

JBCE Digital Innovation Committee

Recommendations for EU-Japan Cooperation in the Digital Age

11 December 2019

On 18 October 2019, the Japanese Business Council in Europe (JBCE) held a conference, entitled “EU-Japan Cooperation in the Digital Age: Opportunities for Transforming Societies”. The event took place at CEATEC 2019 (Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies) in Makuhari Messe, Japan with the support of the European Commission (DG CONNECT), the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC).

The following key takeaways of the conference emerged from the discussions held between speakers representing the government, industry and standardisation bodies. Additionally, JBCE puts forward its recommendations for EU-Japan Cooperation in the Digital Age.

Key takeaways:

- Public policy cooperation for the data economy in the areas of data management, security, governance, availability and usability are fundamental to the development of new technologies.
- Regulatory cooperation is key in the facilitation of cross-border trade, development of solutions to global challenges and improvement in the quality of citizens’ lives. G2B stakeholder platforms are positive tools to consider and promote in support of effective regulatory cooperation.
- R&D&I cooperation through joint efforts and investments is essential in the swift development and application of new technologies, particularly in the “standardisation work” undertaken in the “creation and development phase” of new high-tech solutions.
- Standardisation cooperation based on an open, industry-driven and multi-stakeholder approach is essential for the success and market take-up of new technologies.

For emerging technologies, JBCE recommends to:

1. Create a multi-stakeholder approach and consultations for evidence-based policy making before regulating in order to listen to all voices and ensure the optimum regulatory framework for both business and citizens.
2. Enable the active contribution of industry stakeholders in G2G dialogues and cooperation in general, as well as specifically in relation to the development of data economy governance and regulatory frameworks.
3. Facilitate the free flow of data with trust so that high quality data will be available for the development of new technologies.
4. Prioritise the free flow of data with trust in regulatory cooperation, as bilateral and multilateral data flows with trust are the core basis upon which to develop and use new technologies and business models.
5. Address the challenge of building trust in regulatory cooperation of digital technologies and digital solutions. Therefore, assisting cross-border businesses to flourish and creating new solutions to solve global challenges and improve the quality of life of citizens.

6. Consider making use of and promoting High-Level Groups, committees and open dialogue G2B platforms as possible tools to support effective regulatory cooperation. Examples such as data management, data security, data governance, availability and usability are all key drivers for the adoption of new technologies.
7. Stimulate the market to allow for cross-border business growth through adopting a clear, common set of rules for companies to provide innovative large-scale solutions whilst avoiding regulatory fragmentation.
8. Continue to foster public-private partnerships as key frameworks of cooperation that can help companies and governments to co-invest and create trust through mutual understanding and the co-creation of investment strategies.
9. Realise initiatives for digital skills to provide new generations with the ability to meet the new labour market opportunities and allow for further economic growth.
10. Enhance R&I&D Cooperation between the EU and Japan to combine efforts and investments in order to allow research to actively contribute to the quick development and application of new technologies. Working together at R&I&D level with new technologies assists in the leveraging of efforts and benefits in key areas like AI, Blockchain, IoT etc. Further related is the commencement of some kind of “standardisation work” in the early “creation and development phase” of new high-tech solutions.

For digital standardisation, JBCE recommends to:

11. Ensure standardisation processes, priorities, and key activities are discussed. Make standardisation a key agenda item in the context of regulatory cooperation.
12. Raise awareness amongst all stakeholders (incl. industry) about key standardisation policies and activities developed in the EU and Japan, including by standard setting organisations such as ETSI.
13. Ensure standard setting activities continue to be open and consensual, voluntary, industry-lead, and follow a multi-stakeholder approach.
14. Compare priority technologies and areas of standardisation (e.g. 5G, AI, smart cities, etc.) to ensure early coordination.
15. Coordinate EU and Japan priorities and activities within international and global organisations.
16. Regularly consult with industry stakeholders.

About JBCE

Created in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organisation representing the interests of 88 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, pharmaceutical, railway, textiles and glass products.

Building a new era of cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Japan is the core of our activities, which we perform under several committees focusing on: Corporate Policy, Corporate Social Responsibility, Digital Innovation, Environment & Energy, Standards and Conformity, and Trade.