

16th Meeting of the Research Partnership Platform (RPP)
Room XIX, Palais des Nations
Geneva
7 July 2025

Revisiting State Restraints

Presentation

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Introducing the Digital Policy Alert

16th Meeting of the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform
7 July 2025

Tommaso Giardini

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The Challenge at Hand

Emergent fragmentation in digital policy



Regulatory diversity risks fragmenting the digital economy.

Mushrooming regulation

Cross-border spillovers

Insufficient coordination

Our Institution

The St.Gallen Endowment



St.Gallen Endowment

for Prosperity through Trade



GLOBAL
TRADE
ALERT



Digital Policy Alert

Scope



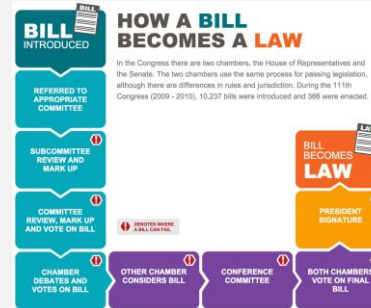
Spectrum of policy areas

1. Data governance
2. Content moderation
3. Competition
4. Consumer protection
5. Taxation
6. ...

All branches of government



Complete policy life cycle



International coverage

1. G20 Countries
2. EU Member States and Switzerland
3. 6 ASEAN countries
4. 8 African countries

Features



1. Comprehensive

- Government action affecting the digital economy, since 2020
- Recently surpassed 10'000 interventions

2. Independent

- Record based on official sources
- Verification with a 2-step-review

3. Usable

- Interactive, portable and free
- Rich taxonomy to break down elements of policy

Activity Tracker



18246 events advancing 10101 policy or regulatory changes:

Most active jurisdictions

Number of policy changes

Graph

Table

Excel

CSV



Most active policy areas

Number of policy changes

Excel

CSV

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data governance	3959
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content moderation	1231
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer protection	1191
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competition	963
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorisation, registration and licensing	869
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design and testing standards	699
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other operating condition	319
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taxation	307
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International trade	159

Targeted economic activity

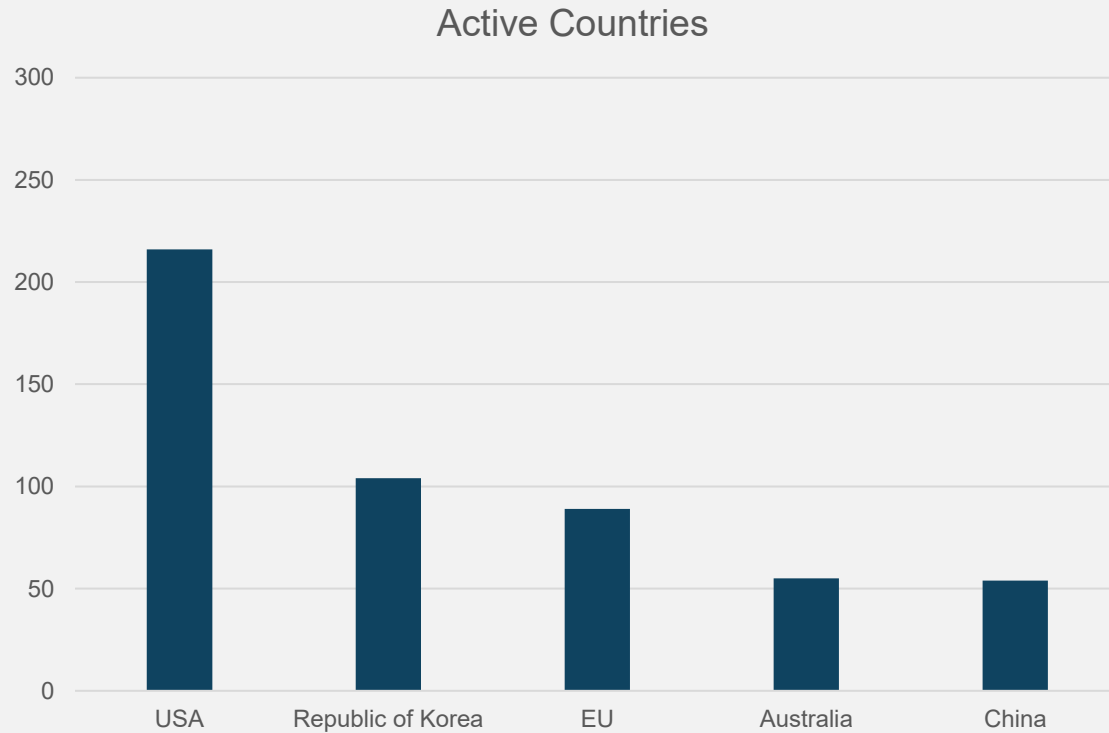
Number of policy changes

Excel

CSV

cross-cutting	3201
platform intermediary: user-generated content	1574
ML and AI development	1215
digital payment provider (incl. cryptocurrencies)	1031
other service provider	925
platform intermediary: other	827
platform intermediary: e-commerce	787
infrastructure provider: internet and telecom services	620

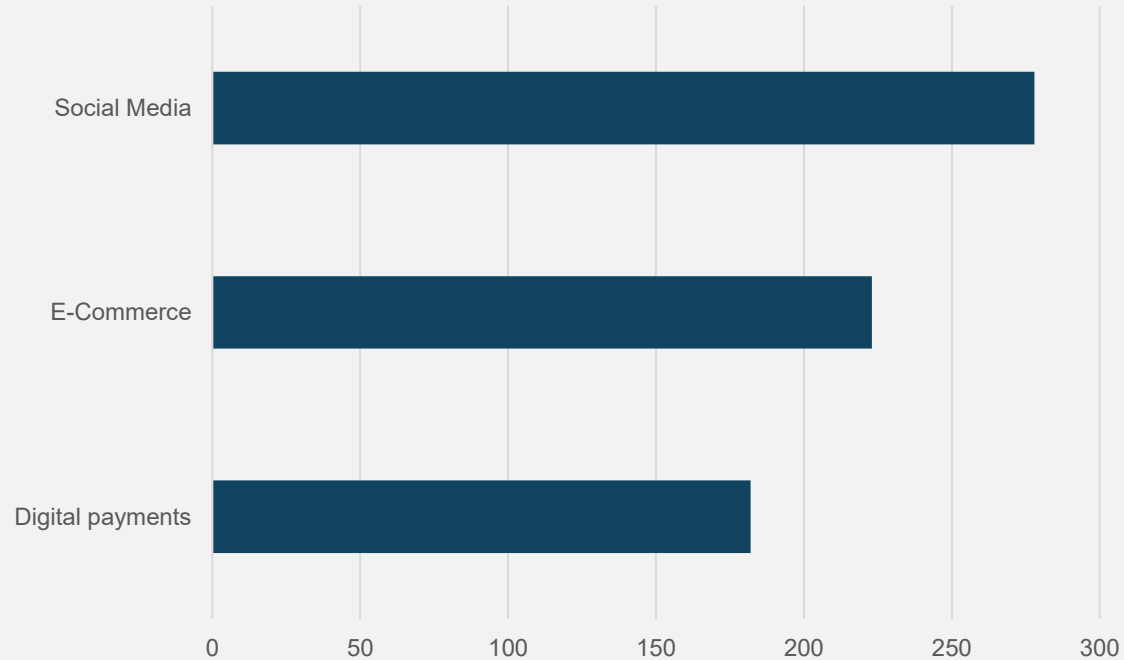
Consumer Protection I



Consumer Protection II



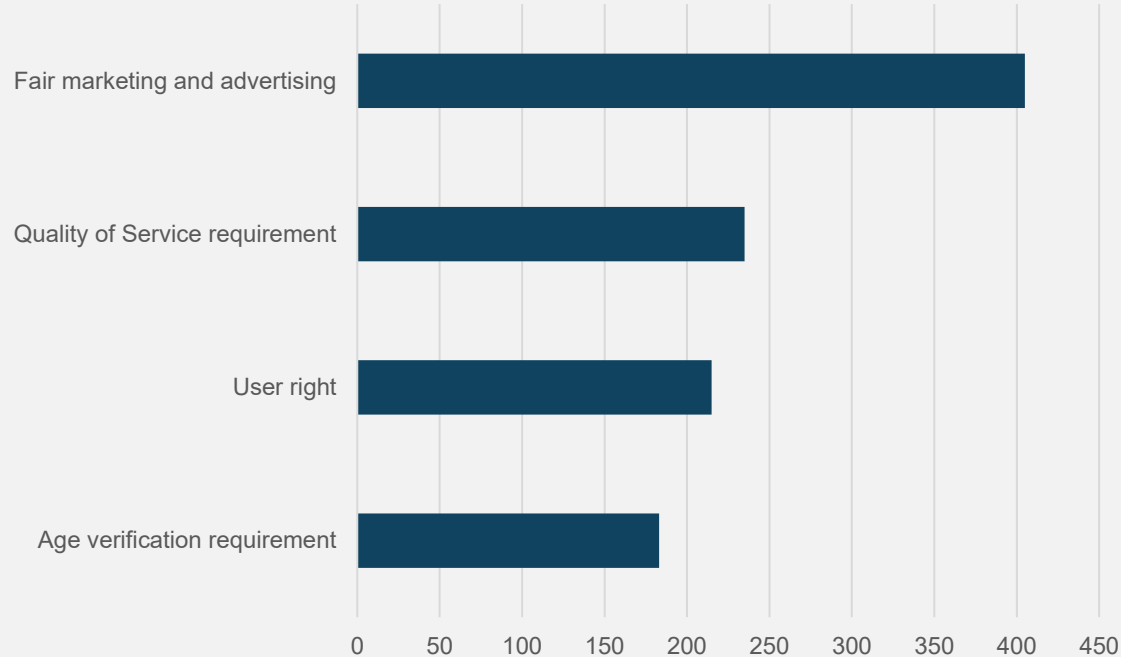
Targeted Business Models



Consumer Protection III



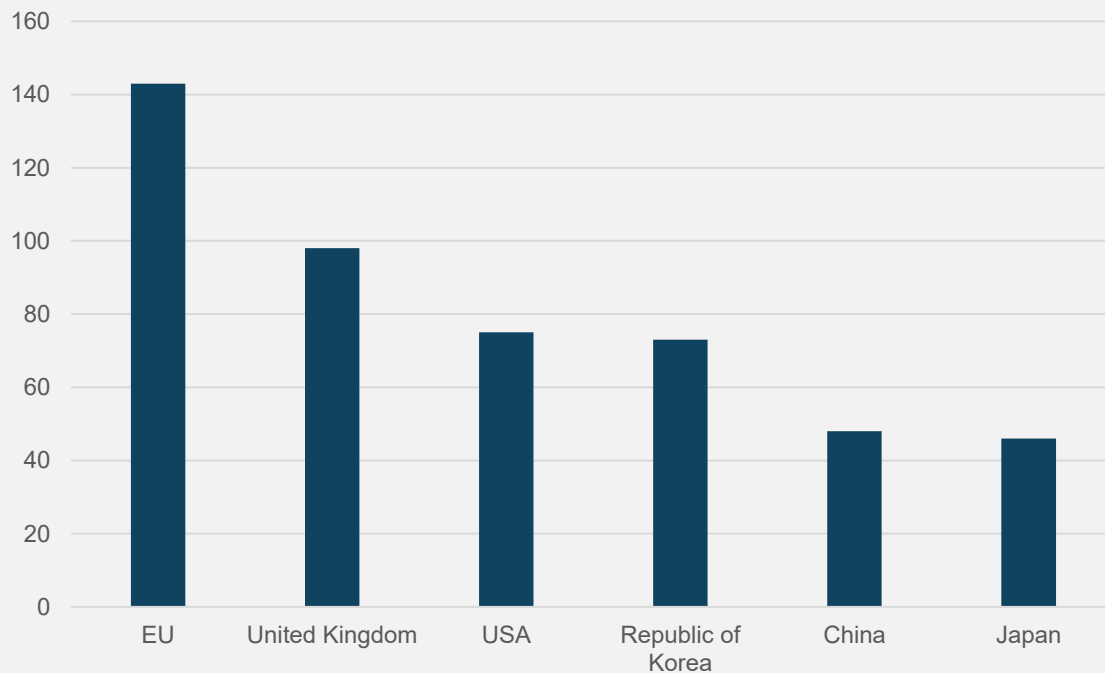
Regulatory Instruments



Competition I



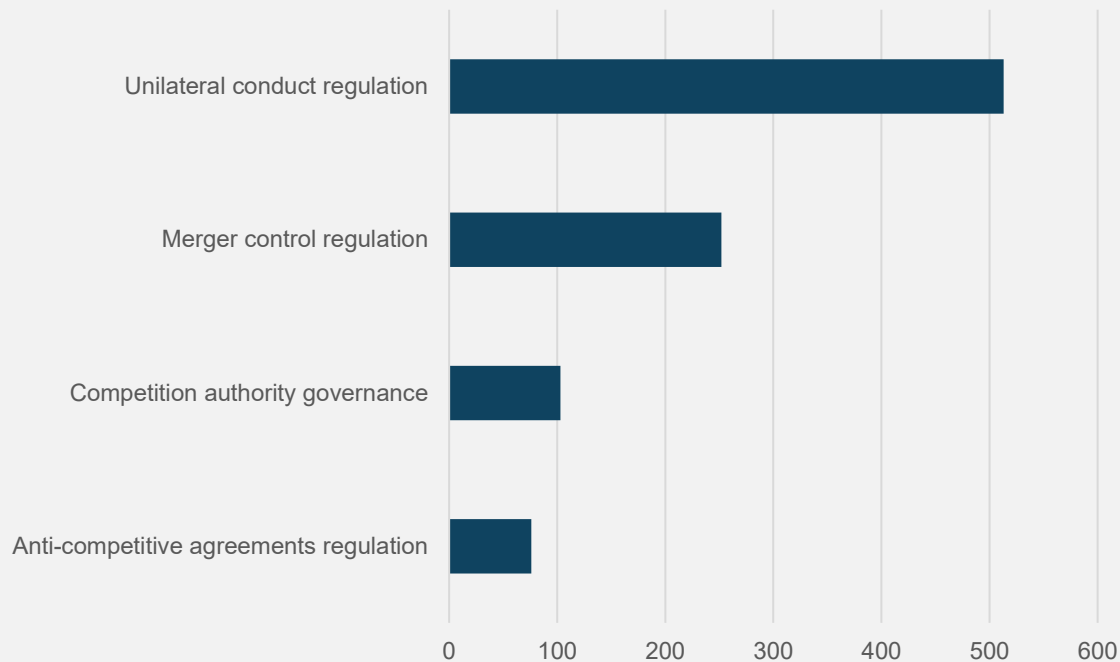
Active Countries



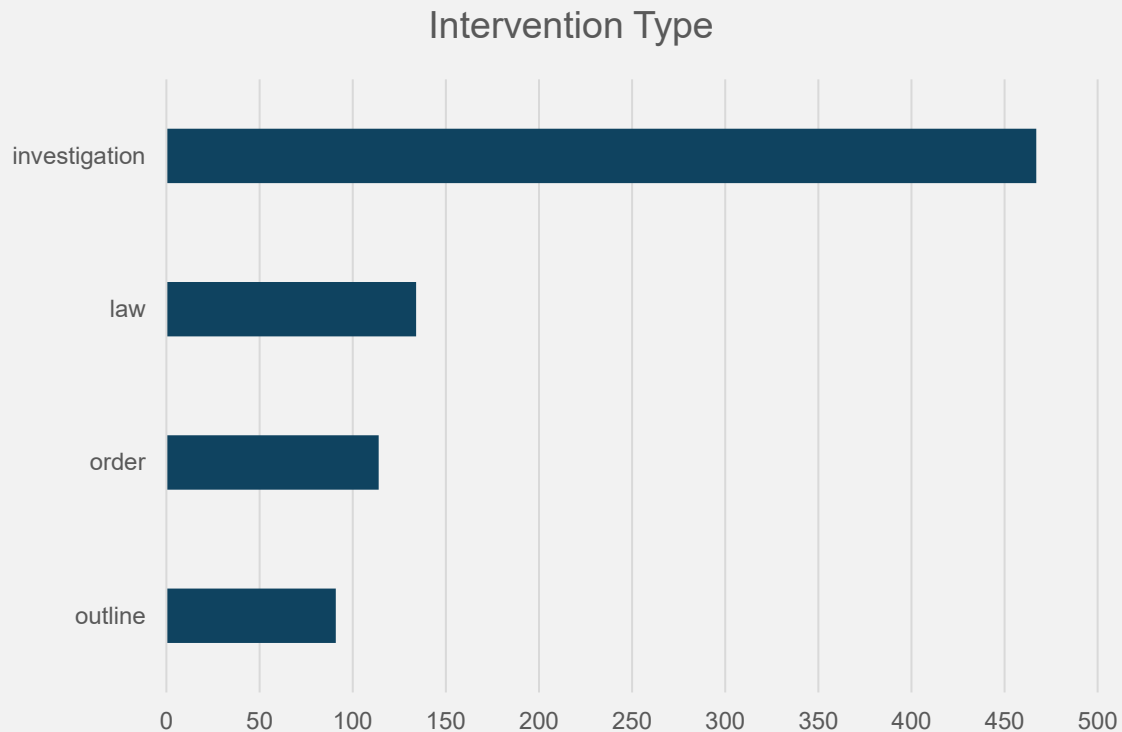
Competition II



Regulatory Requirements



Competition III



So What?



- In competition and consumer protection, trends span across continents.
- Given the common regulatory object, governments can pursue regulatory interoperability.
- Such alignment requires transparency – beyond tracking.



Thank you

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