

Joint Committee Decision on the Republic of Peru's Request to Commence an Accession Process  
to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)  
7 November 2024

*Taking into* consideration the formal request to commence negotiations for accession to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (herein after referred to as "DEPA") received from the Republic of Peru's (hereinafter referred to as "Peru") on 23 May 2023; and

*Pursuant* to Article 12.2 (a) (Functions of the Joint Committee), Article 12.3 (Decision-Making), Article 12.4 (Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee) and Article 16.4 (Accession) of the DEPA, and the Accession Process adopted by JC Decision of 13 May 2021 (hereinafter referred to as "Accession Process");

*The Joint Committee decides as follows:*

**1. Commencement of the Accession Processes for Peru:**

Pursuant to paragraph 3 ("Request to commence accession process") of the Accession Process, the accession process requested by Peru as an aspirant economy will commence on 14 November 2024.

**2. Establishment of an Accession Working Group for Peru:**

A working group to negotiate the accession of Peru (hereinafter referred to as "Accession Working Group for Peru") will be established on 14 November 2024:

(a) Terms of Reference: Pursuant to Article 16.4 (Accession) of the DEPA and paragraph 4 of the Accession Process, the Accession Working Group is tasked to (i) examine the request of Peru to accede to the DEPA, including documentation provided by Peru to demonstrate its ability to comply with the provisions of the DEPA and any other information requested from Peru during the accession process; (ii) conduct negotiations on Peru's accession to the DEPA and, (iii) submit to the Joint Committee, after finalising negotiations, a written report making a recommendation regarding the terms for Peru's accession to the DEPA.

(b) Membership: The Accession Working Group for Peru will comprise government representatives from the DEPA Parties.

(c) Chair: The Republic of Korea will act as Chair for the Accession Working Group for Peru. The responsibilities of the Chair include: coordinating the overall conduct of the Accession Working Group for Peru, including its organizational matters; presiding over all meetings of the Accession Working Group for Peru; and coordinating the drafting of a written report of the Accession Working Group for Peru.

The Accession Working Group for Peru does not include government representatives from Peru. However, it may invite Peru to its meetings to review the accession terms, or for any other reasons that the Accession Working Group may decide.

**3. Effective Date of Decision**

This Joint Committee Decision is effective as of 7 November 2024, and shall be made publicly available by the DEPA Parties through individual public statements.