



# EU-JAPAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The **EU-Japan strategic partnership** 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**.

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

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 striving for the de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East.

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

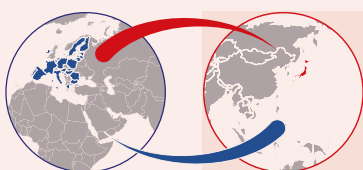
### THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- 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



EU IS JAPAN'S 3<sup>RD</sup> LARGEST TRADING PARTNER



BILATERAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES INCREASED BY 9% BETWEEN 2019 - WHEN THE EPA ENTERED INTO FORCE - AND 2023

€173  
billion



€188.6  
billion

### 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 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

## THE 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 **Montreal-Kunming 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 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 three years, the Green Alliance has delivered on several dimensions, with cooperation on the following areas.

- » Implementation of the Paris Agreement
- » Implementation of the Montreal-Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework
- » Circular economy and resource efficiency across the value chain
- » Carbon pricing
- » Climate adaptation and resilience
- » Business and Biodiversity
- » Sustainable food system
- » Regional and urban climate policy
- » Just Energy Transition Partnerships in third countries, notably with Indonesia and Vietnam
- » Energy security, LNG in particular, and reduction of methane emissions
- » Hydrogen (including the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen in 2022)
- » Renewable energy development and its integration, in particular in the electricity markets, as well as clean energy supply chains
- » Industrial policy for the green transition, for instance on batteries
- » Cooperating closely in the intergovernmental process 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

In 2024, the EU funded Green Alliance Facility started to operate with a budget of €4 million for 4 years with the implementation of the Alliance as its key objective.

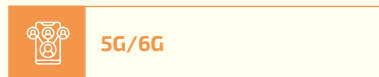
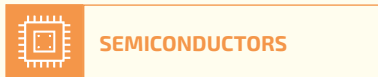
## CONNECTIVITY PARTNERSHIP

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.

## 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, and the second one in Brussels on 30 April 2024.

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, and on Digital Identities and Trust Services to implement Data Free Flow with Trust to drive collaboration and work towards technical use cases.

The EU and Japan reaffirmed the importance of the **ever closer strategic partnership** in upholding the free and open international order based on the rule of law and in promoting their shared values and vision for the digital transformation including a human-centric approach to digital transformation and respect for fundamental rights.

## TRANSPORT, EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



### TRANSPORT

The **EU-Japan agreement on civil aviation safety**, signed in June 2020, establishes the common rules to facilitate trade in aircraft and related products between the EU and Japan while reducing costs and administrative burden and promoting cooperation on aviation safety. Since February 2023, the **EU-Japan horizontal aviation agreement** strengthens aviation ties by allowing any EU airline to fly to Japan from any EU Member State with a bilateral air services agreement with Japan, thereby aligning those agreements with EU law.



### 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.



### 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 **93 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.

The **EU-Japan enhanced dialogue on Advanced Materials** launched on 2 April 2024 will serve as a platform for sharing information and exploring research collaboration opportunities to enhance leadership of both parties in this area.

## SECURITY AND DEFENCE

In November 2024, the EU and Japan announced a **Security and Defence Partnership**. This partnership reinforces the shared commitment to maintain **global, peace and security**, and to advance the international rules-based order and multilateralism, including freedom of navigation. It entails cooperation trends in several domains such as: maritime security, space security and defence, cyber, FIMI and disinformation, non-proliferation and disarmament, defence initiatives and industry.



Since March 2023, **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)** conduct regular, joint activities at sea including in the Gulf of Aden and in the Arabian Sea under an Administrative Arrangement.



The EU and Japan have been exploring synergies for some years in the areas of **maritime domain awareness and maritime security**, including through the EU-funded **CRIMARIO/IORIS project**. Japan is one of the pilot countries of the EU-funded project **ESIWA "Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia"**, which promotes EU cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners in several security domains.

The EU and Japan hold **regular consultations and dialogues** on cyber security, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) and space, while cooperating also on non-proliferation, disarmament, and crisis management.