



Statement by the European Business Council in Japan and Japan Business Council in Europe on the EU-Japan Digital Partnership

The European Business Council in Japan (EBC) and Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) welcome the continued advancement of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership as a key pillar of the broader strategic relationship between the European Union and Japan.

In an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving digital landscape, the Partnership provides an important framework to deepen cooperation on shared priorities, including data governance, digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, and regulatory approaches. We strongly support efforts to ensure that this Partnership remains a living and dynamic platform - one that evolves in line with technological developments and global challenges.

Beyond strengthening cooperation, the Digital Partnership also offers an opportunity to enhance resilience by diversifying ecosystems and reducing overreliance on single markets or technologies. By fostering closer EU-Japan collaboration, both sides can contribute to more balanced and secure digital value chains, thereby lessening certain strategic dependencies while reinforcing openness and trust.

In this spirit, we encourage both sides to accelerate the development of concrete joint projects and co-investment initiatives under the Partnership. From joint research and pilot programmes in areas such as AI, data spaces and cybersecurity, to co-investment in digital infrastructure and deep tech, there is significant untapped potential for industry-led collaboration that delivers tangible economic and technological benefits for both regions. We stand ready to support the identification and advancement of such initiatives in close coordination with public authorities on both sides. We are open to share possible ways the EU-Japan Digital Partnership could support these projects by collecting views and inputs from Industry side both in Japan and in Europe.

As complementary action, we understand Horizon Europe to be one additional vehicle to increase R&D collaboration, and we welcome the prospect of an expanding range of projects in which Japan, as an associated country, will be able to participate and contribute.

To fully realise its potential, the Digital Partnership should serve not only as a policy dialogue, but also as a practical mechanism to foster collaboration. We encourage the creation of dedicated platforms and fora under the Partnership where stakeholders can exchange views, share best practices, and develop concrete initiatives. Such mechanisms would help translate high-level commitments into tangible outcomes.

Industry has a central role to play in this process. As both a driver and implementer of digital innovation, the private sector can provide valuable insights into technological trends, operational challenges, and opportunities for transnational cooperation. We therefore advocate for structured and regular engagement with industry representatives to ensure that policies remain grounded, effective, and innovation-friendly.

We recommend that both regions anchor the Digital Partnership in a shared commitment to open, fair, and transparent digital trade - grounded in democratic values and respect for fundamental rights - highlighting the importance of openness and of cooperation among trusted partners that have common values, with the EU and Japan at its core. This approach represents an essential foundation for mutual competitiveness and for preventing the fragmentation of the global digital economy. By maintaining an open, inclusive, and forward-looking approach, the EU-Japan Digital Partnership can become a model for international digital cooperation - supporting competitiveness, resilience, and shared values in the global digital economy.

We stand ready to contribute actively to this endeavour and to support closer collaboration between European and Japanese stakeholders.

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European Business Council (EBC)
Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)



About European Business Council (EBC)

The European Business Council (EBC) in Japan is the trade policy arm of the 17 European national chambers in Japan. Established in 1972, the EBC represents the interests of European companies operating in Japan and works to improve the trade and investment environment through dialogue with the Japanese. Through its committees, the EBC develops recommendations aimed at removing barriers to trade and investment and strengthening economic relations between Europe and Japan.

About Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)

Founded in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organisation representing the interests of over 110 multinational companies of Japanese parentage active in Europe. Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including information and communication technology, electronics, chemicals, automotive, machinery, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and glass products.