



EU-JAPAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The EU-Japan strategic partnership continues to grow deeper and more dynamic. It is based on longstanding cooperation, common interests and shared values, supporting **human rights** and **democracy, multilateralism, and the rules-based international order** based on the UN Charter, **open, free and fair trade**, as well as **green and digital transitions**. Japan is the EU's closest strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region and a key ally for the implementation of the **EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific** released in September 2021.

Security in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is increasingly interconnected. Threats and challenges in one region reverberate across the other, reinforcing the need for deeper strategic alignment between the EU and Japan.

Since the start of Russia's illegal war of aggression, the EU and Japan have stood with the people of Ukraine, conveying a joint message of **unwavering solidarity with Ukraine**, and a determination to uphold respect for international law in Europe, the Indo-Pacific and globally.

To guide common efforts in contributing to global peace and security, the EU and Japan have established an annual **Strategic Dialogue at Foreign Ministerial level and a Security and Defence Partnership**.

The EU and Japan work together to strengthen their economic resilience and security, foster their competitiveness and industrial leadership, address global challenges, such as climate change, and environmental protection.

The EU and Japan also seek common approaches in multilateral fora, such as the G7, G20, the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as their cooperation as likeminded donors.

A FRAMEWORK FOR SHARED VALUES AND PROSPERITY

THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- First-ever bilateral framework agreement between the EU and Japan, implemented since 1 February 2019
- Promotes cooperation and joint actions across many issues of common interest, including on regional and global challenges

THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- One of the largest EU trade deals, entered into force on 1 February 2019
- Makes trading easier and cheaper for EU and Japanese producers
- Boosts trade and investment between the EU and Japan

ENHANCING EU-JAPAN RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement is the foundation of the EU and Japan's trade relations since its entry into force in 2019.

Trade



EU IS JAPAN'S
3RD LARGEST
TRADING
PARTNER

TOTAL TRADE
BETWEEN THE EU
AND JAPAN GREW BY CLOSE TO **20%**

BETWEEN 2018 AND 2024

EU EXPORTS
OF GOODS **16%**
TO JAPAN INCREASED

EU EXPORTS OF
SERVICES TO
JAPAN INCREASED OVER **42%**

Positive results from the Economic Partnership Agreement include:



INCREASED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINE PRODUCERS, MANUFACTURERS OF MACHINERY, CHEMICALS AND MOTOR VEHICLES



MORE TRADITIONAL AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS PROTECTED FROM IMITATION

Building on this strong foundation, the EU and Japan are committed to working together to strengthen their cooperation on economic resilience and security, foster their competitiveness and industrial leadership, address common challenges and create new opportunities in support of growth.

Through the **expanded EU-Japan High-Level Economic Dialogue**, the EU and Japan aim to enhance cooperation on key areas such as:

- increase supply chain resilience and reduce strategic dependencies in critical sectors, like critical raw materials or battery value chains
- address economic coercion and non-market policies and practices
- promote and protect critical and emerging technologies
- work closely with the private sector to promote trade and investment opportunities in support of competitiveness

This cooperation will be taken forward in close cooperation with the private sector.

The **EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation**, a joint venture of the European Commission (DG GROW) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) - with offices in Tokyo and Brussels, supports the EU and Japan to:



Competitiveness Alliance

The EU and Japan share fundamental values and interests, including the need to sustain economic growth while simultaneously pursuing competitiveness, economic security, resilience and decarbonisation.

In support of these objectives, the new **EU-Japan Competitiveness Alliance** will deepen cooperation on trade and economic security, supply chain resilience, regulatory cooperation, cooperation with the business sector, competition policy, decarbonisation and circular economy, energy, bioeconomy, defence industry, space, and research and innovation.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE



In November 2024, the EU and Japan announced a **Security and Defence Partnership**, marking a significant step in deepening and fostering cooperation. It entails cooperation trends in several domains among which: cybersecurity, hybrid threats, including Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), maritime security, space security, disarmament, non-proliferation, women, peace and security. The Security and Defence Partnership is regularly reviewed by the annual Security and Defence Dialogue.

The EU and Japan hold **regular consultations and dialogues on security and defence-related issues**, including on cyber security, space and non-proliferation and disarmament. They have agreed to launch a dialogue on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI).

Recognising that strengthening the defence industry base is a common priority, the EU and Japan look forward to launching the Japan-EU Defence Industry Dialogue.



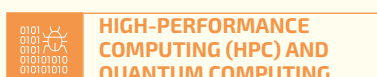
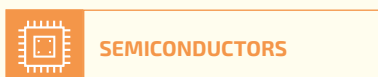
The EU and Japan join forces on maritime security, **with EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force's Deployment Surface Force for Counter-Piracy Enforcement off the Coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden (DPSA)** conducting regular, joint activities at sea in their area of competence, further facilitated by the Administrative Arrangement concluded in March 2023.

The EU and Japan are also cooperating within the framework of 'Enhancing Security Cooperation In and With Asia and the Indo-Pacific' (ESIWA+). This project promotes EU cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners on cyber security, maritime security, crisis management, hybrid threats, and counter-terrorism.

DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

The EU concluded its first-ever **Digital Partnership** with Japan in 2022. The third Digital Partnership Council took place in Tokyo on 12 May 2025.

The EU and Japan have agreed to deliver outcomes on:



Both partners have signed Memorandums of Cooperation on semiconductors, on submarine cables for secure, resilient and sustainable global connectivity, including between the EU and Japan via the Arctic, on Digital Identities and Trust Services to implement Data Free Flow with Trust to drive collaboration and work towards technical use cases, a Letter of Intent on Strengthening Cooperation in the Area of Quantum Science and Technology, as well as a Cooperation Arrangement on digital markets.

At the third Digital Partnership council meeting in Tokyo on 12 May 2025, the EU and Japan reaffirmed the importance of the **ever closer strategic partnership on digital** to (i) boost competitiveness, innovation and resilience in emerging technologies through advancing cooperation in research and innovation; (ii) play a leadership role in shaping global digital governance and innovation for a human-centric and values-based approach; and (iii) enhance mutual economic security by promoting resilience in digital critical technologies.

EU-JAPAN GREEN ALLIANCE

The EU and Japan were among the first to commit to climate neutrality by 2050. Japan is a crucial partner in **implementing the Paris Agreement** and in raising international **climate ambition**, as well as implementing the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**.

The EU and Japan launched the first **Green Alliance** in May 2021 for accelerated and ambitious action to:

	TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE		ENSURE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE LOW-CARBON ENERGY SUPPLIES FOR ENERGY MANUFACTURING		PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND BECOME CIRCULAR AND RESOURCE-EFFICIENT		PROMOTE GREEN GROWTH AND JOBS
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The EU and Japan are committed to reinforcing the strategic partnership within the Green Alliance. The cooperation ranges from climate, environment and energy to other sectors such as transport, trade, research and innovation, and financial regulation. During the first four years, the Green Alliance has delivered on several dimensions, strengthening bilateral cooperation on the following areas.

- » Implementation of the Paris Agreement and cooperation towards COP30 and NDCs
- » Biodiversity conservation and Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- » Carbon pricing and Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage
- » Energy security, LNG in particular, and reduction of methane emissions
- » Hydrogen based on the Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen signed in 2022
- » Renewable energy deployment and safe and sustainable low-carbon energy manufacturing and supply chains
- » Industrial policy for the energy transition, for instance on batteries
- » Circular economy and resource efficiency across the value chain
- » Promoting conservation and sustainable management of wildlife
- » Cooperating closely towards an agreement on a global and legally binding plastics treaty
- » Enhancing ocean governance to support the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and resources
- » Sustainable food system
- » Regional and urban climate policy
- » Supporting Just Energy Transition Partnerships in third countries, notably with Indonesia and Vietnam

In 2024, the EU-funded Green Alliance Facility started to operate with a budget of €4 million for 4 years to support the implementation of the Green Alliance.

CONNECTIVITY PARTNERSHIP

The EU and Japan signed a **Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure** ([Connectivity Partnership](#)) in 2019. This partnership covers actions to develop **energy, digital, transport, and people-to-people** connections, based on shared norms, standards and values, notably sustainability and level playing field, in line with the EU Global Gateway and the Japan Development Cooperation Charter. Work is being pursued both bilaterally and with third countries in the Indo-Pacific, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and Central Asia.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIONS

The international dimension of the **EU's Erasmus+ programme** offers opportunities for academic mobility exchanges with Japan, benefiting Japanese and European universities, higher education students and staff. Since 2021, Erasmus+ has funded almost 800 student and staff mobilities from Japan to the EU, almost 2600 students and staff mobilities from the EU to Japan, as well as around 25 scholarships for Japanese students under the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Action.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Bilateral research and innovation relations have developed steadily contributing to increased scientific excellence and economic and industrial growth and sustainability. Under Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme, there are **124 grants** including Japanese entities, for cooperation in digital technologies, climate science, health, transport and social sciences.

The EU and Japan are in negotiations regarding Japan's possible association to **Horizon Europe (2021-2027)**. The **Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** offers opportunities to Japanese postdoctoral fellows and organisations to collaborate with top European institutes, engage in staff exchanges for short durations, and participate in doctoral networks. There are 101 Japanese participations in MSCA.