>– Kok Ping Soon, CEO, SBF</p>

Company and Sector	Quote and Spokesperson
	<p><i>Singapore Business Federation (SBF) is the apex business chamber with over 32,000 members across diverse industries. With a vision to advance Singapore towards a globally competitive and sustainable economy, SBF mobilises the business community to be future-ready and magnify transformation opportunities through policy advocacy, partnership platforms and capability programmes.</i></p>
<p>iFAST</p> <p>Sector: Digital banking</p>	<p>“iFAST Corp, through its fully licensed bank in the United Kingdom – iFAST Global Bank – is open to exploring potential opportunities to expand cross-border financial services into the European Union. The EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement offers a strategic platform to advance digital and financial integration. We are closely monitoring these developments to assess how they could enhance the delivery of trusted, innovative solutions across Singapore, the UK, and the EU. We are also keen to explore how deeper integration in a digital world can better serve customers seeking seamless cross-border financial solutions. This aligns well with iFAST’s vision of building a truly global business model, supported by a resilient, interconnected, and forward-looking digital economy.”</p> <p>– Lim Chung Chun, Group CEO, iFAST Corporation Ltd</p> <p><i>iFAST Corporation is a global digital banking and wealth management platform headquartered in Singapore, providing a comprehensive range of investment products and services to financial advisory firms, financial institutions, banks, internet companies multinational companies, as well as retain and high net worth investors in Asia.</i></p>
<p>Nium</p> <p>Sector: Cross-border payments</p>	<p>“The EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement is a key step toward creating a more secure and interoperable digital economy. For global payments leaders, like Nium, trusted cross-border data flows, aligned standards for payments, and interoperable frameworks are essential to delivering seamless services across borders. This agreement’s</p>

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Company and Sector	Quote and Spokesperson
	<p>commitment to protecting personal data, promoting cybersecurity, and enabling greater SME participation sets a strong foundation for inclusion in digital finance. We commend both governments for fostering a regulatory environment that empowers digital trade and accelerates the future of global payments.”</p> <p>– Anupam Pahuja, GM of APAC & MEA, Nium</p> <p><i>Nium is a global cross-border payments infrastructure company that enables banks, fintechs and businesses everywhere to collect, convert and disburse funds instantly across borders.</i></p>
<p>Spark Systems</p> <p>Sector: Fintech</p>	<p>“Post Brexit, Europe takes a significant step up in prominence in financial and foreign exchange (FX) markets. To Spark Systems as a next generation high speed FX trading platform in a Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II) environment, this is especially significant. Online and electronic transactions already form the basis of more than 55% of all EU trades in 2022, not to mention the majority of all FX transactions, which is done digitally and online. EUSDTA provides a clear framework when engaging in online transactions. In particular, rules and requirements are clearly stipulated for the conduct of digital trades.”</p> <p>– Wong Joo Seng, Founder & CEO, Spark Systems</p> <p><i>Spark Systems is an FX platform that delivers next-generation trading capabilities globally at unsurpassed speed, scale, functionality and at a lower price point. Spark Systems’ FX platform integrates Users (Price Takers) and Liquidity Providers (Market Makers) to make available cutting-edge trading technology to all users.</i></p>
<p>SQREEM Technologies</p> <p>Sector: AI</p>	<p>“The EUSDTA's commitment to establishing clear digital trade rules and promoting high standards in areas like data protection and cybersecurity is invaluable for SQREEM. This framework builds trust with our European partners and</p>

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Company and Sector	Quote and Spokesperson
	<p>customers, creating a secure and reliable environment for our AI-powered solutions to thrive within the EU.”</p> <p>– Ian Chapman-Banks, CEO & Founder SQREEM Technologies</p> <p><i>SQREEM is a cognitive AI company that specialises in decoding and mapping human behaviour to deliver audience intelligence.</i></p>
<p>Thunes</p> <p>Sector: Cross-border payments</p>	<p>“The EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement marks a significant step forward in creating a more connected and resilient global digital economy. At Thunes, as the Smart Superhighway to move money around the world with headquarters in Singapore, significant operations in Europe, and Members across the globe, we see this agreement as a powerful enabler of innovation and cross-border collaboration. We look forward to leveraging these new frameworks to enhance how we serve businesses with transparent and dependable solutions in a digitally integrated world.”</p> <p>– Floris de Kort, CEO, Thunes</p> <p><i>Thunes is a B2B fintech company that powers payments for businesses. Its proprietary Direct Global Network allows members to make payments in real time in over 130 countries and more than 80 currencies.</i></p>

Joint Statement on the Signing of the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement

Joint Statement by European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Šefčovič and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu on the signature of the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement

Today, we have signed the Digital Trade Agreement between the EU and Singapore. This milestone reflects the clear commitment on both sides to strengthen our longstanding bilateral economic relations and marks a significant step in deepening our cooperation in the digital domain. In these uncertain times, the EU and Singapore are like-minded partners in upholding a rules-based trading order.

The Agreement underscores the growing importance of digital trade as a key driver of economic growth. Building on the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement signed in 2019, the Agreement aims to enhance digital connectivity and facilitate end-to-end digital trade between the EU and Singapore. When implemented, the Agreement will build consumer trust, ensure trusted data flows, and provide greater predictability and legal certainty for businesses, notably for small, medium size and micro enterprises.

The Agreement reaffirms our shared commitment to foster a secure and inclusive digital economy, and to support the digital transformation of our societies. At the same time, the Agreement ensures that both the EU and Singapore preserve the necessary policy space to respond to emerging challenges.

With today's signing, the EU and Singapore will now proceed with our respective domestic procedures for the swift ratification and entry into force of the Agreement, so that our consumers and businesses can begin to benefit from its provisions.

Transcript of Remarks by Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu at the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement Signing Ceremony

1. First of all, let me begin by warmly welcoming Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič to Singapore for the signing of the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (EUSDTA).
2. Commissioner Sefcovic, your visit reflects the strong partnership between Singapore and the EU, and our shared commitment towards fair, free, open, and inclusive trade.
3. Our partnership has been underpinned by the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA). Since its entry into force, the EUSFTA has strengthened our economic ties and facilitated steady growth in trade and investment flows.
 - a. Our businesses have benefitted from enhanced market access, the elimination of customs duties, and a reduction in technical and non-tariff barriers.
 - b. Digital trade, in particular, has become a key pillar of our economic relationship. In 2022, more than half of the total trade in services between Singapore and the EU – worth over S\$60 billion – were delivered digitally.
4. In this context, the EUSDTA is both timely and forward-looking.
 - a. As the global economy becomes increasingly digitalised yet more fragmented, there is a need to enhance our digital connectivity and build interoperability.
5. Today's signing of the EUSDTA marks a major milestone.
 - a. It is Singapore's largest bilateral digital economy agreement to date, and the EU's first-ever standalone bilateral digital trade agreement with another country.
 - b. When in force, the EUSDTA will strengthen connectivity between Singapore and the EU's digital markets, and give our companies legal certainty in their digital transactions.
 - c. The EUSDTA reflects our shared commitment to a modern, open and rules-based digital economy.
6. Singapore looks forward to deepening cooperation with the EU to seize new growth opportunities and to respond to today's challenges in the global economy. Thank you.