



July 2023

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 a rules-based international order** based on the UN Charter, as well as **open, free and fair trade and a green transition**. 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.

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.

The EU and Japan are cooperating to strengthen their economic resilience and security, to address global challenges, and to build a safe and inclusive environment.

The EU and Japan seek common approaches at the bilateral level and 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, signed on 17 July 2018
- 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

TRADE



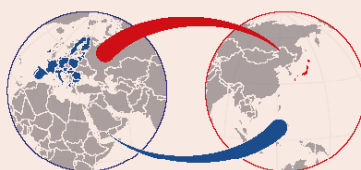
TOGETHER, EU AND JAPAN MAKE UP ALMOST
A **QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S GDP**



EU IS JAPAN'S **3RD LARGEST TRADING PARTNER**

EU IMPORTS OF GOODS
FROM JAPAN IN 2022
INCREASED 11.9% OVER THE
PREVIOUS YEAR

**€69.8
billion**



**€71.5
billion**

EU EXPORTS OF GOODS
TO JAPAN IN 2022
INCREASED 14.9% OVER
THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Positive results from the Economic Partnership Agreement include:



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



MORE TRADITIONAL AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS
PROTECTED FROM IMITATION

THE EU-JAPAN GREEN ALLIANCE

The EU and Japan are committed to climate neutrality by 2050. Japan is a crucial partner in **implementing the Paris Agreement** and raising international **climate ambition** ahead of COP28 in Dubai, as well as implementing the **Montreal-Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework**.

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



**TACKLE
CLIMATE
CHANGE**



**ENSURE CLEAN AND
SECURE ENERGY
SUPPLIES**



**PROTECT ENVIRONMENT
AND BECOME CIRCULAR
AND RESOURCE-
EFFICIENT**



**PROMOTE GREEN
GROWTH AND
JOBS**

The cooperation under the Green Alliance ranges from climate, environment and energy to other sectors such as transport, trade, research and innovation, and financial regulation. During the first two years, the Green Alliance has delivered on several dimensions, with cooperation on the following areas, and an agreed work plan.

- » Implementing the Paris Agreement
- » A post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15
- » Circular economy and resource efficiency across the value chain
- » Green public procurement
- » Business and Biodiversity
- » Sustainable food systems
- » Supply chain sustainability for forestry
- » A legally-binding global agreement against plastic pollution
- » Regional and urban climate policy
- » Just Energy Transition Partnerships in third countries, notably with Indonesia and Vietnam
- » Hydrogen (including with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen in 2022)
- » Renewable energy (e.g. offshore wind energy) and its integration, in particular in the electricity markets
- » Industrial policy for the green transition, for instance on batteries
- » Domestic delivery on the 30x30 biodiversity conservation target ally
- » Cooperating closely towards a global and legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution
- » Enhancing ocean governance to support the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and their resources

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.

They are working both bilaterally and with third countries in the Indo-Pacific, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and Central Asia. A first set of projects that the EU and Japan will take forward jointly has been identified.

PROJECTS ON WHICH THE EU AND JAPAN COLLABORATE



» Railway Infrastructure Network I Jakarta



» Corridor Mombasa-Kisangani (Northern Corridor)



» Laos Road Crossing Renovation



» Abidjan-Lagos and Abidjan-Ouagadougou Corridors, part of West-Africa Growth Ring



» Bac Ai (Vietnam) Pumped Hydro Storage



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



**Improve the business
and investment climate**



**Incentivise private
sector investments**

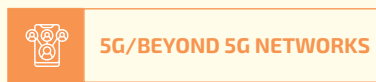
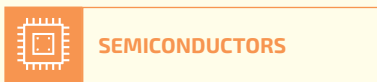


**Foster EU-Japan business
partnerships in third countries, such
as ASEAN and African countries**

DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

The EU concluded its first-ever **Digital Partnership** with Japan in 2022. The first Digital Partnership Council took place in Tokyo on 3 July 2023.

The EU and Japan have agreed to deliver outcomes on:



Both partners signed two Memorandums of Cooperation on semiconductors and to support secure, resilient and sustainable submarine connectivity, including between the EU and Japan via the Arctic.

The EU and Japan will deepen their cooperation in areas of high economic potential, such as on **Generative Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**, as well as **interoperability of trust services underpinning digital trade and data free flow**.

TRANSPORT, EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



TRANSPORT

The **EU-Japan Agreement on Certain Aspects of Air Services signed on 20 February 2023** will develop further EU-Japan aviation relations. The agreement provides for the necessary adjustments of important legal provisions in bi-lateral air services agreements between Japan and EU Member States.



PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIONS

Erasmus+ promotes two-way mobility of students and academics. Each year, mobility agreements finance teaching or research visits to Europe and Japan for some **250 Japanese and 250 European citizens**.

Since 2019, three **EU-Japan Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programmes** have been receiving university students from all over the world to study robotics, advanced reality and history. Japanese universities deliver courses in four other Erasmus Mundus joint programmes. **Jean Monnet** research chairs and centres of excellence promote knowledge of and studies on European integration.

EU and Japanese universities also cooperate in a broad range of areas, including cultural and social development, sustainable energy, and neuroscience.



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 innovative programme, there are **44 grants** including Japanese entities, for cooperation in digital technologies, climate science, health, transport and social sciences.

The EU and Japan are discussing Japan's possible association to **Horizon Europe (2021-2027)**. The **Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** offers opportunities to Japanese postdoctoral fellows to join top European institutes, engage in staff exchanges for short durations, or to participate in doctoral networks.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The EU and Japan cooperate closely to maintain **peace and security** around the globe, and to advance the international rules-based order and multilateralism, including freedom of navigation.



EU Naval Force Somalia – Operation 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 (DPSCA) cooperate closely and conduct frequent joint naval exercises in the Gulf of Aden and in the Arabian Sea. They carried out bilateral and trilateral anti-piracy exercises in May 2021, as well as October and January 2022.



The EU and Japan are also exploring cooperation to provide training and capacity-building in the areas of maritime security and peacekeeping for the benefit of partners in Southeast Asia and in Africa, including through the **EU CRIMARIO project**. Japan is one of six pilot countries of the EU project **ESIWA** "Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia", which promotes EU cooperation with Asian partners in the areas of cyber-security, maritime security, crisis management, and counterterrorism.

The EU and Japan hold **regular consultations and dialogues on security and defence-related issues**, including on cyber security, disinformation and space, while cooperating also on non-proliferation, disarmament, and crisis management.