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Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tech7 representatives meet in Rome to engage with G7 officials on digital innovation for economic growth and global resilience

Rome, 11 April 2024 – The Tech7, comprising technology sector trade associations from the G7 nations, convened today at Palazzo Ferrajoli in Rome, Italy, to underscore the pivotal role of digital technology in fostering economic prosperity, security, and sustainability across societies, institutions, and enterprises.

Representatives from prominent Tech7 associations, including techUK (United Kingdom), Bitkom (Germany), Numeum (France), DIGITALEUROPE (EU), JEITA (Japan), ITIC (USA), TECHNATION (Canada), and Anitec Assinform (Italy), the hosting organisation, gathered alongside delegates from the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, the Department for Digital Transformation, and diplomatic delegates representing G7 nations.

The discussions centered on the development and deployment of frontier technologies, notably Artificial Intelligence (AI), as transformative tools shaping new trajectories for development while presenting challenges and opportunities for citizens, businesses, and institutions. Echoing the joint declaration signed by G7 Governments in Trento in March, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to bolstering public-private dialogues to amplify innovative capacity and fostering joint endeavours to ensure equitable and widespread adoption of emerging technologies, starting from Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

At the end of the two roundtables, a joint declaration was signed, emphasising the commitment of Tech7 associations to promote policies and initiatives aimed at fostering economic growth through digital innovation.

The recommendations outlined in the joint declaration for G7 governments focus on seven strategic areas:

- **Promotion of International Cooperation**: A collective pledge to strengthen collaboration to make substantial headway in critical sectors such as climate transition, cybersecurity, and conflict resolution, while formulating cohesive policies to tackle forthcoming global challenges.
- **Investments in Emerging Technologies:** A resolute commitment to invest in cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, 6G, quantum technologies, and space technologies to spur innovation, bolster economic growth, and sustain global competitiveness.

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- **Bridging the Digital Divide and Enhancing Digital Skills**: A concerted endeavour to bridge the digital divide and elevate the digital literacy of populations, ensuring inclusivity in the digital era and fostering specialised skills for workforce entry and business competitiveness.
- **Promotion of Cybersecurity and Resilience of Digital Infrastructure:** An undertaking to enhance cybersecurity measures and strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure and data protection against evolving threats and cyber-attacks.
- **Accelerating the Digital Transformation of SMEs and the Public Sector**: A commitment to streamline the digital transformation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and public entities to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.
- **Promotion of Open and Responsible Digital Trade and Free Flow of Data**: A collaborative effort to craft governance frameworks supporting an open, inclusive, and responsible digital trade ecosystem that facilitates the unrestricted flow of data between nations, guided by principles of transparency, equity, and respect for rights.
- **Utilisation of Digital Technologies for Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation**: A commitment to leverage digital technologies as pivotal instruments in combating climate change and advancing environmental sustainability.

Tech7 associations urge the governments of G7 nations to consider their proposals and embrace a collaborative approach in forging a more inclusive and equitable digital future.

Julian David, CEO of techUK, who is attending today's event, said:
"techUK was proud to start the Tech7 initiative in 2021 during the UK presidency of the G7 and we are thrilled to witness its continuity including this year's event in Italy.

"Collaborating closely with G7 governments, we strive to streamline business operations across markets while upholding shared international values.This entails fostering collaboration to facilitate data flows and establishing international cooperation for the ethical and safe development of AI, essential for nurturing global digital economies.

"We're excited to partner with sister organisations to emphasise the significance of international cooperation in maximising the benefits of technological innovation for economic recovery and resilience. Working with the Italian Presidency and all G7 governments, we're committed to shaping an ambitious agenda in this vital space."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

About techUK

techUK is the technology trade association that brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve.

With over 1000 members (the majority of which are SMEs) across the UK, techUK creates a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet.

By providing expertise and insight, we support members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.