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The Perilous Path to EU Technological Sovereignty



A Premise: The Energy Cost of Tech Wars

China's ban on Nvidia Chips:

- Chinese government banned domestic tech companies from buying Nvidia AI chips
- Local alternatives: much more energy-intensive
- Subsidies to support Chinese tech companies
- Effects: increase in consumption of electric energy (high CO2 footprint)



Tech War: a Mix of Domestic Measures

In general:

- Subsidies
- Export controls and restrictions to outbound investments
- FDIs screening mechanisms

The EU also adopted instruments to:

- Curtail the power of Big Tech
- Enhance the cybersecurity



Focus on EU International Initiatives

An International Digital Strategy for the European Union (2025)

Three main goals:

- To boost EU' tech competitiveness
- To promote an high level of security
- To shape digital governance and standards

How? The EU Digital Diplomacy



Advancements at the Multilateral Level

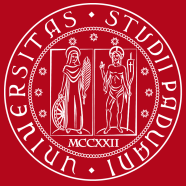
United Nations:

- Global Digital Compact (2024)
- UN Convention against Cybercrime (2025)

WTO:

- Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce (2024)

International Organisations for Standardisation



Advancements at the Bilateral Level

- Bilateral **Institutional Fora** to discuss cyber issues
- **Free Trade and Investment Agreements**
- Partnerships on **Sustainable Raw Materials**



Focus on Digital Trade Agreements

Provisions on **Free Flows of Data**

- NO to domestic measures on data localisations
- Criticisms: potential problems for EU industrialisations efforts and for privacy

Provisions on **Source Code**

- NO to domestic measures on disclosure of source code
- Criticisms: such provisions are outdated and may hinder accountability mechanisms established by some EU normative instruments (DSA, DMA, AI Act)



Focus on Partnership on Raw Materials

The EU and its non-binding partnership on **sustainable raw materials**:

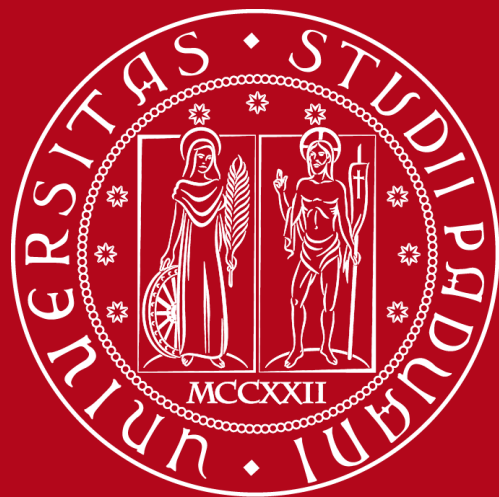
- Flexibility
- Significant amounts of financial resources
- Promotion of sustainability goals

But sustainability cannot be taken for granted...



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To Conclude....



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