

# Reducing fragmentation in digital trade policy: transparency, monitoring and plurilateral negotiation

14 September 2021 | 13:30 – 15:00pm CEST

Register for Online Virtual Panel Discussion

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## Context

Recent years have borne witness to a staggering proliferation of competing regulations and standards governing the digital world. The development of divergent policies, often drafted in siloes, has given rise to fears of ‘cyber-balkanization’, policy incoherence and high costs of compliance.

Digital trade rules and agreements such as those being negotiated at the WTO can contribute towards a reduction in digital trade policy fragmentation, promote interoperability between digital economies and the adoption of regulatory best practice. Transparency and policy monitoring are critical complementary elements to the ongoing negotiations and are essential to ensure that the rules eventually agreed upon are being upheld and implemented.

This session will explore these three themes through discussion of the following initiatives:

- The [Digital Policy Alert](#), a public, independent, comprehensive and searchable record of policy changes that affect cross-border digital commerce. The DPA identifies the key areas of digital policy activity and potential barriers to digital trade. Informed by a unique data collection and enrichment process, the DPA can be a helpful resource for the ongoing JSI discussions.
- The OECD Digital Trade Inventory and Compare your Country tools for international instruments and regional trade agreements.
- An assessment of the impact of digital trade rules in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and what this means for CPTPP participants’ trade and investment.
- Open-accession plurilateral agreements on digital trade issues and a high standard outcome through the E-commerce JSI.

**Moderator:** Raoul Renard, Government Affairs Manager, ICC

**Speakers:** Deborah Elms, Founder and Executive Director, Asian Trade Center

Javier López González, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, OECD

Johannes Fritz, CEO, St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity through Trade

Kati Suominen, Founder and CEO, Nextrade Group