

2026

VOLUME.2

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STEP 4

Registration completion within Incheon International Airport.

STEP 5

Notification of the results to the applying ECCK member company.

Application submission & Inquiry to ecck@ecck.or.kr

Download the application form here [CLICK HERE](#) 

The service is available to foreign business executives recommended by six major economic organisations in Korea, including the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea.

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Membership Inquiry

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주한유럽상공회의소 백서 2025 발간 기자회견
ECCK White Paper 2025 Press Conference

Thursday, September 25, 2025 | Korea Press Center



about us

The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) is committed to advancing the interests of companies from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member states as well as from the United Kingdom of Great Britain operating in Korea. Furthermore, it cooperates with organizations that have mutual interests to promote an optimal business environment and fairly represent the European business community.

⊕ Committees & Forums

[Event Inquiry](#)

There are 18 committees and 7 forums connecting businesses through networking, advocacy, and insights.

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⊕ Events

[Inquiry](#)

The ECCK fosters a vibrant business environment through stakeholder engagement and events.

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⊕ Publications

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The ECCK shares publications on market trends, regulations, and social issues and conducts business confidence surveys.

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The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) operates a total of 17 committees and 8 forums in 2026, following the establishment of new committees and forums, and structural adjustments. We appreciate the continued interest and support of our members and partners.

➔ Committees

Heavy Duty Commercial Vehicles (2012)
Passenger Vehicles (2012)
Tires (2012)
Fashion & Retail (2012)
Intellectual Property Rights (2012)
Marine Industry (2012)
Insurance (2012)
Cosmetics (2012)
Logistics & Transportation (2012)
Chemical (2013)
Healthcare (2013)
Alcohol Beverages (2014)
Kitchen & Home Appliances (2015)
Food (2017)
Aerospace & Defense (2018)
Energy & Environment (2019)
Digital (2019)

➔ Forums

CFO (2012)
Taxation (2012)
HR & Compliance (2014)
CEO (2018)
Tourism (2019)
Future Development (2020)
Sustainability (2022)
Family Friendly Future Forum (2024)



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SPECIAL

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

A scenic view of a terraced tea plantation. A dirt path winds through the terraces, which are covered in lush green tea bushes. A large, leafy tree stands on the left side of the path. The background shows more terraced hills under a clear sky.

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS THROUGH BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

As global momentum to address climate change continues to build, sustainability has become a defining priority for businesses worldwide. From the European Union's Green Deal to Korea's own Green New Deal, governments and industries alike are accelerating efforts towards carbon neutrality and sustainable growth.

Against this backdrop, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea Sustainability Awards serve as a platform to recognise companies that are not only responding to these challenges, but actively shaping the future through responsible and innovative business practices. Now in its fourth year, the awards highlight organisations that are successfully embedding sustainability into their core strategies—demonstrating that long-term value creation and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.

SPECIAL

ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards

Thursday, April 23, 2026
Jeongdong 1928 Art Center



The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea held the ECCK Sustainability Awards on 23 April at Jeongdong 1928 Art Center, with the support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources (MOTIR) and Deloitte.

The ECCK Sustainability Awards recognise companies that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in environmental responsibility, sustainable business practices, and social impact.

Mr. Young-man Kim, Director General for Trade Policy Coordination at MOTIR, attended the ceremony and expressed his appreciation for ECCK's continued efforts, while extending his congratulations and encouragement to the award recipients.

Walter van Hattum, Minister Counsellor for Trade and Economic Affairs at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, emphasised in his congratulatory remarks that the long-standing partnership between Europe and Korea will be further strengthened through active business engagement beyond the policy level, noting that the awardees' cases demonstrate the tangible potential for a sustainable future.



Host **ECCK** | EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN KOREA
Partner **Deloitte.**
Support **Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources**



A special congratulatory performance was also presented during this year's ceremony. HANBIT ART, an ensemble composed of visually impaired musicians, delivered a performance by the Hanbit Chamber Orchestra, adding the values of inclusion and harmony to the event. This performance was organised in connection with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ECCK and the Korea Employment Agency for the Disabled (KEAD) on 21 April, in celebration of the Month of Persons with Disabilities, symbolising a shared commitment to fostering a more inclusive society through cultural engagement.



Now in its fourth year, the awards received a significantly higher number of applications compared to the previous year. Following a highly competitive selection process open to both members and non-members, eight companies were selected as winners across four categories.



Ms. Michelle Winthrop is the Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea



Dr. Hyo-Sun Kim is a vice chair of Korea Carbon Finance Association



Dr. Hyunsuk Jang is Director of the New Trade Strategy Office at the Institute for International Trade, Korea International Trade Association (KITA)



Dr. Sungwoo Kim, Head of the Environmental & Energy Research Institute at Kim & Chang

The selection of award recipients was conducted through a fair and rigorous evaluation process by an independent panel of external experts. The panel conducted a comprehensive assessment of the nominees based on environmental responsibility, sustainable business practices, and social impact.

The award-winning companies and the jury's evaluations for each category are as follows.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



Servier Korea has been recognised with the Climate Action category award at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards, reflecting its structured and people-centred approach to sustainability.

Aligned with the Servier Group's 2030 Climate Commitment, the company has established a robust framework to measure greenhouse gas emissions, supported by independent verification and transparent reporting. Alongside emissions management, Servier Korea actively promotes employee engagement through company-wide Climate Fresk workshops led by trained in-house facilitators, while extending its efforts to the community through initiatives such as Seoul's Montagne tree-planting programme.

Through these initiatives, the company has developed an integrated approach that connects measurement, learning, and action into a consistent annual cycle.

Servier Korea noted that the award reflects the collective commitment of its employees, highlighting that sustainability within the organisation has evolved beyond a corporate initiative into a shared conviction.

As a pharmaceutical company governed by a non-profit foundation, Servier emphasised that its mission to serve patients and society naturally extends to environmental stewardship. The company expressed its appreciation to the ECCK for providing a platform that encourages meaningful climate action, and reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening its climate framework while sharing its experience to support broader sustainability efforts.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



Reddal has been awarded the Climate Action category at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards, in recognition of its practical and impact-driven approach to sustainability.

At the heart of Reddal's strategy is a commitment to embedding climate action into both its operations and client services. The company has set science-based targets to reduce Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions by 90% by 2050, while continuously strengthening its carbon accounting practices and data transparency. This rigorous approach enables Reddal to both manage its own footprint and support clients in tracking and reducing their emissions through practical, measurable solutions.

Beyond its internal efforts, Reddal focuses on scaling impact through its advisory work, helping organisations of all sizes integrate sustainability into everyday business decisions. As part of a broader agenda encompassing sustainable growth, inclusive communities, and responsible business practices, the company aims to accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon, net-zero economy.

Reddal noted that the award reflects not only its internal progress, but also the collective impact achieved in collaboration with clients and partners. The company emphasised that its sustainability journey has been a global effort, driven by teams across regions including Seoul and Helsinki, and underpinned by a commitment to continuously improve how emissions are measured and managed.

Expressing its appreciation, Reddal thanked the ECCK for providing a platform that recognises actionable and scalable sustainability initiatives, and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing science-based climate action—demonstrating that business growth and meaningful emissions reduction can go hand in hand.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



G-COVE has been recognised in the Circular Economy category at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards, in acknowledgement of its scalable and system-driven approach to sustainable packaging solutions.

The company develops plant-based packaging alternatives using renewable bamboo fibre, offering biodegradable substitutes for conventional plastics. At the core of its operations is an integrated ecosystem built through independent research and development, combining a Fiber Extraction System (FES), intelligent IoT-enabled manufacturing, eco-product facilities, logistics supply chains, and Bio-Waste Processing (BWP) technologies. This end-to-end framework enables a circular model that spans material sourcing, production, usage, and end-of-life treatment. Through this approach, G-COVE has demonstrated measurable environmental impact. Over the past eight years, the company has contributed to the reduction of approximately 10 million tonnes of carbon emissions and 7.3 million tonnes of plastic, supporting industries in their transition towards more sustainable packaging systems.

G-COVE noted that the award marks a significant milestone in its sustainability journey and reflects its long-term commitment to innovation in circular solutions. The company emphasised that sustainability is embedded at a system level, connecting material innovation, intelligent manufacturing, logistics, and waste processing into a unified framework.

Expressing its appreciation, G-COVE thanked the ECCK and the judging committee for the recognition, as well as its partners and clients for their continued collaboration. Looking ahead, the company reaffirmed its commitment to advancing circular innovation and working with global partners to accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable future.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Circular Economy

WINNER



STMicroelectronics

STMicroelectronics has been honoured at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards, recognising its long-standing commitment to sustainability and measurable progress in decarbonisation within the semiconductor industry.

As a global semiconductor company, STMicroelectronics underscores the sector's environmental impact, with more than two billion electronic products produced annually relying on semiconductors. In response, the company has embedded sustainability at the core of its operations, positioning it as a fundamental responsibility rather than an optional initiative.

With over 30 years of continuous effort, sustainability has been deeply integrated into STMicroelectronics' strategy. Key milestones include its Business Conduct & Ethics Policy (1987), its first environmental report and ISO 14001 and EMAS certifications (1997), the launch of its Conflict Minerals Programme (2007), and its commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2027. This long-term approach has delivered tangible results. As of 2025, the company has achieved a 51% water recycling rate, while 97% of its waste is repurposed—marking steady progress towards its carbon neutrality target.

STMicroelectronics noted that the award serves not as a destination, but as a catalyst to further advance its sustainability efforts. The company expressed appreciation to its customers, partners, and suppliers, and highlighted the contribution of its employees in Seoul and globally.

Reaffirming its vision, STMicroelectronics emphasised its commitment to leading not only in technology, but also in sustainability within the semiconductor industry.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



Glamox has been recognised at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards for its commitment to delivering energy-efficient and environmentally responsible lighting solutions.

At the core of Glamox's strategy is a mission to provide sustainable lighting that enhances both performance and well-being, while helping customers reduce energy consumption. The company has embedded sustainability into its business model, guided by five key UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and remains committed to achieving a net-zero value chain by 2045. Glamox plays an active role in supporting the global energy transition, particularly through its contributions to offshore wind projects. Specialising in durable and efficient LED lighting systems for marine and offshore environments, the company ensures that its solutions are designed to perform reliably under harsh conditions, including significant fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

In South Korea, Glamox is contributing to major renewable energy projects, including the Jeonnam Phase 1 offshore wind farm and the Shinan Ui wind farm, set to become the country's largest offshore wind installation. Through these projects, the company supports the development of sustainable energy infrastructure while aligning its design approach with both environmental considerations and community needs.

Glamox expressed its appreciation for the recognition, noting that the award reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting customers in reducing their environmental footprint. The company also highlighted the importance of collaboration with governments, industry leaders, and local communities in advancing the transition towards renewable energy.

Looking ahead, Glamox reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its partnership with stakeholders in South Korea and globally, contributing to a more sustainable and energy-efficient future.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



Good News Energy has been recognised at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards for its innovative and accessible approach to accelerating the clean energy transition.

Founded with the belief that the current generation plays a decisive role in addressing the climate crisis, the company aims to make renewable energy part of everyday life through simple and scalable solutions. As a global social impact startup, Good News Energy supports corporations—including Kakao and Hyundai Motor Group—in transitioning to renewable energy through software-based solutions across Korea, the United States, and Vietnam. The company also offers subscription-based services designed to broaden access to clean energy for businesses and individuals alike.

Expanding its impact beyond core markets, Good News Energy has contributed to the development of an Energy Attribute Certificate (EAC) registry in Vietnam in collaboration with GGGI and KOICA, and continues to grow its presence across the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.

Good News Energy expressed its appreciation for the recognition, noting that the award reflects its mission to make the energy transition more inclusive and accessible. The company highlighted the importance of collaboration, acknowledging the role of partners, clients, and its internal teams in driving its progress.

Looking ahead, Good News Energy emphasised that Korea stands at a critical moment in its energy transition, with growing demand for technology-driven solutions. The company reaffirmed its commitment to building scalable systems, software, and partnerships to accelerate the shift towards renewable energy across Korea and beyond.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

WINNER

sanofi

Sanofi Korea has been recognised in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) category at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards, highlighting its efforts to promote health equity and social inclusion through education.

A key initiative is Dangchan School, a school-based programme focused on diabetes and insulin awareness among young students in Korea. The programme aims to improve understanding of chronic conditions while fostering a more inclusive environment for students living with diabetes.

Through practical and relatable education, Dangchan School helps reduce stigma and encourages empathy. Participating teachers have noted that framing insulin use in familiar terms—such as comparing it to wearing glasses—helps students accept it naturally. Students, in turn, have reported a greater understanding of their peers' experiences, supporting a more open and inclusive school environment.

Sanofi Korea emphasised that such initiatives reflect the essence of DE&I: ensuring that every individual feels recognised, understood, and supported. The company also acknowledged the contributions of key partners, including the Korea Health Education Forum, the Korean Diabetes Association, and school health teachers, in delivering the programme.

Aligned with its broader mission to advance health equity and improve access to healthcare, Sanofi Korea reaffirmed its commitment to supporting initiatives that raise disease awareness and promote inclusive communities.

ECCK 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Bayer Korea has been recognised in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) category at the ECCK 2026 Sustainability Awards, reflecting its commitment to embedding sustainability and social responsibility into its corporate culture.

As a global life science company operating under the mission “Health for All, Hunger for None,” Bayer aligns its sustainability strategy with key UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including zero hunger, good health and well-being, climate action, and gender equality. These efforts have contributed to strong global ESG performance, including an ‘A’ rating from MSCI and recognition by leading international benchmarks in access to medicine and environmental stewardship.

In Korea, Bayer focuses on four priority areas—Zero Hunger, Healthcare, Climate Action, and Gender Equality—driven in part by its employee-led Sustainability Ambassadors initiative. A notable example is the ‘Meal Box with Love’ programme, through which employees have supported children facing food insecurity by preparing and delivering meals, fostering both community impact and internal engagement.

Bayer Korea noted that the award reflects the collective efforts of its employees, whose commitment and collaboration have been central to its sustainability journey. The company also expressed its appreciation to partners and stakeholders, including World Vision, highlighting the importance of trust and cooperation in delivering meaningful social impact. Reaffirming its approach, Bayer emphasised that sustainability extends beyond financial performance, encompassing a balanced commitment to people, planet, and profit. The company stated that it will continue to advance innovative solutions in healthcare and nutrition while contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive society.

일 다하기 우리

Il Deohagi Uri – Link the Ones, Lead as One
(Where Every Voice Matters)

Organized by **HANBIT ART**  한빛예술단 With the support of  고용노동부 한국장애인고용공단 

HANBIT ART, a professional orchestra of visually-impaired musicians, has been delivering culture-based disability awareness training in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) and the Korean Employment Agency for Persons with Disabilities (KEAD) since 2020.

This exemplifies the highest standard of this educational model. By integrating world-class musical performances with authentic storytelling and interactive experiences, they have transformed a routine legal requirement into a profound cultural event.

In recognition of this excellence, HANBIT ART was selected as an outstanding institution for four consecutive years, from 2022 through 2025. Their unique approach is highly acclaimed not only for fulfilling regulatory standards but also for genuinely shifting perspectives and boosting employee morale through the power of music.

Experience the vibrant stage of HANBIT ART at your office.
(Expenses fully funded by MOEL and KEAD)

Inquiries

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LEGAL RISK UPDATES FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES IN KOREA



On April 1, 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK), in collaboration with ITCCK and Yulchon LLC, hosted an executive breakfast seminar addressing key legal risks facing foreign companies operating in Korea's distribution and dealership sectors.

Building on the discussions from the seminar, this article highlights selected insights shared with ECCK members, focusing on practical implications for businesses operating in Korea.

The competition session, led by Keon Woong Kim, explored recent case examples under the Fair Agency Transactions Act and outlined response approaches across different stages of market entry. In the data protection session, Sun Hee Kim examined notable personal data breach cases and discussed the implications of strengthened enforcement under the Personal Information Protection Act. The tax session, presented by Tae Hyoung Kim and Yong Whan Choi, focused on response strategies in the context of irregular tax audits.

KOREA'S DISTRIBUTION & DEALERSHIP SECTOR – KEY REGULATORY TRENDS AND COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES

Led by Mr. Keon Woong Kim, Partner at Yulchon, the session provided timely insights into Korea's rapidly evolving regulatory landscape and outlined practical compliance strategies for companies navigating distribution-related risks.

A Shift Towards Stronger Enforcement

One of the key themes highlighted during the seminar was the Korea Fair Trade Commission's (KFTC) increasingly active enforcement approach in supplier-dealer relationships. Beyond the general competition law framework, Korea operates a dedicated Fair Agency Transactions Act, which reflects the regulator's view that distribution structures often involve an inherent imbalance of power between suppliers and dealers. This regulatory stance has led to a notable increase in disputes, with dealers more frequently filing complaints or seeking mediation in response to perceived unfair practices.

Recent Cases Signal Clear Compliance Risks

Recent enforcement cases illustrate how broadly the KFTC interprets "unfair practices" in distribution relationships.

Case 1
ELECTRONICS A major electronics company was sanctioned for requiring dealers to share sales data, which was deemed excessive interference in business operations.

Case 2
BEVERAGE A beverage company faced penalties for imposing uniform and excessive guarantees on dealers, regardless of their financial standing.

Case 3
AUTOMOTIVE An automotive company was found to have unfairly shifted promotional costs onto its dealers.

Additional cases further demonstrate regulatory scrutiny over:

- Restrictions on dealers' online marketing activities
- Unilateral pricing policies for urgent parts supply
- Large-scale restructuring of dealership networks without sufficient consideration for existing partners

These cases underline a clear message: even operational or commercial decisions—if perceived as disproportionately disadvantaging dealers—can trigger regulatory action.

Rising Regulatory Stakes

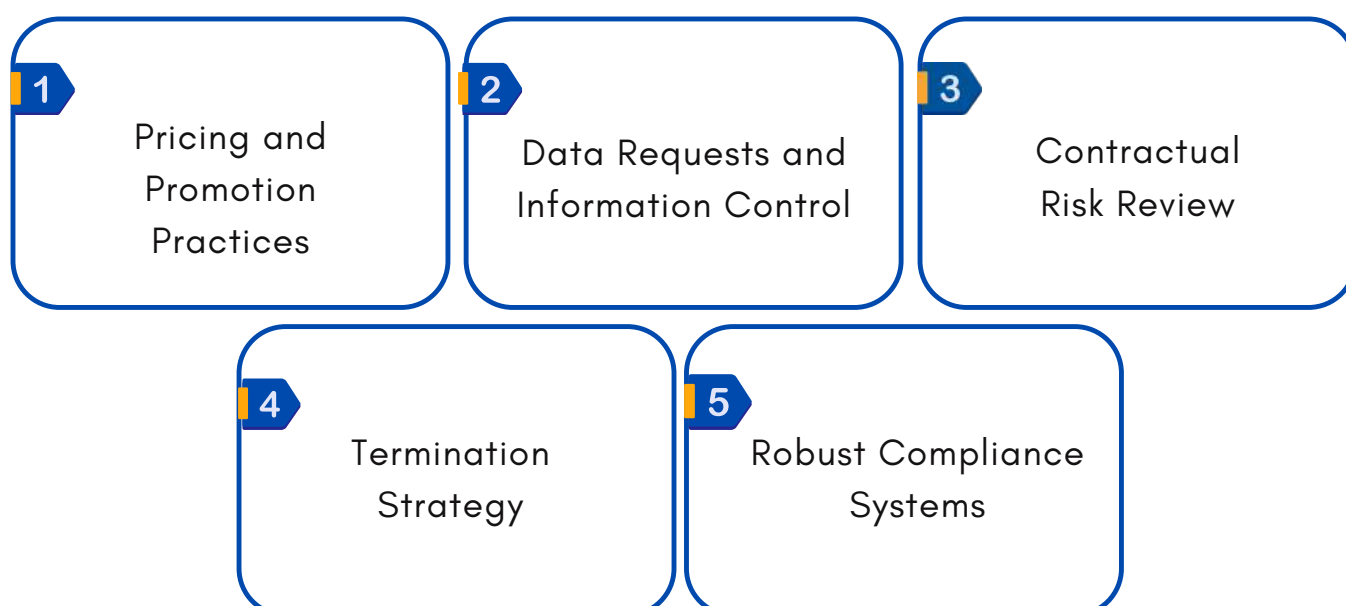
Looking ahead, the regulatory environment is expected to become even more stringent. The KFTC is currently considering a significant increase in penalty caps, raising the maximum lump-sum fine for violation of Fair Agency Transactions Act from KRW 500 million to KRW 5 billion—a tenfold increase. At the same time, legislative efforts are underway to strengthen dealers' collective bargaining rights, signalling a broader policy direction aimed at enhancing protections for smaller market participants.

From Market Entry to Structural Change: Managing Risk Across the Lifecycle

As illustrated during the session, risk exposure increases significantly as companies move from initial market entry to expansion and eventually to structural changes such as transitioning to a direct-sales model. This highlights the importance of adopting a proactive and structured compliance approach throughout the entire business lifecycle.

Key Compliance Takeaways for Companies

To mitigate these risks, companies were advised to focus on several priority areas:



1. Pricing and Promotion Practices

Authorities are closely monitoring resale price controls, online pricing policies, and the allocation of promotional costs.

2. Data Requests and Information Control

Excessive or unjustified requests for dealer information may themselves constitute regulatory risk.

3. Contractual Risk Review

Dealership agreements should be carefully reviewed against recent enforcement trends, particularly clauses related to performance targets, termination, and financial obligations.

4. Termination Strategy

Ending dealership relationships remains one of the highest-risk areas, requiring clear documentation, objective grounds, and, where possible, phased non-renewal approaches.

5. Robust Compliance Systems

As regulatory scrutiny intensifies, companies are encouraged to move beyond basic legal training and establish comprehensive compliance frameworks designed for investigation readiness.

As Korea continues to refine its regulatory framework, foreign companies operating in distribution and dealership models face both increasing complexity and heightened enforcement risk. Compliance is no longer a reactive exercise, but a strategic priority—requiring early planning, internal alignment, and continuous monitoring of regulatory developments.



Keon Woong Kim
Partner

Keon Woong Kim is a partner at Yulchon, recognized for his expertise in Antitrust, Competition, and Compliance matters. He advises leading international clients on high-stakes competition law issues before the Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC), including matters related to abuse of dominance, unfair trade practices, distribution strategies, and cartel investigations. Mr. Kim also possesses extensive experience in merger control, managing complex transactions that involve intricate remedy negotiations with regulators and seamless coordination across global stakeholders.

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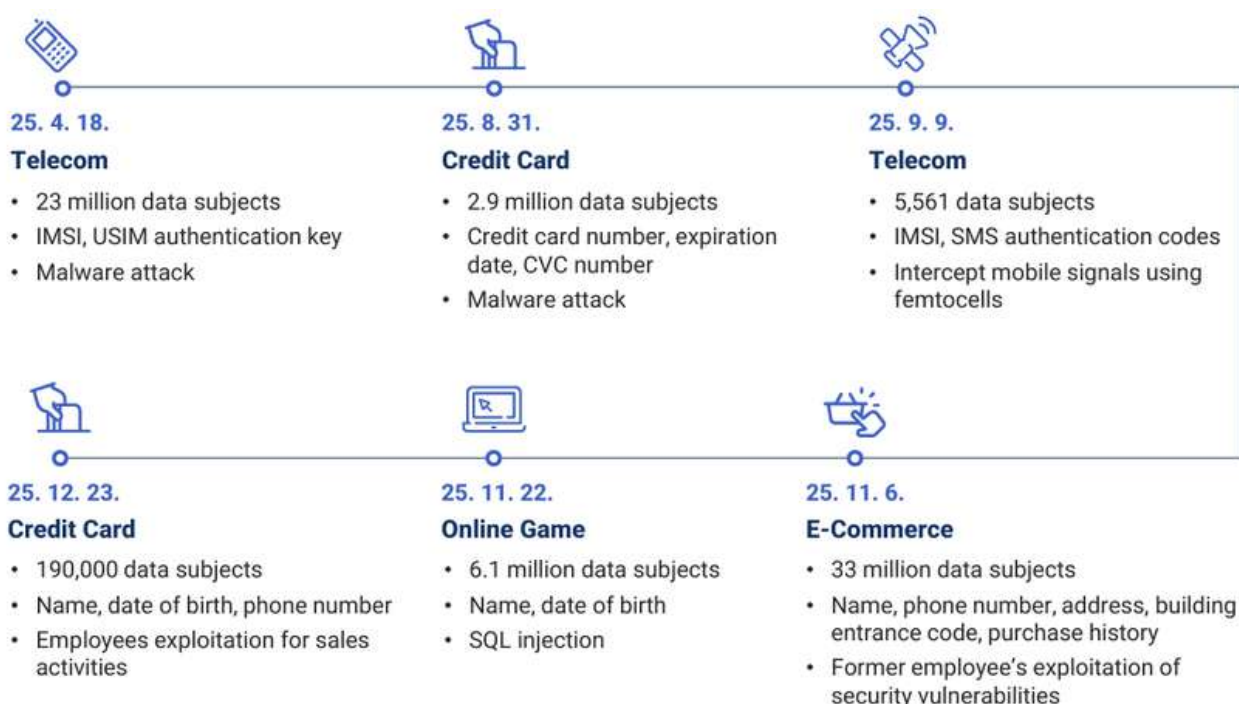
DATA PROTECTION IN KOREA: FROM REACTIVE COMPLIANCE TO PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE

Led by Ms. Sun Hee Kim, Partner at Yulchon, the session explored how Korea's data protection framework is rapidly evolving in response to a growing number of large-scale data breach incidents.

A Year of Major Data Breaches

According to the overview of notable incidents in 2025 which affected tens of millions of users across industries including telecommunications, e-commerce, gaming, and financial services, breaches ranged from malware attacks and SQL injection to internal misuse of data by employees, exposing sensitive information such as authentication keys, credit card details, and personal identification data.

Importantly, many of these incidents were not the result of highly sophisticated cyberattacks, but rather basic security failures and weak internal controls.



2026: A Shift Towards Stronger Governance

In response, Korean regulators are placing increasing emphasis on governance rather than purely technical safeguards. Under the evolving framework, **ultimate responsibility for data protection** is being clearly assigned to senior leadership, with the CEO explicitly defined as accountable for personal data protection. At the same time, the role and authority of the Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) are being significantly strengthened along side with:

Mandatory ISMS-P Information Security Management System-Personal Information (ISMS-P) will be mandatory for companies that meet certain thresholds in terms of sales and volume of personal information processed.

Incentives for investment in personal information protection Large-scale privacy investments now qualify for fine reductions. Note that this incentive is waived if the violation is found to be intentional or caused by gross negligence.

These developments signal a clear shift: data protection is no longer treated as an IT issue alone, but as a core element of corporate governance.

Stronger Sanctions and Enforcement Tools

Alongside governance reforms, enforcement mechanisms are also becoming significantly more stringent.

Following recent legislative developments, businesses now face administrative surcharges of up to 10% of total revenue for serious or repeated violations. Additionally, several new enforcement tools are currently under discussion, including fines for non-cooperation with investigations, evidence preservation orders, and the expansion of collective and class action mechanisms for data protection disputes.

Moreover, Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) has announced proposed amendments to the PIPA Enforcement Decree, applying more stringent standards on calculation of administrative surcharges.

While the traditional framework calculates administrative surcharges based on violation-related revenue with an imposition rate of up to around 3%, Korea is moving towards a significantly stricter regime. In particular, recent policy developments introduce punitive surcharges of up to 10% of total revenue for serious or repeated violations, signalling a substantial shift in enforcement intensity.

Category	Traditional Framework	Enhanced Framework
Cap	Approximately 3%	Up to 10%
Scope of Application	General violations	Serious, intentional, or repeated violations

While the overall framework and penalty levels are becoming more stringent, the actual amount of administrative surcharge ultimately depends on how the violation is assessed. Regulators take into account a range of factors when determining the severity of a violation, as outlined below.

Key Factors in Assessing Data Protection Violations

Assessment Area	Key Considerations
Intent & Level of Negligence	Purpose and circumstances of the violation
Nature of the Violation	Adequacy of data protection measures and governance framework (including the role of the CPO); whether the violation occurred at an organisational level; involvement or responsibility of senior management
Type of Data Involved	Whether the data includes sensitive personal information, unique identifiers, or authentication data
Impact on Data Subjects	Scale and duration of the breach; extent of data exposure; impact on individuals' rights and privacy

These criteria demonstrate that enforcement is not based solely on the occurrence of a breach, but on a holistic assessment of governance, accountability, and impact.

Taken together, these factors highlight that regulatory enforcement extends well beyond the occurrence of a breach, placing equal emphasis on governance, accountability, and how companies respond in practice.

Why Response Matters as Much as Prevention

A particularly notable point raised during the session was the importance of how companies respond after an incident occurs. Korean regulations impose strict timelines for breach reporting—often within 24 to 72 hours—requiring companies to act quickly and transparently. Crucially, the way a company engages with regulators and affected users can significantly influence the scope and outcome of investigations.

Key Takeaways for Companies

1. Treat Data Protection as a Governance Issue

Data protection should be embedded at the organisational level, with clear accountability and sufficient resources dedicated to compliance.

2. Build a “Live” Compliance System

Effective compliance frameworks must be continuously monitored and updated—not only activated after incidents occur.

3. Prepare for Incidents in Advance

Companies should establish clear internal protocols for incident response, including reporting, communication, and documentation processes.

As Korea strengthens its data protection regime, the expectations placed on companies are shifting fundamentally. Compliance is no longer limited to meeting minimum legal requirements—it now requires a proactive, organisation-wide approach that integrates governance, risk management, and operational readiness.

For foreign companies in particular, aligning global data protection standards with Korea’s increasingly stringent regulatory framework will be essential to managing risk and maintaining trust in the market.



Sun Hee Kim
Partner

Sun Hee Kim is a Partner at Yulchon specialising in data privacy, AI, and digital regulatory matters across sectors including e-commerce, ICT, and fintech. She advises domestic and international clients on cross-border data transfers, data breach response, regulatory investigations, and compliance projects, as well as data protection issues arising in M&A transactions. She is actively involved in the International Bar Association as Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum and also serves as Co-Chair of the AMCHAM ICT & AI Committee.

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DOCUMENT REQUESTS DURING TAX AUDITS & DEFENSE STRATEGY

Led by Mr. Yong Whan Choi and Mr. Tae Hyung Kim of Yulchon, the session highlighted how tax authorities are adopting a more aggressive and investigative approach, particularly in relation to cross-border transactions and transfer pricing.

A More Intrusive and Data-Driven Audit Environment

Recent tax audit trends indicate a clear shift towards more intensive investigations. Authorities are increasingly utilising forensic tools, including search and seizure of digital records—such as emails stored on overseas servers—and imposing stricter penalties for non-compliance with document requests.

At the same time, multinational enterprises are facing heightened scrutiny in transfer pricing matters, with tax authorities demanding extensive information from foreign affiliates and conducting detailed functional interviews to verify the substance of transactions.

Transfer Pricing Under Closer Examination

Transfer pricing (TP) remains a primary focus of tax audits in Korea. Authorities are increasingly adopting a “substance-over-form” approach, reassessing not only the documentation but also the economic reality of transactions. This includes revisiting pricing methods, profit indicators, and even the designation of the tested party based on their own analysis.

Aggressive approach & views

Targeted industries / APA $\neq$ shield from review

Substance over Form

Data requests / Functional interviews

TP Policy Reassessment

Methods / Profit indicators / Tested party

In practice, this means that even well-prepared documentation may be subject to reinterpretation, particularly where tax authorities identify inconsistencies between reported structures and actual business operations.

Irregular Audits and Limited Preparation Time

Another notable trend is the increasing use of irregular (non-periodic) tax audits. Unlike regular audits, these are often initiated without advance notice and are typically driven by specific suspicions. As illustrated in the comparison below, irregular audits allow authorities to temporarily seize books and records, placing companies at a significant disadvantage in terms of preparation and control over submitted information.

This shift reinforces the need for companies to remain audit-ready at all times, rather than relying on preparation after notification.

	Regular Audit	Irregular Audit
Notification	Advance notification 15 days before the start of the audit	No advance notification due to concerns such as potential destruction of evidence
Temporary Possession	Not applicable	Yes
Process for Submission of Documents	Audit team requests submission within a necessary minimum scope; a designated official liaises with the taxpayer, who submits documents in response; taxpayer retains control over document management	Audit team analyses documents obtained through temporary possession and may request additional submissions for verification; audit team controls document management
Direction of Tax Audit	Conducted on the premise that the taxpayer's return is truthfully and diligently prepared	Focuses on specific suspicions that triggered the audit
Relationship with Audit Team	Typically conducted without special negative assumptions	Often characterised by a substantial negative bias against the taxpayer

In practice, companies should adopt a structured approach when responding to key stages of an irregular tax audit. At the commencement stage, it is important for companies to quickly identify the underlying reason for the audit. Upon receiving the official notification, companies should verify the scope of the audit and the composition of the audit team, while also engaging legal counsel at an early stage to ensure appropriate representation.

During the submission stage, particular attention should be paid to the management of documents. Companies must carefully consider whether to consent to the temporary possession of books and records by the authorities. If consent is given, internal teams should verify that the materials taken fall within the legitimate scope of the audit. In cases of uncertainty, consultation with legal counsel is strongly recommended.

New Enforcement Fines Raise the Stakes

A particularly significant development is the introduction of enforcement fines for failure to submit requested documents during tax audits.

Under the new system, fines may accrue on a daily basis—up to 0.3% of average daily revenue or a fixed amount per day—until the required documents are submitted.

Taxpayer's average daily revenue over the past 3 tax years x (0.1% to 0.2%)* per day		
* Fine rate based on average daily revenue		
General rule	• KRW 1.5 billion or less	2/1,000 (0.20%)
	• Over KRW 1.5 billion and up to KRW 3 billion	2/1,500 (0.13%)
	• Over KRW 3 billion	1/1,000 (0.01%)
Exception	Up to KRW 5 million per day if the taxpayer's average daily revenue is unclear	

Unlike previous penalties, which were often considered ineffective, these enforcement fines act as a coercive measure, significantly increasing the pressure on companies to comply promptly with document requests.

Strategic Document Management Becomes Critical

Given these developments, document management is no longer a purely administrative task, but a key element of tax risk management. At the same time, companies must carefully assess the scope of such requests, as overly broad submissions may increase exposure to further scrutiny or reinterpretation by the authorities.

Tax authorities are empowered to request a broad range of materials—including internal communications, financial data, and records held by foreign affiliates—often within tight deadlines. In practice, commonly scrutinised materials include emails, internal reports such as tax due diligence or health checks, consultant invoices, meeting notes, presentation materials, and even traces of deleted or transferred files identified through forensic tools.

A disciplined approach to limiting document submissions to what is strictly required is therefore essential. Importantly, the right to inspection does not grant unlimited access to internal systems, and requests that go beyond the legitimate scope may, in principle, require a warrant.

This approach is further reinforced by the introduction of new enforcement fines for non-compliance, which differ significantly from traditional administrative penalties. These fines may accrue on a daily basis without a statutory cap and are subject to review by a separate committee. While the framework remains underdeveloped, with limited guidance on scope and application, this ambiguity may also provide room for companies to take a more strategic and defensible approach in managing document submissions.

Emerging Role of Attorney-Client Privilege

Last but not least, the emerging role of Attorney-Client Privilege (ACP) marks an important development in Korea's regulatory landscape. The amended Attorney-at-Law Act provides a legal basis for protecting confidential communications between lawyers and clients, including materials prepared for legal advice and defence strategies. While practical limitations remain—particularly in on-site investigations—this development strengthens companies' ability to manage sensitive information during audits and disputes.

In practice, both attorneys and clients may assert ACP, and its scope extends across criminal, administrative, and civil proceedings, including tax audits.

However, its effectiveness in on-site investigations remains subject to practical limitations. While ACP provides a statutory basis to resist disclosure, enforcement authorities retain a degree of discretion at the initial stage. As a result, companies may need to challenge the seizure of protected materials through subsequent legal procedures.

Nevertheless, the introduction of a clear legal framework is expected to strengthen the position of taxpayers in defending against overly broad or intrusive information requests.



Yong Whan Choi
Partner

Yong Whan Choi is Co-Head of Yulchon's International Tax Team and a Partner in the Japan Team. He advises multinational corporations on a wide range of international tax matters, including transfer pricing, permanent establishment, and cross-border transactions. With experience spanning the U.S., Japan, and Korea, he has represented clients across industries such as semiconductors, automotive, and ICT before the Tax Tribunal and Korean courts.

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SAVE THE DATE



MAY
26

ART BUSAN NETWORK NIGHT

Date | May 21 (Thursday)
Time | 19:00
Venue | On the Plate (1F), Paradise Hotel Busan

JUN
09

ALL EUROPEAN NETWORK NIGHT 2026

Date | June 9 (Tuesday)
Time | 19:00
Venue | Yeong Bin Gwan, The Shilla Seoul



EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN KOREA
주한유럽상공회의소

ALL EUROPEAN NETWORK NIGHT 2026

'EUROPEAN HOLIDAY IN SEOUL'
A MAGICAL SUMMER NIGHT IN THE GARDEN

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026, 7PM

YEONG BIN GWAN, THE SHILLA SEOUL

DRESS CODE: WHITE WITH A TOUCH OF SILVER

MEMBER: ₩ 210,000 | NON-MEMBER: ₩ 260,000
EARLY BIRD (MEMBER ONLY) : ₩ 195,000 (UNTIL APR 30)

REGISTRATION STARTS FROM 6:30 PM

MEMBERS OF CO-HOST CHAMBERS CAN REGISTER WITH THE ECCK MEMBER ADMISSION FEE

CANCELLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

ANY INQUIRY FOR THE EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT EVENT TEAM (EVENT@ECCK.OR.KR)

CO-HOSTS



KOREAN
BUSINESS



DANISH
NETWORK



**BECOMING A PARTNER OFFERS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU
TO PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY TO POTENTIAL BUSINESS PARTNERS AND CLIENTS**

***VAT WILL BE APPLIED**

	PLATINUM PARTNER ₱10,000,000	SIGNATURE PARTNER ₱5,000,000	ELITE PARTNER ₱3,000,000	CLASSIC PARTNER ₱1,500,000
FREE ADMISSION	8	5	3	2
MARKETING BOOTH	V			
TOAST PROPOSAL	V	V		
PROMOTION VIDEO PLAY (MAX 30 SECONDS)	V	V	V	
MARKETING MATERIAL IN ENTRANCE (DESIGNATED FORMAT)	V	V	V	V
LOGO EXPOSURE IN PROMOTION MATERIAL	V	V	V	V

GIFT PARTNER (VALUE ABOVE ₱300,000)

- 1 FREE ADMISSION
- LOGO EXPOSURE IN PROMOTION MATERIAL

GIFT PARTNER (VALUE BELOW ₱300,000)

- LOGO EXPOSURE IN PROMOTION MATERIAL

**PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION WILL BE ACCEPTED NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026 TO RECEIVE FULL BENEFITS.**



EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN KOREA
주한유럽상공회의소

ART
BUSAN

ART BUSAN NETWORK NIGHT

VIP OPENING NIGHT AT PARADISE

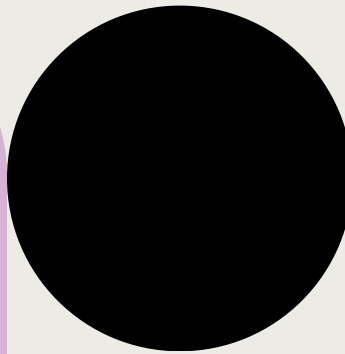
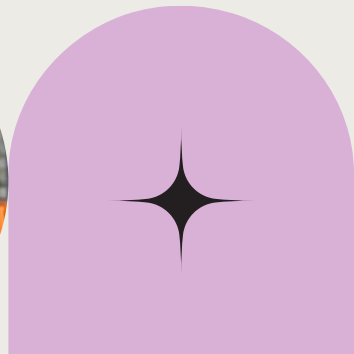
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026, 7:30PM
ON THE PLATE (1F), PARADISE HOTEL BUSAN
DRESS CODE: EVENING ATTIRE

MEMBER: ₩ 120,000 | NON-MEMBER: ₩ 170,000

REGISTRATION STARTS FROM 7:00 PM

CANCELLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

ANY INQUIRY FOR THE EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT EVENT TEAM (BUSAN@ECCK.OR.KR)



WHAT IS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT CONSULTING?

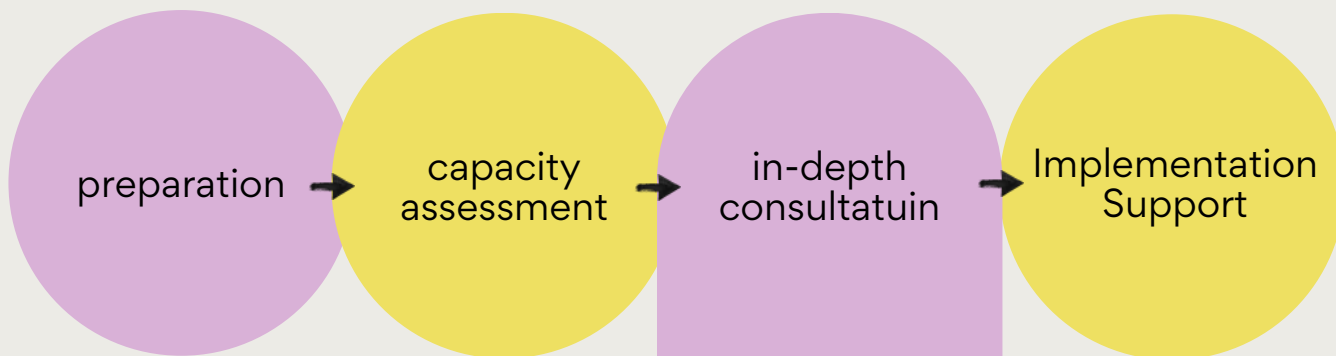


Analyzing employment conditions, identifying barriers, providing **tailored consulting** solutions.

ELIGIBILITY *FOR*

Employers in the government, public, or private sector who wish to hire people with disabilities may apply for the service **free of charge**.

BY PROCESS



INQUIRIES?

KEAD
Corporate Service Bureau
Employment Consulting Department

Kim, Jin Sik Manager

E. jsk3115@kead.or.kr
P. +82-31-728-7305
W. www.kead.or.kr



MEETINGS & EVENTS

SIGNBOARD CEREMONY FOR THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE JOINT REGULATORY RATIONALISATION COMMITTEE



On April 30, ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof attended the signboard ceremony of the Public-Private Joint Regulatory Rationalisation Committee, held at Booyoung Taepyeong Building in Jung-gu, Seoul.

The Committee, chaired by President Lee Jae Myung, has launched a new framework aimed at addressing regulatory challenges experienced by businesses and the public. Through close public-private cooperation—bringing together major economic associations, research institutes, private companies, and relevant government ministries—the initiative seeks to resolve regulatory grievances in a more effective and practical manner. Prime Minister Kim Minseok also attended the event and delivered congratulatory remarks.

Following the ceremony, Chairperson van Hoof attended an MOU signing between the Office for Government Policy Coordination (OPC) and the Foreign Investment Ombudsman. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in improving the regulatory environment and addressing challenges faced by foreign-invested companies in Korea.

ECCK BUSAN CEO FORUM



The ECCK Busan Chapter successfully held its inaugural CEO Forum on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at Luna (3F), Wyndham Grand Busan, bringing together CEOs and senior representatives from ECCK Busan member companies for an exclusive breakfast meeting in an intimate setting that encouraged open and in-depth dialogue; held in collaboration with the Busan-Jinhae Free Economic Zone Authority (BJFEZ) and conducted in Korean to facilitate effective communication, the forum opened with remarks by Mr. Seongho Park, Commissioner of BJFEZ, who highlighted the importance of connection and cooperation among industry leaders in strengthening the regional business ecosystem.

ECCK BREAKFAST MEETING WITH KCS COMMISSIONER LEE MYEONG-KU



On April 24, the ECCK held a Breakfast Meeting with the Korea Customs Service (KCS) Commissioner Lee Myeong-ku at Grand Hyatt Hotel. The ECCK deeply values engagement with the Korea Customs Service and hopes to continue contributing constructively through regular and institutionalized consultations as customs systems and regulations evolve.

ECCK CHAIRPERSON ATTENDS IGE-POSCO HOLDINGS 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On April 22, ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof attended the IGE-POSCO Holdings 2026 International Conference held at the Westin Seoul Parnas.



ECCK STRENGTHENS COOPERATION WITH JUNG-GU DISTRICT OFFICE, SEOUL

On April 21, the ECCK IPR Committee held a productive meeting with the Jung-gu District Office, Seoul, to further strengthen cooperation in intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and related initiatives.



ECCK SIGNS MOU WITH KEAD TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND ESG PRACTICES



On April 21, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea and Korea Employment Agency for Persons with Disabilities signed a Memorandum of Understanding at KEAD's Assistive Technology Center to promote the employment of persons with disabilities and strengthen ESG practices among businesses in Korea. The agreement was signed by Lee Jong-seong Chairman of KEAD and Stefan Ernst President of ECCK with both organisations reaffirming their shared commitment to expanding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and fostering a more inclusive business environment.

ECCK LUNCHEON MEETING WITH EU TRADE COMMISSIONER MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ



On April 17, 2026, the ECCK hosted a luncheon meeting with EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič.

About 10 CEOs from various industries who are members of ECCK attended the event and conveyed current issues to him. This occasion served as an opportunity for ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof and the Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič to share a common understanding of the importance of a “third way”. By cooperating, the EU and Korea can carve out a “third way” in international relations and economic security, which reduces excessive dependence on the two Great Powers rivalry and instead builds a cooperative framework centered on openness, sustainability, and mutual respect. The ECCK emphasized that it would be able to more faithfully fulfill its role as a bridge between the EU and Korea. And the Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič also mentioned that he looks forward to such a role for the ECCK.

ECCK HOSTS POLICY SEMINAR ON AI ACCESSIBILITY AND BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On April 15, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) hosted the Policy Seminar on “AI Accessibility and Business Competitiveness: Policy Challenges and Industry Response” at the Members’ Office Building of the National Assembly.



ECCK MEETS WITH NIKE APAC VP FOR GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ECCK recently held a meeting with Ms. Azlina Sulaiman, VP for Government & Public Affairs at Nike Asia (excluding China), during her visit to Korea, further strengthening its engagement with one of the region’s leading global brands.



ECCK MEETS WITH HYUNDAI MOTOR GROUP ENERGY & HYDROGEN BUSINESS DIVISION

On April 10, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) team met with the Hyundai Motor Group Energy & Hydrogen Business Division team to explore potential cooperation.



ECCK HOSTS LUNCHEON MEETING WITH TRADE MINISTER YEO HAN-KOO



On 8 April, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) hosted a Luncheon Meeting with Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo, bringing together senior representatives from ECCK member companies as well as H.E. Ambassador Ugo Astuto from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea.

In his keynote address, Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo emphasised that enhanced cooperation between Korea—equipped with strong competitiveness in advanced industries such as semiconductors and batteries—and the EU, a leader in setting global standards, would generate significant synergies. He noted that bilateral cooperation should evolve beyond trade and investment into a more comprehensive strategic partnership encompassing critical minerals, clean energy, supply chains, and advanced technologies.

Approximately 40 representatives from European companies across sectors including automotive, infrastructure, chemicals and consumer goods actively participated in the discussion. During the Q&A session, participants raised various issues related to market access, to which Minister Yeo responded directly. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to making active use of the Korea-EU FTA implementation mechanisms to closely review relevant systems and regulations, while continuing consultations through bilateral economic cooperation channels.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources indicated that it will further strengthen engagement with the EU to ensure tangible outcomes at the upcoming ministerial-level Korea-EU Next Generation Strategy Dialogue and the FTA Trade Committee scheduled later this month.

ECCK COURTESY VISIT TO FKI EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN KIM CHANG BEOM

On April 9, ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof, President Stefan Ernst, and Vice President Bo Sun Kim paid a courtesy visit to Kim Chang Beom, Executive Vice Chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI). Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the areas of the business environment for foreign-invested companies in Korea and Korea-Europe cooperation, particularly in relation to Europe's integrative policy approach.



ECCK HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE ENGAGES MOHW ON REVISED INNOVATIVE PHARMA DESIGNATION FRAMEWORK

On April 2, 2026, the ECCK Healthcare Committee invited Mr Kangseop Lim, Director of the Pharmaceutical and Bio Industry Division at the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MoHW), to a roundtable meeting.



ECCK MEETS AIRBUS LEADERSHIP AND EU AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS AEROSPACE & DEFENCE COOPERATION

The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) Chairperson Philippe van Hoof and President Stefan Ernst met with Ambassador Ugo Astuto and Mr Wouter van Wersch, President International at Airbus, on the occasion of the French presidential delegation visit to Korea led by President Emmanuel Macron.



ECCK FAMILY FRIENDLY FUTURE FORUM HOSTS EXPERT WORKSHOP ON CULTURE & BENEFITS



On April 1, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK), through its Family Friendly Future Forum (FFFF), hosted the Expert Workshop: Family Friendly Benefits in collaboration with the ECCK HR & Compliance Forum. The workshop featured practical case sharing and interactive discussion, fostering open exchange among participants across companies.

ECCK HOSTS BREAKFAST SEMINAR WITH ITCK AND YULCHON ON KEY LEGAL UPDATES



The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK), in cooperation with the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ITCK), hosted a breakfast seminar on 1 April 2026 at Yulchon LLC, welcoming around 40 participants.

ECCK ATTENDS SWISS “SWISS SENSES” LAUNCH RECEPTION IN SEOUL



The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) was pleased to attend the launch reception of SWISS International Air Lines' new long-haul experience, Swiss Senses, held at the Embassy of Switzerland in Seoul on 30 March 2026.

ECCK PARTICIPATES IN YONGSAN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT FORUM



On 27 March 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) participated in the Yongsan International Business District Forum held in Seoul, where stakeholders discussed strategies to attract regional headquarters of global companies.

ECCK GALLERY TOUR & NETWORKING WITH DHR GLOBAL SUCCESSFULLY HELD



On March 25, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) successfully hosted the ECCK Gallery Tour and Networking with DHR Global, welcoming approximately 30 participants for an evening of art, culture, and exchange in Seoul.

ECCK AT FSS SPEAKS 2026



On March 25, ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof attended FSS Speaks 2026, hosted by the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) for foreign financial companies and stakeholders. At this annual forum aimed at enhancing communication with foreign financial firms, Lee Chanjin, Governor of the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS), stressed the need to further develop and promote the local financial market, aligning it with global standards to enhance its competitiveness.

ECCK HOLDS SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) successfully held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026 on Thursday, February 26 at Conrad Seoul, bringing together around 40 members and stakeholders in Seoul, with an additional 10 participants joining from Busan at Grand Josun Busan via live streaming.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof, followed by congratulatory remarks and a market outlook delivered by Walter van Hattum, Minister Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea. Members reviewed key organisational matters, including the 2025 financial report presented by Robert Browell and the audit report delivered by Hyesung Accounting Corporation. During the AGM, members approved the ECCK 2026 budget through a show-of-hands vote and reviewed the Chamber's major achievements and activities carried out throughout 2024 and 2025. ECCK President Stefan Ernst also introduced upcoming initiatives and flagship events planned for 2026, reaffirming the Chamber's continued commitment to supporting European businesses operating in Korea. The programme further featured a soft skills session delivered by Reddal, offering practical insights for member companies, followed by closing remarks from Chairperson Philippe van Hoof.

In his closing remarks, Chairperson Philippe van Hoof expressed his sincere appreciation for the strong support and trust shown by ECCK member companies. He noted that the Chamber's activities are built upon the active engagement of its members and reaffirmed ECCK's continued commitment to contributing to a sound business environment and fostering mutual growth between Korea and Europe.

MOTIR AND MOEL MINISTERS' ROUNDTABLE WITH FOREIGN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN KOREA



On February 26, ECCK Chairperson Philippe van Hoof attended the Roundtable with Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Korea, which was jointly held by Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources (MOTIR) Minister Kim Jung-Kwan and Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) Minister Kim Younghoon. Taking this opportunity, Chairperson Philippe mentioned that Korea's overall regulatory predictability is essential for long-term investment decisions, and that the ECCK would welcome the establishment of a regular public-private consultation mechanism. In this regard, the Ministers promised to establish a hotline (similar to a call center) that acts as an Authoritative Interpretation Committee to immediately verify 'employer' status.

Mr van Hoof concluded that the ECCK remains fully committed to Korea as a strategic investment destination. We hope that through continued dialogue and cooperation, we can work together to create a regulatory environment that protects workers while also supporting Korea's global competitiveness.

ECCK CFO FORUM: THE YELLOW ENVELOPE ACT AND LABOR POLICY OUTLOOK



On Mar 18, ECCK CFO Forum was held where participants were able to gain insight under the theme of 'Yellow Envelope Act - What CFOs should know & Labor legislations and policies under the new administration'.

DAPA-ECCK-BCCK OFFSET ROUNDTABLE STRENGTHENS DIALOGUE ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION



On 11 February 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK), together with the British Chamber of Commerce in Korea (BCCK), held an Offset Roundtable with the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HOSTS INFORMATION SESSION ON RELIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION



On February 11, 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) Energy & Environment Committee hosted an information session titled "Accelerating the Transition to Reliable and Sustainable Power: Transforming Energy Infrastructure in Korea". The event brought together industry experts to discuss how advanced power solutions can support both renewable integration and growing electricity demand from emerging sectors such as AI-driven data centers.

ECCK BUSAN VISITS MINISTRY OF OCEANS AND FISHERIES TO DISCUSS FUTURE COOPERATION

On Thursday, February 5, 2026, the ECCK Busan Chapter visited the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) to further strengthen collaboration between the government and European companies operating in the Busan region.



ECCK BUSAN & DBCK BACK TO BUSINESS WINE NETWORKING NIGHT

ECCK Busan and the Dutch Business Council Korea (DBCK) successfully hosted the first event of the year, the Back to Business Networking & Wine Tasting Night, on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Madame Madame. The evening began with warm opening remarks by Andrew Millard, ECCK Busan Chapter Representative, and Riemer Kramer, Busan Chapter Lead from DBCK. With all tickets sold out, more than 30 participants filled the venue to full capacity, representing a wide range of nationalities and industries.



ECCK AT THE GLOBAL WOMEN SUMMIT 2026

The Global Women Summit 2026, jointly organised by the Korea Chapter of the International Women's Forum and the Embassy of Ireland to the Republic of Korea, was held on 3 February. European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) President Stefan Ernst participated in the roundtable panel alongside Michelle Winthrop, Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea, Liz (Kyo-Hwa) Chung, formerly Senior Director, Legal at Netflix (Korea General Counsel), Min-Ju Ji, Director of Human Resources & Corporate Affairs at Pernod Ricard Korea, and Isabel Puig Palerm, CEO & CSO of IKEA Korea.





BEER-WINE-SPIRITS COMMITTEE RENAMED TO ALCOHOL BEVERAGES COMMITTEE

The ECCK is pleased to announce the official renaming of the Beer-Wine-Spirits Committee (주류위원회) to the Alcohol Beverages Committee (주류위원회), effective as of March 2026. The new name, "Alcohol Beverages Committee," more accurately reflects the evolving scope and direction of the committee's work, which increasingly spans a broader range of topics and stakeholders beyond individual beverage categories.

The ECCK believes this change will help better represent the interests and diversity of our member companies operating in the alcoholic beverages sector, and support more inclusive and forward-looking discussions on key industry issues.

We appreciate the continued support and engagement of our members, and we look forward to working together under the committee's new name.

WELCOME!

THE ECCK IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRPERSONS OF ECCK COMMITTEES



Ms. Kyungmoon Choi

Chair of the ECCK Chemical Committee

Director of Procter & Gamble Korea



Ms. Ju Young PARK - Jennifer

Chair of the ECCK Cosmetics Committee

Scientific Director of L'Oreal Korea



Ms. Hyeon Ju Ahn

Chair of the ECCK Digital Committee

Director of Government and Policy Advocacy
at Ericsson Korea Partners



Mr. Fredrik Jonasson

Chair of the ECCK Marine Industry Committee

President of Consilium Korea Ltd



Ms. Sharon So

Chair of the ECCK Future Development Forum

Corporate Affairs & Engagement Director
of L'Oréal Korea



Dr. Ana-Maria Boie

Chair of the ECCK Healthcare Committee

General Manager of Boehringer Ingelheim Korea



Mr. Thomas Caso

Chair of the ECCK Food Committee

CEO & Market Head of Nestlé Korea



WELCOME TO ECCK

WELCOME!

WELCOME TO ECCK! PLEASE FIND THE LIST OF NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED ECCK IN THE LAST QUARTER

At Deloitte, we have been working with leaders around the world for over 180 years—from Global 500® companies to private businesses—helping them build better futures, support their people, and achieve lasting success while contributing to the communities we serve. With a workforce composed of some of the industry's brightest minds, Deloitte continues to shape the future by delivering real, measurable impact through the power of collaboration.

Deloitte.

A global leader in connectivity for the AI era, Nokia delivers the critical network infrastructure underpinning today's digital world, enabling high-performance, secure, and resilient connectivity across fixed, mobile, and transport networks. Established in 2007, Nokia Solutions & Networks Korea Ltd. has been a key player in Korea's telecommunications sector, specialising in the supply of communication systems and equipment, and further strengthened its market position through its 2019 merger with Alcatel-Lucent Korea Ltd.—enhancing operational efficiency and supporting sustainable growth in an increasingly AI-driven landscape.

NOKIA



K-CareerNet is a professional consulting company dedicated to supporting the successful employment and settlement of foreign students and professionals in Korea. Through Korean language education, corporate culture training, career preparation, and customized coaching, we accompany you throughout your career journey in Korea.



COMANSA is a European manufacturer specialized in tower cranes, with a strong focus on engineering quality, safety, and reliability. Headquartered in Spain, COMANSA supplies tower cranes for high-rise buildings, infrastructure, industrial facilities, and shipbuilding projects worldwide. In Korea, COMANSA is actively supporting major construction, industrial, and shipyard projects through local partners, providing technical solutions and long-term product support tailored to the Korean market.



A leading global maritime services provider, Inchcape Shipping Services (ISS) delivers port agency, marine, and logistics solutions across more than 60 countries, supporting over 100,000 port calls annually. Founded in 1847, the company combines global scale with local expertise to ensure efficient and compliant operations, while also supporting government and defence activities. In Korea, ISS operates with teams in Seoul, Busan, and Geoje, working closely with key stakeholders across the maritime sector.



One of Singapore's longest-established banks, OCBC Bank was formed in 1932 and has since grown into one of Southeast Asia's leading financial institutions. With a strong international presence across 19 countries and regions, the Group combines scale, stability, and a high credit standing to support its clients' growth. In Korea, the OCBC Bank Seoul Branch, established in 1991, focuses on wholesale banking, corporate banking, and treasury services, providing reliable and client-focused financial solutions.



GTF Korea, started in 2001 supplies the whole range of floors for shipbuilding and also for the industrial buildings. Our floors for shipbuilding provide not only good looking but also sound reduction and fire retardant for the safe and comfortable stay of the personnels inside the ships ranging container vessels, offshore platforms, and navy ships. The industrial floors have outstanding advantages in respect of hygiene, safety, and long lasting with unrivaled strength.



A key driver of regional growth and international investment, Gyeonggi Free Economic Zone Authority (GGFEZ) develops and manages free economic zones in Gyeonggi Province, integrating advanced industries, research and development, and global business functions. Focused on strategic areas including Pyeongtaek, Siheung, and Ansan, GGFEZ supports high-value sectors such as semiconductors, biotechnology, and advanced manufacturing, while offering tailored incentives and administrative services for foreign-invested companies.





A professional executive search and HR consulting firm, Prosearch Korea is a subsidiary of Remember, Korea's leading career platform. The firm supports domestic and international clients with executive search and leadership hiring across key industries, leveraging deep market expertise and a strong network. As the exclusive Korean partner of Transearch, Prosearch Korea offers seamless cross-border search capabilities and access to a global talent pool, positioning itself as a trusted partner for strategic talent acquisition.

expand k

expand k is a Brand Activation and E-commerce Growth agency helping global brands successfully enter and scale in the Korean market. We provide end-to-end support across market expansion strategy, brand activation and management, performance marketing, and e-commerce acceleration, enabling sustainable growth and long-term success in Korea.



A Busan-based marine supply and service provider, ACE-RMS Marine Service Co., Ltd. delivers comprehensive ship chandlery and logistics solutions to vessels calling at Korean ports. Operating as a joint venture with RMS China, the company combines global procurement capabilities with strong local expertise to ensure reliable, timely, and cost-effective service, positioning itself as a trusted partner for the global shipping industry.



A global decarbonisation solutions provider, GoNetZero supports organisations in achieving their net-zero goals through digital carbon management and access to verified environmental attributes. As the carbon management business of Sembcorp Industries, the company combines platform-based solutions with market expertise to deliver actionable insights and scalable energy solutions. Since its launch in 2022, GoNetZero has supported over 150 clients worldwide.



A professional community platform, The Gallery Seoul brings together expat professionals in Korea to explore leadership and career development through curated talks and practical workshops. By featuring speakers with proven track records across business, policy, and academia, The Gallery fosters meaningful dialogue and supports members in navigating career transitions and professional growth. Expanding beyond its speaker series, the platform is introducing a Career Lab to offer structured skill-building opportunities.





KOREA HOUSE 2026.03.11~

Reopening of Korea House, a historic hanok cultural venue established in 1957, following an 8-month renovation (first major refurbishment in 45 years).

Traditional Korean fine dining (Hansik), royal court cuisine, and premium tea experience (Gohojae), alongside cultural programmes including traditional weddings and heritage content.

www.kh.or.kr



SEOUL OUTDOOR LIBRARY
2026.04.23~6.28 | 09.04~11.01
every Fri, Sat, and Sun
at

Gwanghwamun Square
2026.04.23~06.28 | 09.04~11.01

Cheonggyecheon
2026.04.23~06.28 | 09.04~11.01

Seoul Plaza
2026.05.01~06.28 | 09.04~11.01

seouloutdoorlibrary.kr

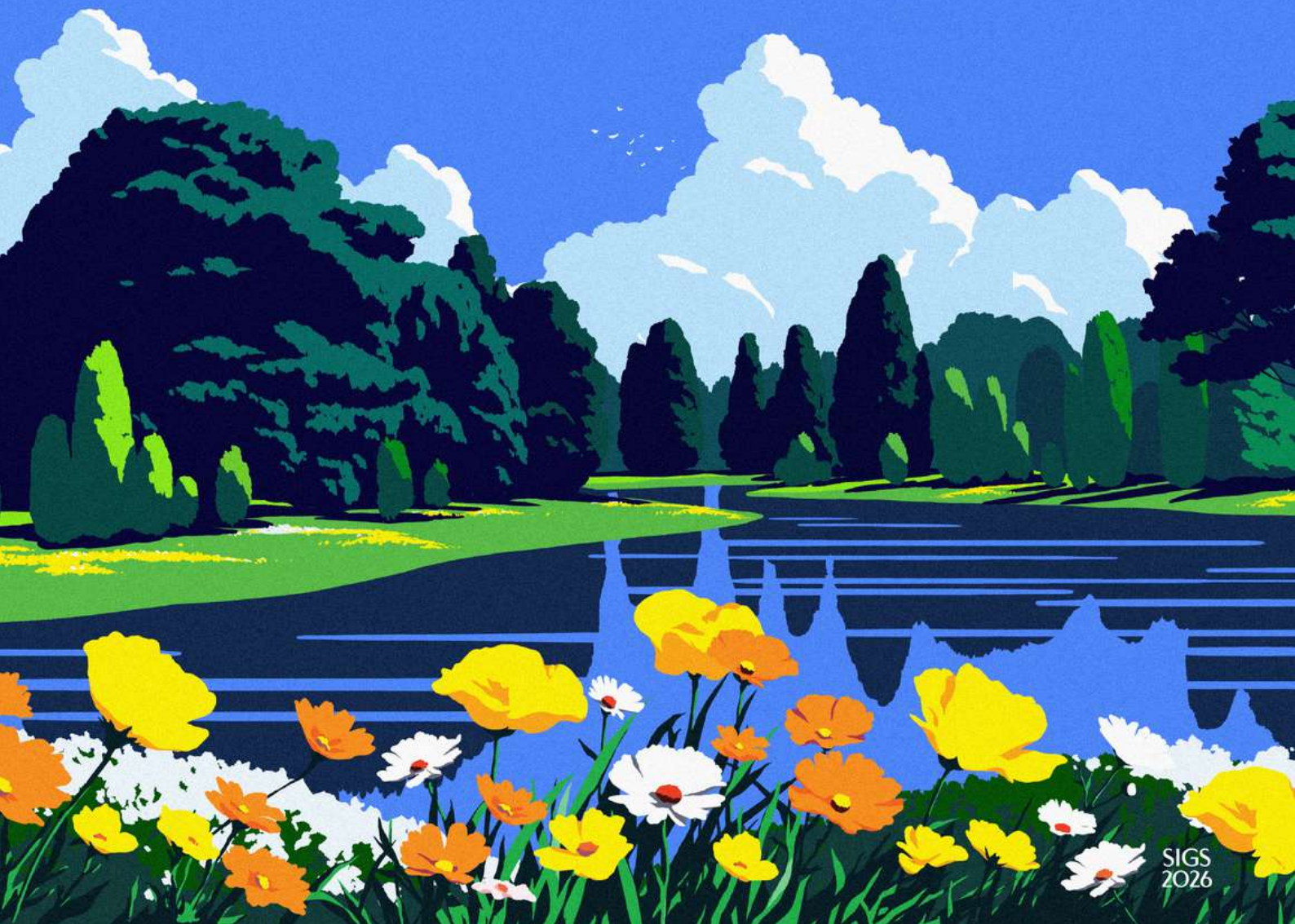
서울국제정원박람회
SEOUL INTERNATIONAL
GARDEN SHOW

SEOUL INTERNATIONAL GARDEN SHOW 2026

2026 05.01~10.27 (TBD)
at Seoul Forest (서울숲)

Creation of the “Seoul Forest Grand Garden,” a large-scale green cultural space spanning over 495,000 sqm across Seoul Forest and Seongsu, integrating the Han River, Ttukseom, and surrounding areas under the theme Seoul, Green Culture.

www.seoul.go.kr/festa/garden/y2026





LOTUS LANTERN FESTIVAL

2026.05.16 (Sat) 19:00~21:30
Heunginjimun – Jongno – Jogyesa

The Lotus Lantern Festival (Yeondeunghoe), inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, is a large-scale traditional celebration that draws tens of thousands of participants each year.

Marking Buddha's Birthday, the festival features a spectacular lantern parade through central Seoul, with vibrant displays symbolising wisdom, compassion, and hope.

www.llf.or.kr



2026 HANGANG SUMMER POOLS 2026.06.19~08.31 (TBC)

Six Hangang pool and water play parks — Ttukseom, Yeouido, Jamsil, Nanji, Yanghwa, and Jamwon — will open for the summer season. Designed as more than just swimming pools, the venues combine water recreation with leisure and relaxation spaces along the river.

Open daily from 9:00 to 22:00 (until 18:00 at Yanghwa), with admission from KRW 5,000 per person.

hangang.seoul.go.kr

2026
ECCK PREMIUM MEMBER

Diamond



Emerald



Ruby



connect



02-6261-2700



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