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PRESS RELEASE

TABC Statement to the G7 Meeting on Industry/ICT Ministers

Washington – Today, the Trans-Atlantic Business Council released a statement outlining recommendations to the G7 Meeting of Industry/ICT Ministers highlighting the position of the transatlantic business community on the challenges facing global digital economy.

TABC strongly believes that the benefits of the digital economy are essential for global economic growth and prosperity and emphasizes the importance of the Industry/ICT Ministerial meeting. TABC is an association of American and European companies with significant investments and operations in the EU and the U.S serves as a platform to improve transatlantic collaboration in areas such as telecommunications, data innovation, and cybersecurity, among others. We believe that the G7 can provide positive and actionable leadership in the e-commerce sector.

In its recommendations, TABC encourages the G7 to commit to promote facilitation of data flows and adopt strong language in the Declaration against forced data localization requirements that mandate local storage and processing of data without appropriate exceptions. TABC firmly believes that this can be accomplished simultaneously with protecting privacy and data protection. Restrictions on data flows and associated infrastructure create risk for global business, and ultimately undermine privacy protections when localization requirements are employed to either expand government surveillance or have anticompetitive motives. G7 members should strive to minimize the effects of restrictions on data flows in international agreements and national policies.

TABC also encourages G7 members to support industry-led solutions in the areas of broadband deployment. TABC Director-General/CEO, Tim Bennett underlined that “G7 members should support policies that will encourage broadband deployment around the world through a regulatory environment that fosters innovation and regulatory certainty. This should be accomplished by adopting a light-touch approach to regulation and engage in industry collaboration around standards.”

TABC notes that experience has proven that a strong commitment to innovation in IT must also include a recognition of the role secure systems play to develop and maintain user trust in devices. TABC therefore also recommends that G7 members should support industry-led engagement in the development of global standards and best practices around security. In addition, TABC urges the international community to continue to support the multi-stakeholder approach to internet governance to confront issues facing the deployment, development, and evolution of the global Internet.

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