



Recommendations to the Leaders of the EU and Japan

Working Party 1

*Trade Relations; Investment and Regulatory Cooperation;
Financial Services; Accounting and Taxation*

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EU-Japan Comprehensive Cooperation Framework on Competitiveness

■ Key points considered by WP1

- EU and JP face similar challenges and are increasingly aware of the importance of enhancing industrial competitiveness and economic security.
- Building on the momentum following the 2025 Summit (e.g. establishment of Competitiveness Alliance), the opportunity to leverage comprehensive cooperation framework on competitiveness and economic security is now.
- Developing and concretising cooperation in these fields is key.



EU-Japan Comprehensive Cooperation Framework on Competitiveness

■ WP-1/#01*/EJ to EJ

Establishment of a comprehensive EU-Japan cooperation framework on competitiveness

- Build and showcase a common philosophy based on common values:
 - Joint understanding on competitiveness and economic security, highlighting the importance of ‘Made with Common Values’. Common criteria for non-price factors.
 - Determination against protectionism, willingness to ensure predictability and avoid excessive burdens. Lead by example in policy development.
 - Policies (e.g. IAA) should provide clarity and reflect the spirit of ‘Made with Common Values’ for all sectors involved.
- swift implementation of the Japan-EU Association Agreement to Horizon Europe, following the substantive agreement reached in December 2025.



WTO / Regulatory Cooperation

■ WP-1/#02*/EJ to EJ

Ambitious multilateral trade agenda for the next WTO Ministerial Conference

- Priority actions include extending the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, advancing the Agreement on Electronic Commerce, and restoring a fully functioning dispute settlement system
- Disappointment with the outcome of MC14 underscores the urgent need to reinvigorate the WTO, strengthen its relevance, and reaffirm commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system



Harmonisation

■ WP-1/#03*/EJ to EJ

Harmonisation of regulations and standards

- Deepening dialogue on regulations and standards, including those between competition authorities, through various channels such as the EPA, Green Alliance, Digital Partnership, and Industrial Policy Dialogue. Intensive cooperation in the new Green and Digital regulatory areas.
- Further extending and deepening the Japan-EU Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA).



E to J Recommendations

- Harmonisation & mutual recognition of standards and product certifications; acceptance of international standards where applicable
- Legal services
- Freight and logistics
- Equity compensation
- Recommendations on Industrial Chemicals
- Human Resources



J to E Recommendations

- “Three levels of harmonisations” of the legislation and input from various stakeholders
- Cooperation with Japan and like-minded countries on economic security standards
- Trade Policy
- Achieve climate-neutrality
- Circular economy
- Chemicals Regulation
- Corporate sustainability and responsible business conduct (RBC) policies
- Digital Regulation
- Standards and Certification