



The Global Trade & Digital Policy Alerts: Implications for Sweden

Policy intelligence for international business & policymakers

Professor Simon J. Evenett

26 November 2021

**St.Gallen
Endowment**
for Prosperity through Trade

Transparency is a foundation of sound economic governance



- “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman”—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis (1963)
- “Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.”—U.S. Senator and former Harvard Professor Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1983)

The woeful state of transparency in the world trading system

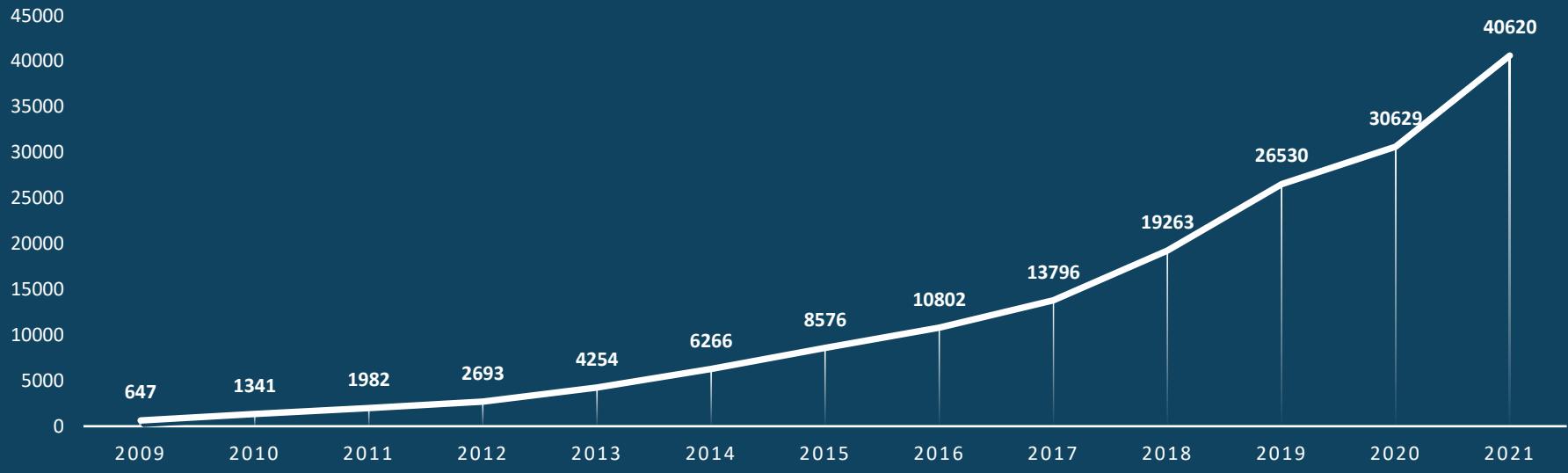


- Missing, incomplete, and late notifications by governments to the World Trade Organization on all manner of trade policies.
- G20 members starve WTO staff of information on trade policies.
- No international organisation has been given a mandate to systematically collect information on non-tariff barriers.
- No international organisation seeks to assemble comprehensive information on subsidies and related forms of state intervention.
- These outcomes are by design—they are not an accident.

We've published over 40,000 reports on trade policy interventions



**TOTAL NUMBER OF TRADE POLICY INTERVENTIONS PUBLISHED ON THE
GLOBAL TRADE ALERT (GTA) WEBSITE**





Traditional Commercial Policy and Sweden's Interests

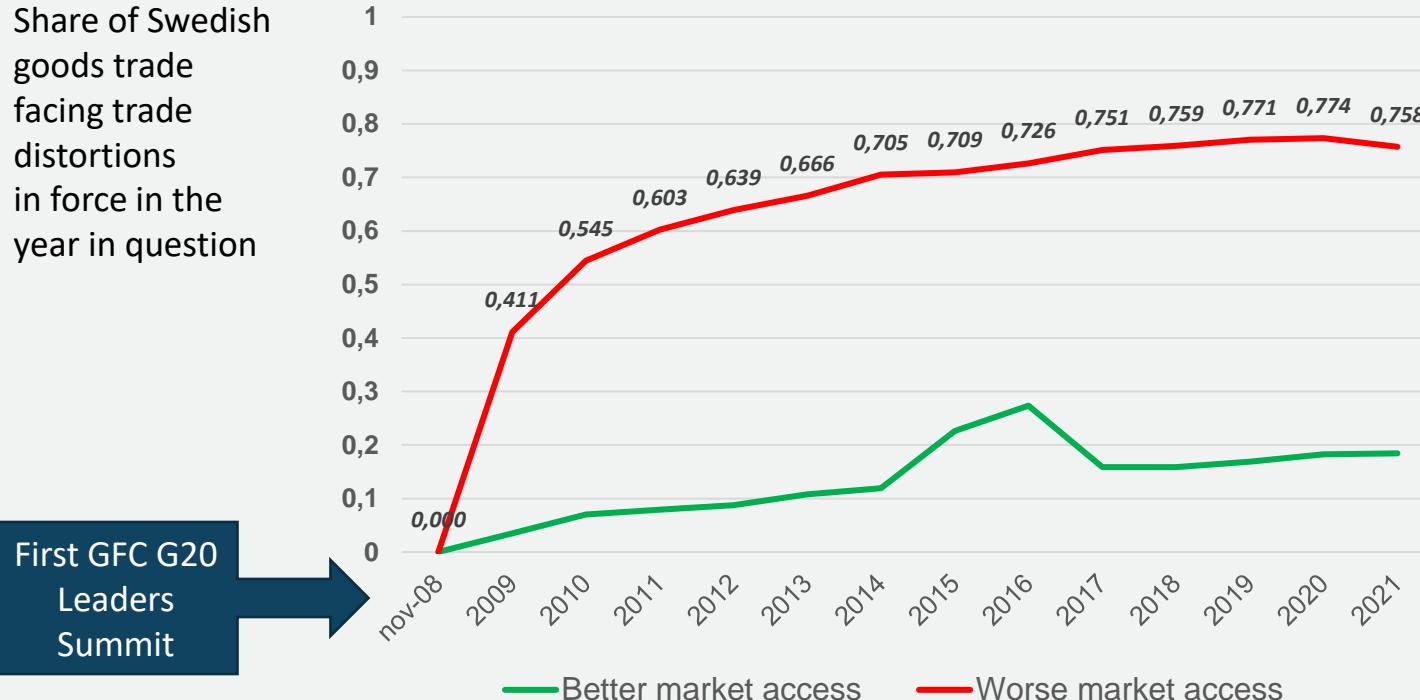
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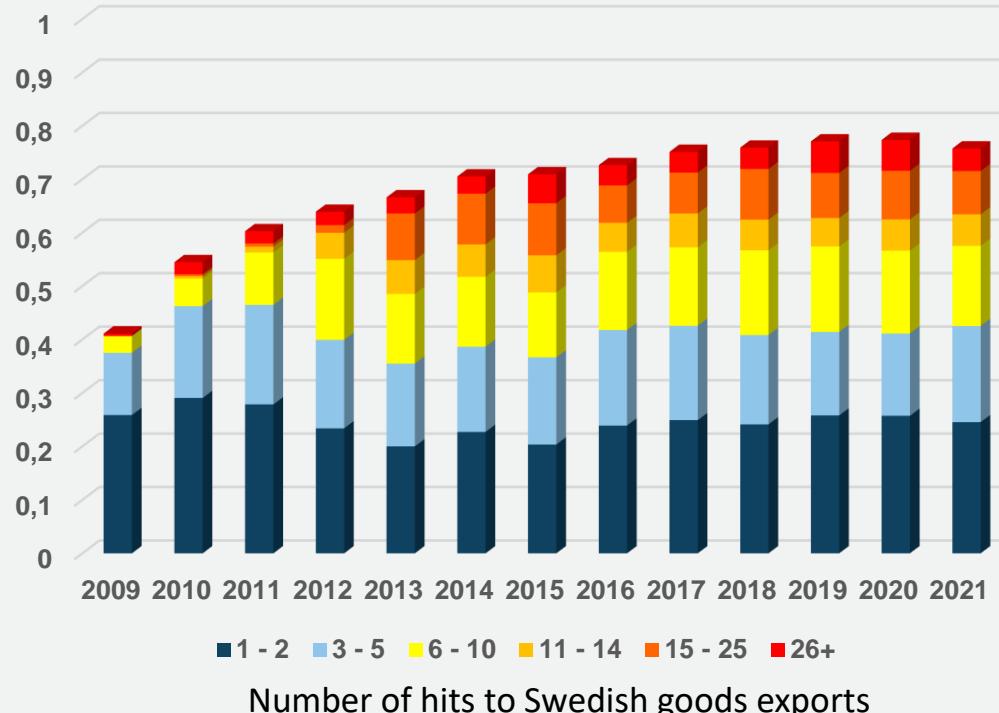
Goods trade: Trading conditions facing Swedish exports have worsened since the GFC



A third of Swedish goods exports faces 6 or more trade distortions in foreign markets

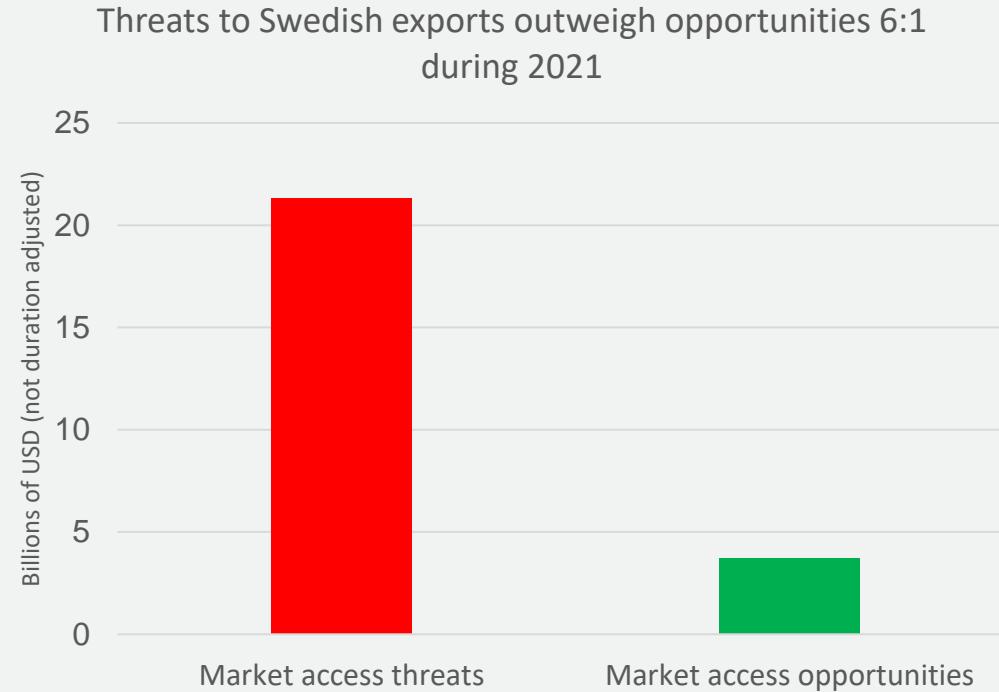


Share of Swedish goods trade facing trade distortions in force in the year in question



“We are drowning in information but starved for knowledge”

- Effective diplomacy and successful business strategies rely on up-to-date, easy-to-interpret information.
- Most trade ministries have weak trade policy management information systems.
- They miss opportunities to gain from the world trading system and overlook nascent threats.

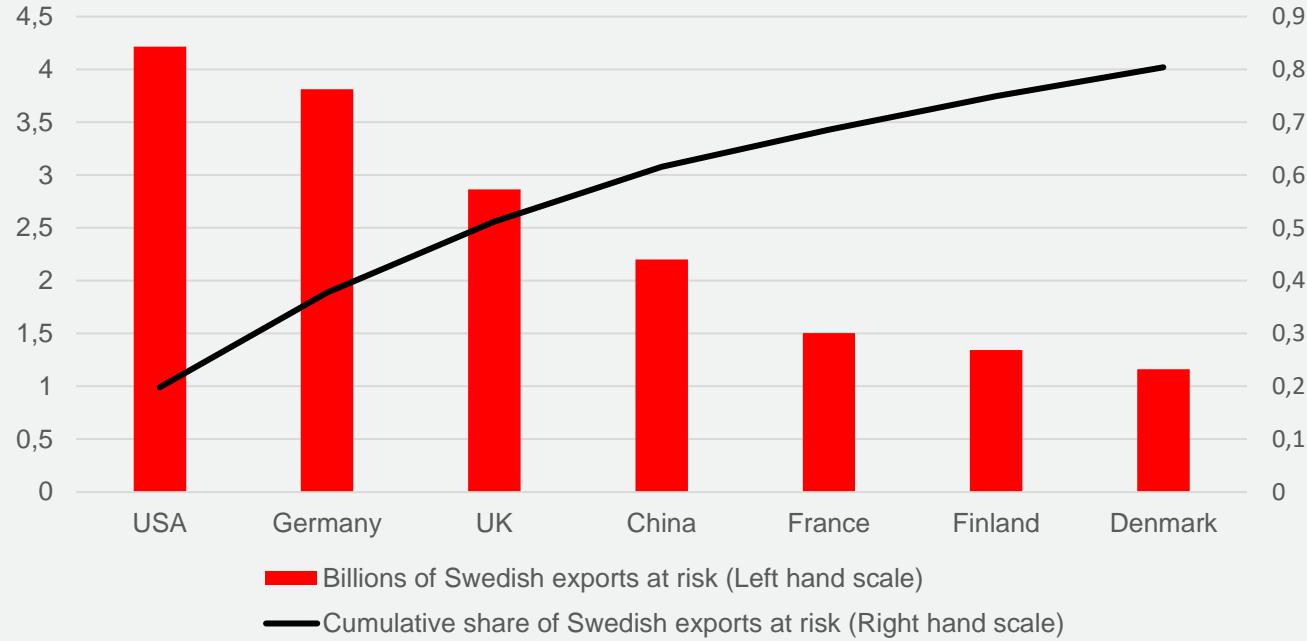


Breaking market access threat down by trading partner



This information can be broken down by sector and product

Threats to Swedish goods exports are concentrated this year





Rising Fragmentation Risk in the Digital Economy & Swedish Prosperity

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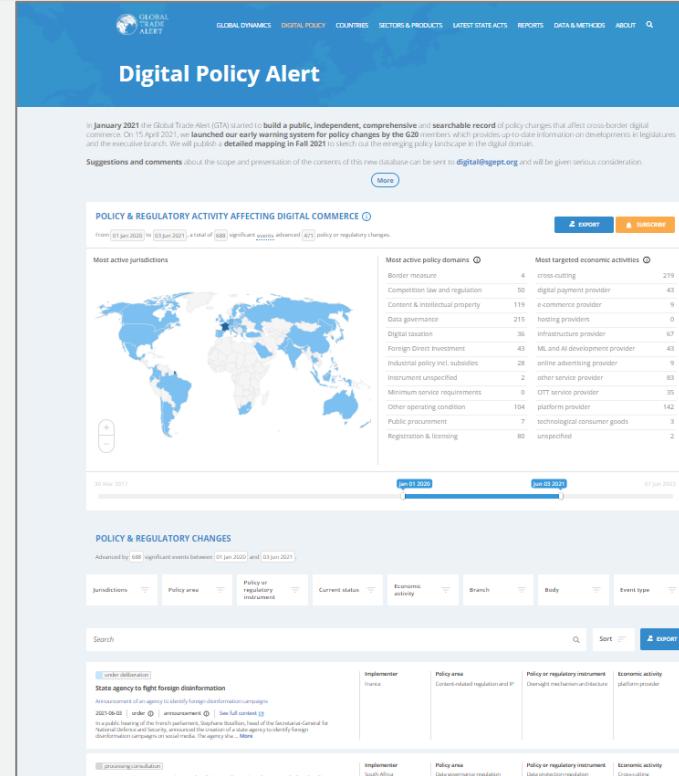
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Digital Policy Alert

digitalpolicyalert.org

- Create a timely public inventory for policy & regulation
 - Comprehensive description of the rapidly changing landscape
 - Independent factual base based on official sources
 - Interactive, portable and free
- Data product 1: Activity tracker + notification service
 - Country scope: G20 and EU members
 - Current status: launched publicly on 15 April 2021
- Data product 2: Detailed policy mapping
 - Country scope: G20
 - Current status: Rollout on own website in Q1/2022



A comprehensive factual base



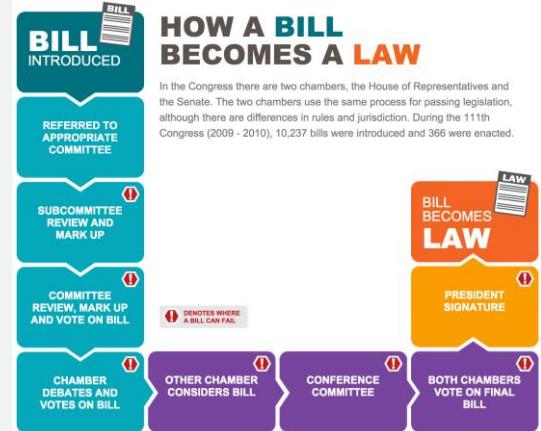
broad policy spectrum

1. Data governance
2. Content moderation
3. Competition
4. Taxation
5. Subsidies & industrial policy
6. Public procurement
7. International trade
8. Foreign direct investment
9. Registration & licensing

all government branches



complete process

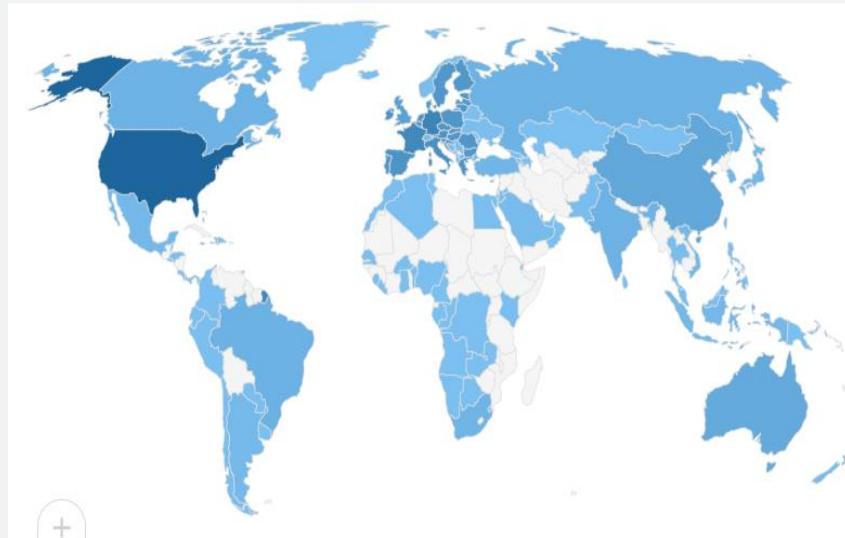
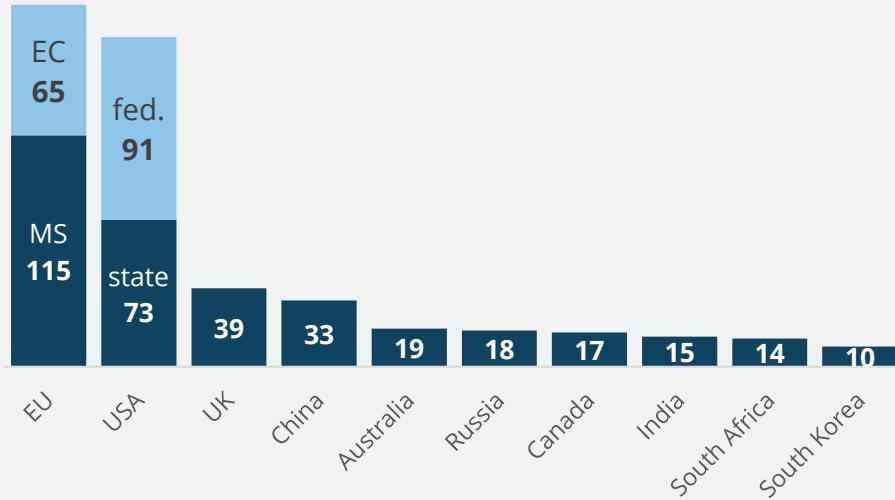


Activity tracker findings for digital policy

Europe and the US as the centres of activity

- Policy & regulatory activity in the G20

700+ changes in 2021, proposed or adopted

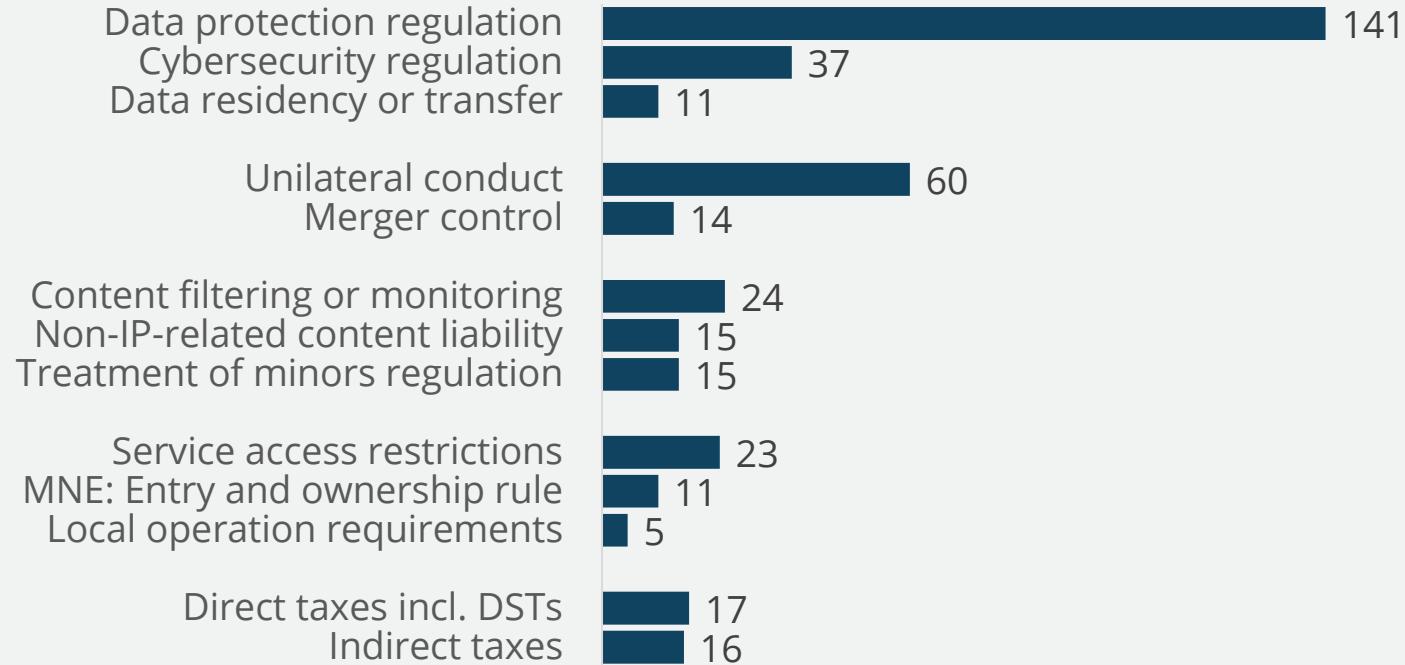


darker shading = higher recorded activity

Source: digitalpolicyalert.org

Current areas of policy & regulatory activity

number of changes for selected instruments in 2021



Source: digitalpolicyalert.org

Want to learn more?



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- Subscribe to our policy intelligence alerts.
- Read our policy analysis: <https://www.globaltradealert.org/reports>
- For information of the St Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade: <http://www.max-schmidheiny.foundation/page/en/aktivitaeten/global-trade-alert/>
- Contact me at simon.evenett@sgept.org