

Japan-EU Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure

Deepening EU-Japan cooperation and
extension to third countries

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1. Japan-EU EPA / SPA

(entered into force on 1 February 2019)

- Japan and the EU are global partners sharing fundamental values such as democracy, rule of law, and basic human rights.
- EPA and SPA, which came into force in February this year, became an important foundation for EU-Japan relations and will further strengthen strategic relations.

Economic Partnership Agreement

- ✓ A high level trade agreement that embodies free trade
- ✓ Elimination of tariffs on 98% of trade
- ✓ Free and fair trade rules that serve as a model for economic order in the 21st century

Strategic Partnership Agreement

- ✓ Legal basis for strengthening cooperation in a wide range of fields under common values and principles



Ceremony celebrating EPA and SPA entry into force

2. Japan-EU Summit

(25 April 2019, Brussels)

- Based on great achievements of EPA and SPA, Japan and the EU leaders discussed preparations for the G20 summit
- Both side confirmed that they would work together for the G20 in various aspects including trade (WTO reform, quality infrastructure), digital (DFFT: data flow with trust, E-commerce “Osaka Track”), environmental (marine plastic litter)

President Tusk after the summit

"I would like to express full European support for Japanese leadership. Japan can count on the EU. We will do our best to make the (G20) Summit a success for our people as well as for the whole global order, based on rules."



Japan-EU Summit
(Photo by cabinet PR office)

3. G20 Summit

(28-29 June 2019, Osaka)

- Japan and the EU appealed our shared ideas to the international community.
- Rather than highlighting the confrontation between the G20 members, we focused on common points and produced results.

Major achievements in Osaka (Excerpt from Leaders' declaration)

- We strive to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment, and to keep our markets open.
- We reaffirm our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.
- Such data free flow with trust will harness the opportunities of the digital economy.
- We endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as our common strategic direction and high aspiration.
- A paradigm shift is needed where the virtuous cycle of environment and growth is accelerated through innovations, and with business communities playing an important role, in synergy with the public sector.

4. Europa Connectivity Forum (27 September 2019, Brussels)

- Japan and the EU will work together to improve connectivity based on the philosophy agreed at the G20.

Keynote speech by PM Abe

- We are in an age where the values and principles we have held dear could waver or drift. And yet the EU and Japan, two poles on both ends of Eurasia.
- We are able to engender connectivity that is not merely “connecting things” but rather “connecting things well.”
- The sub-theme of this forum is “building bridges” -- many bridges -- “for a sustainable future.”



Europe Connectivity Forum
(Photo by cabinet PR office)

5. The partnership on sustainable connectivity and quality infrastructure

- Japan and the EU affirm their commitment to establishing a Connectivity Partnership based on sustainability as a shared value, quality infrastructure and their belief in the benefits of a level playing field.

Principles

- to promote openness, transparency, inclusiveness and a level playing field
- to promote free, open, rules-based, fair, nondiscriminatory and predictable regional and international trade and investment, transparent procurement practices, the ensuring of debt sustainability and the high standards of economic, fiscal, financial, social and environmental sustainability

Cooperation fields

- to work together on all dimensions of connectivity, bilaterally and multilaterally, including digital, transport, energy and people-to-people exchanges.

Regional extension

- with partner third countries and coordinate action, notably in the regions of the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Indo-Pacific, as well as in Africa.

6. Measures for cooperation in third counties

- We expect that public and private sectors will work together to organize many projects under the partnership principle in third countries.

Financial collaborations

- MoU between EIB (European Investment Bank) and NEXI (e Nippon Export and Investment Insurance), JBIC, (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) as well as JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)



MoU signature
between EIB
and NEXI

Business matchings

- IJBG (Italy-Japan Business Group) Tokyo meeting (15 November)
- Club Franco-Japonais Tokyo meeting (29 November)
- EBO (European Business Organization) Tokyo Meeting (1-4 December)
- BRT (Business Round Table) Tokyo meeting (17 April, 2020)
- APK (Asien Pazifik Konferenz) Tokyo meeting (October 18-20, 2020)

7. The Role of the EU–Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation

- The EU–Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation was established in 1987. The Center is a unique venture between the European Commission and METI.
- The Center plays key roles for
 - promoting all forms of industrial, trade and investment cooperation between Japan and EU and in third countries.
 - improving Japanese and EU companies' competitiveness and cooperation.



Source: EU- Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation News Letter (<https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/library>)