



**Visit of Commissioner Breton to Japan
28-29 September 2021**



EBC President Michael Mroczek (left) handed over the EBC White Paper to Commissioner Breton after the round table discussion with business representatives

On Tuesday 28 September 2021, Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton arrived in Japan to engage with officials and industry leaders on digital and tech matters. The purpose of Commissioner Breton's visit were discussions with Japanese partners about the upcoming [European Chips Act](#) and develop contacts on the broader digital partnership agreements with Japan, which were announced in the [EU Indo-Pacific Strategy](#).



During his visit, Commissioner Breton met the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Ryota Takeda; Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Hiroshi Kajiyama; the Minister for Digital Transformation, Takuya Hirai; the Chairman of the Board of NEC, Nobuhiro Endo and the CEO of Fujitsu, Mr Takahito Tokita as well as with Mr Toshiki Kawai, the CEO of Tokyo Electron (TEL), one of the major Japanese semiconductor companies.

On 29 September, he attended a round table discussion with business representatives at the EU Delegation in Tokyo. Mr. Sakuyama, the Co-Chair of the EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) officially conveyed the invitation to Commissioner Breton to attend the BRT on November 4 in Brussels.

During the meeting, Commissioner Breton explained the purpose of his visit and entertained some comments from the representatives of the Japanese and the European industry.

With respect to the current travel restrictions imposed by Japan to foreign non-residents, Commissioner Breton emphasized the ongoing discussions with the Japanese Government as well as EU's efforts regarding the vaccination (currently 72% of EU population is vaccinated) and the supply of vaccines to other countries (half of the EU production is provided to non-EU states, 1/3 of which to Japan). Other topic discussed during the round table was the shortage of semi-conductors in the EU and in Japan alike. According to Commissioner Breton's estimation, such shortage may last for another four to five months.

The round table was concluded by the handover of the last issue of the EBC White Paper in printed form. In the spirit of the digital transformation, which was also among the topics discussed at the round table, the EBC is currently working on digitalizing the EBC White Paper, which is due for publishing in October/November 2021.

After his visit to Japan, Commissioner Breton left for South Korea to meet with officials and industry leaders.



Michael Mroczek, President of the EBC