



EU-REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR A NEW ERA TOGETHER

The EU and the Republic of Korea (RoK) are **like-minded partners** sharing similar values and common interests. Strategic Partners since 2010, cooperation between them brings tangible benefits to citizens in both regions and the wider international community. This interaction is facilitated through **the EU-RoK Framework Agreement (2010) and the EU-RoK Free Trade Agreement (2010)**.

Cooperation with the RoK advances the priorities under the **EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy** on security and defence, trade and economic security, and the green and digital transitions.

The EU and the RoK held the first **Strategic Dialogue** in January 2026, taking our partnership to the next level by enhancing cooperation and coordination on key foreign policy issues.

PEACE, SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The EU and RoK work closely in the areas such as crisis management, maritime security, addressing hybrid and cyber threats and the fight against terrorism. In November 2024, the EU and the RoK adopted a **Security and Defence Partnership**, opening a new era for bilateral engagement on these matters. Through annual Security and Defence dialogues, the EU and the RoK advance cooperation on a wide range of shared security priorities. The first one took place in November 2025 in Brussels and the second one in May 2026 in Seoul.

The EU and RoK are **defending between rules-based international order** by:

- Supporting multilateral institutions
- Upholding the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture
- Contributing to crisis management and peacekeeping
- Collaborating on space security to protect space assets and space-based services
- Supporting open sea-lanes
- Preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism
- Addressing hybrid threats and foreign information manipulation and interference
- Exchanging on relevant defence initiatives to uphold respect for international law in Europe, the Indo-Pacific and globally.

Support to Ukraine

- Since the start of Russia's illegal war of aggression, the EU and the RoK have stood with the people of Ukraine, providing financial and humanitarian support and conveying a joint message of solidarity with Ukraine, as well as a determination to uphold respect for international law in Europe, the Indo-Pacific and globally
- The EU and the RoK condemn Russia's deepening military cooperation and arms trade with the DPRK in flagrant violations of multiple UNSC resolutions



The EU and the RoK are **supporting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula** by:

- Urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and return to diplomacy towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula
- Calling on the UN Security Council and UN Member States to fully implement relevant resolutions and to respond to the DPRK's illegal actions.
- Highlight the DPRK's obligation to protect human rights
- The EU and RoK condemn Russia's deepening military cooperation and arms trade with the DPRK in flagrant violations of multiple UNSC resolutions

Through the EU-RoK Framework Participation Agreement (2014), the RoK contributes to and participates in EU crisis management operations, such as in EU naval Operation Atalanta and a joint naval exercise in early 2026.

PROSPERITY

EU-REPUBLIC OF KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

EU-RoK
bilateral trade in goods



Over
€124
billion in 2025

EU-RoK
bilateral trade
in services



€33
billion in 2024

Compared
with 2011,
when the FTA
entered into
effect

EU exports
of services
to RoK



205.2%

EU imports
from RoK



203.3%



TRADE PARTNERS:

EU-ROK:



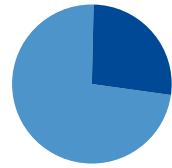
ROK-EU:



In 2025, the EU was RoK's **3rd largest source of imports** and the **3rd largest destination of exports**.
In the same year, RoK was the EU's **8th largest supplier** for imports of goods.

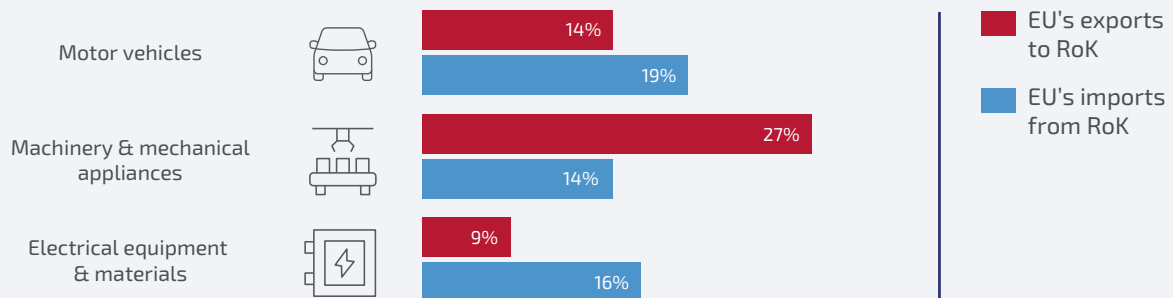


The EU is by far
the **largest source**
of foreign direct
investment (FDI) stock
in RoK.



24.4% OF TOTAL
FDI STOCK

EU MOST RELEVANT TRADE WITH RoK BY PRODUCT GROUP (2025)

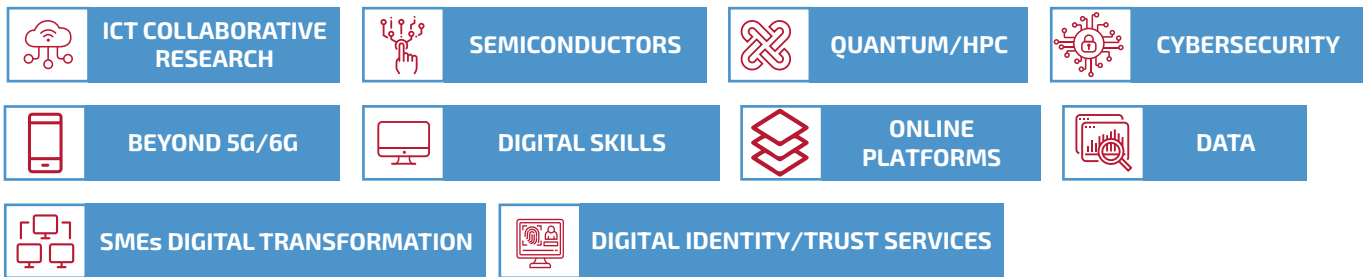


COMPETITIVENESS PARTNERSHIP

At the Summit in June 2026, the EU and the Republic of Korea agreed to launch a new **Competitiveness Partnership** strengthen engagement on trade, investment, supply chains, digital, advanced technologies, energy, and innovation. The work under the Partnership will be steered by the new **High-Level Economic Dialogue**, also announced at the Summit.

DIGITAL

In November 2022, the EU and the Republic of Korea launched a comprehensive **Digital Partnership** to strengthen cooperation in crucial areas. Since the launch of the Digital Partnership, three Digital Partnership Councils have taken place in June 2023, March 2024 and in November 2025 in Seoul.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The EU and RoK are both pursuing ambitious AI promotion and innovation agendas building on being the first jurisdictions to pass AI legislation, ensuring trust and legal certainty. They concur on the importance of AI uptake for the economy and society as well as for boosting AI innovation and competitiveness. In addition, both sides recognise the importance of AI safety and of continued regulatory cooperation for the use of AI technologies. Accordingly, both sides agreed to conclude a Cooperation Arrangement on AI to pursue further cooperation. Both partners also reaffirmed their continued cooperation on global AI governance.

Building on the EU-RoK Digital Trade Principles, the EU and RoK concluded a Digital Trade Agreement in March 2025 and signed it at the Summit in June 2026. The agreement includes binding rules fit to face the fast-paced digital developments of today.

Providing legal certainty for businesses and facilitate digital trade

Sets out rules on the use of electronic transactions with provisions on e-signatures, e-contracts, e-invoicing, e-payments, paperless trading, and single windows for data submission.

Enhancing consumer and business trust

Improves trust in the digital trade environment through provisions on online consumer protection, spam, personal data protection and cybersecurity.

Countering protectionist measures

Prohibits data localisation requirements and mandatory transfer of source code. It includes a permanent ban on customs duties on electronic transmissions, as well as rules on open government data and internet access.

Since 2021, personal data flows freely and safely from the EU to the Republic of Korea on the basis of an **adequacy decision**.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The EU and the RoK are committed to meeting the Paris Agreement's goals, limiting global warming to 1.5°C and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Since 2023, the EU-RoK **Green Partnership** has focused on climate action, environmental protection, and a clean and just energy transition. Since 2024, the EU-funded Green Partnership Facility has supported policy exchanges in key areas like carbon pricing, climate adaptation, sustainable finance, clean technologies, circular economy policies and biodiversity protection. At the Summit in June 2026, the EU and the Republic of Korea launched a **High-Level Energy Dialogue** to coordinate efforts on energy security and the clean energy transition, including on safe and sustainable low carbon technologies.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The EU and the RoK are addressing shared global challenges and support the green and digital transitions through research and innovation cooperation, including on the technologies of the future. With **Korea's association to Pillar II of the EU's €93.5 billion Horizon Europe framework programme in 2025**, the EU and Korea strengthen this collaboration and increase people-to-people contacts, building on the more than 150 projects with Korean entities under Horizon Europe and its predecessor Horizon 2020, and almost 20 years of S&T cooperation. Building on these results the EU and the RoK are working closely together to support innovative start-ups and allow them to scale and expand their geographic footprint.



EDUCATION

Citizens and higher education institutions of the Republic of Korea are eligible to take part in the **EU's Erasmus+ programme**. Erasmus+ has since 2021 already supported around 2700 educational exchanges of higher education students and university staff between the EU and the Republic of Korea. Three universities in the Republic of Korea have also received funding to establish Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence, which supports the development of EU studies.



TRANSPORT

The EU and the RoK have renewed their Aviation Partnership Project to strengthen cooperation in the fields of safety, sustainability and innovative technologies. Both sides actively engage in promoting the decarbonisation of international transport, including at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in view of implementing the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). A regular **High-Level Transport Dialogue** takes place regularly since 2022 to promote cooperation across all transport modes.



COOPERATING ON FIGHTING CRIME

Cooperation between the Korean National Police Agency and Europol is developing based on the Working Arrangement that entered into force in 2021. The RoK joined the SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application) community in June 2023. This platform allows for the secure and swift **communication and exchange of operational and strategic crime-related information and intelligence**, and the Europol Liaison Officer community in 2024.