



Recommendations to the Leaders of the EU and Japan

Working Party 2 *Life Sciences and Bioeconomy, Healthcare and Well-Being*

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Executive Summary

- **Advancing a Sustainable Future Through Life Sciences and Bioeconomy**
 - EU and Japan share common challenges — healthcare sustainability, climate change, and food security — and a shared opportunity in biosciences and the bioeconomy.
 - 2026 is a pivotal year, as pharmaceutical pricing dynamics, biodiversity decision points, and global competition in biosciences converge.
- **Strengthening innovation across three interconnected pillars**
 - **Healthcare & Life Sciences:** Establishing predictable pricing systems, accelerating patient access to innovative medicines and medical technologies, and strengthening EU-Japan drug discovery collaboration.
 - **Bioeconomy & Biodiversity:** Developing internationally harmonized rules for Digital Sequence Information (DSI) that balance innovation incentives with biodiversity conservation obligations.
 - **Food Systems & Biomanufacturing:** Building robust agricultural innovation frameworks and comprehensive industrial support measures for the biomanufacturing sector.



Healthcare & Life Sciences

- **WP-2/#01/ Establishing a predictable and sustainable drug pricing and evaluation system to promote innovation**
 - Consider geopolitical impacts, especially the US MFN pricing policy, as low prices in the EU or Japan cause cross-border spillovers, leading to drug lag and drug loss.
 - Establish predictable, transparent pricing systems that appropriately reward innovation and enable rapid patient access.
 - Optimize reimbursement for emerging technologies (e.g. cell and gene therapies) using comprehensive value assessment (clinical efficacy, PROs).
- **WP-2/#02/ Enabling rapid patient access to innovative medicines and medical technologies**
 - Enable patient access to innovative diagnostics, including cancer genome profiling (CGP), through public insurance with optimal timing and sample selection.
 - Abolish Japan's 14-day prescription limit for new drugs to accelerate access to innovative treatments and reduce operational burden.



Healthcare & Life Sciences

- **WP-2/#03/ Fundamental strengthening of an internationally competitive drug discovery ecosystem through Japan-Europe collaboration**
 - Guarantee strong IP protection as a mandatory enabler of innovation, and facilitate access to national and FDI investment across both regions, with clear numerical targets for R&D funding, startup creation, and clinical trials. Accelerate the drug discovery venture ecosystem by attracting top talent and capital, and by deploying AI, quantum computing, and smart manufacturing to speed up R&D and manufacturing.
 - Strengthen biosciences and biotechnology cooperation by promoting talent mobility (students and highly skilled workers), enabling shared biomanufacturing facilities for startups, and incentivizing CRO/CDMO use within allied nations. Establish an EU–Japan working group to advance joint R&D, regulatory harmonization, and trade facilitation, while ensuring strong METI–MHLW coordination and alignment of economic security strategies to avoid market isolation.



Biodiversity-DSI, Food Systems

- **WP-2/#04/ Rule-making for the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSI)**
 - Maintain strictly voluntary contributions in line with COP16 and reject mandatory payments or taxation. Set contribution levels that do not harm innovation or competitiveness, with exemptions for pre-profit and public-health sectors, and ensure a global safe harbor to avoid double payments.
 - Limit the DSI scope clearly, avoid unintended coverage of downstream actors, and apply simple self-reporting rules. Include industry in governance and strengthen EU–Japan coordination toward COP17 to lead balanced global rules.
- **WP-2/#05/ Promoting Innovation to Ensure the Sustainability of Food Systems**
 - Adopt science-based, simplified evaluations for biological and RNA pesticides, with distinct data requirements, predictable reviews, and alignment with international standards.
 - Streamline regulations, build shared MRV systems, and establish clear approval pathways, EU–Japan data sharing, and pilot infrastructure to accelerate innovation.



Biomanufacturing

- **WP-2/#06/ Promotion of comprehensive support measures for establishing the biomanufacturing industry**
 - Promote international standardization of LCA methods and certify environmentally valuable products as “GX products,” supported by incentives for users. Reduce the price gap with petroleum-based products through priority public procurement and common EU–Japan standards, advance product standardization to build an international market, and ensure that environmentally friendly, biodegradable biomass materials are properly evaluated and exempted from EU usage restrictions.
 - In Japan, expand commercial-scale biomanufacturing capacity through financial support, develop human resources via enhanced training facilities, and secure stable raw materials by promoting circular use of biomass, domestic production of non-food crops, and tariff exemptions for imported sugars and starches used in biomanufacturing.