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ICT Beyond Borders: The Integral Role of US Tech in Europe's Digital Economy

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Brussels, 20 March 2024 - In the face of recent debates surrounding the "vulnerability" of digital services provided by non-EU companies, the new [Policy Brief](#) reveals a robust, symbiotic and long term-oriented relationship between US tech investments and Europe's digital landscape. Contrary to assertions made about the susceptibility of digital services provided by the US tech firms, their strong presence and substantial investments in data centres, skilled workforce development, and research facilities across Europe serve as significant barriers for them to exit Europe, underscoring a deep-rooted interdependency.

Corporate data illustrates a notable USD 1.36 trillion investment gap between US and EU ICT companies, attributing a substantial competitive edge to US firms. This gap, however, presents an opportunity for the EU to leverage continuous technological advancements through strategic partnerships with US counterparts, fostering innovation and driving digital transformation.

"As Europe advances towards digital sovereignty, collaboration with US tech companies emerges as the most important cornerstone, ensuring a balance between autonomy and leveraging cutting-edge innovation across all EU Member States," argues Matthias Bauer, co-author of the study. The symbiotic relationship between US tech and Europe's digital economy highlights the interconnected nature of global technology markets, emphasising the importance of cross-border collaborations in shaping a competitive and innovative digital future.

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