

JBCE STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 30TH EU-JAPAN SUMMIT

We, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE), welcome the outcome of the 30th EU-Japan Summit held in Tokyo on 23 July 2025. In an increasingly fragmented world order and a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape, JBCE welcomes the EU and Japan's joint objective to further strengthen their relations in all areas, based on shared values and principles as well as the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement. Strengthening cooperation between like-minded partners remains of the utmost importance in addressing current challenges.

JBCE welcomes in particular:

- The launch of the EU-Japan Competitiveness Alliance to jointly address issues of economic security and competitiveness, as well as the expansion of the EU-Japan High-Level Economic Dialogue. To ensure that these platforms fully reflect all perspectives, JBCE advocates for adequate industry participation in future discussions and the strengthening of cooperation on industrial policy.
- The objective of deepening exchanges on better regulation and simplification in order to streamline rules and reduce administrative burdens. This will address one of our key concerns, benefit both businesses and citizens in the EU and Japan and enable greater competitiveness.
- The commitment to continue cooperation under the Digital Partnership and the Green Alliance. We believe that this will enhance skills, promote regulatory good practice and facilitate cooperation among companies in both regions, while taking into consideration the interests of all relevant economic actors.

However, JBCE would also strongly encourage both parties to:

- Intensify their efforts to swiftly conclude an agreement on Japan's association to the Horizon Europe programme. Such an agreement would bring rapid benefits not only to Japanese commercial and non-commercial organisations, both in the EU and Japan, but also to their European partners and European society as a whole.
- Promote a more ambitious Digital Partnership by swiftly launching concrete joint initiatives and following up on their implementation. JBCE would welcome progress, for instance, on the EU-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation on Digital Identities and Trust services to implement Data Free Flow with Trust, and the launch of similar initiatives on Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Data Spaces.

Aiming to serve as a bridge between the EU and Japan, we are honoured by the specific mention of JBCE in the Competitiveness Alliance as a key player in conveying the views of Japanese industry to both economic blocs. JBCE remains committed to its objectives and

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stands ready to further share the industry perspective with European and Japanese officials, both bilaterally and within the framework of the Business Round Table.

ABOUT JBCE

Founded in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organisation representing the interests of over 100 multinational companies. 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.

For more information: <https://www.jbce.org/> / E-mail: info@jbce.org

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