

# EU-Japan Summit: a landmark moment for trade and cooperation

Jean-Claude **Juncker**, President of the European Commission and Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, represented the European Union at the Summit. Japan was represented by its Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. The European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki **Katainen** also participated. EU Leaders offered their condolences to the people of Japan following the floods and landslides in Western Japan, and offered their support to Prime Minister to help in any way.

*“Today is a historic moment in our enduring partnership”, said President Jean-Claude **Juncker**. “Today’s signature of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement is a landmark moment for global trade, and I am also delighted that we have signed the first ever Strategic Partnership Agreement, which takes our cooperation to the next level. The impact of the Economic Partnership Agreement goes far beyond our shores. Together, we are making a statement about the future of free and fair trade. We are showing that we are stronger and better off when we work together and we are leading by example, showing that trade is about more than tariffs and barriers. It is about values, principles and finding win-win solutions for all. As far as we are concerned, there is no protection in protectionism – and there cannot be unity where there is unilateralism.”*

The full remarks of President **Juncker** at the press conference following the Summit are available [online](#). The European Union and Japan have issued a [Joint Summit Statement](#).

## **For open, fair and win-win trade**

The **Economic Partnership Agreement** between the EU and Japan is the biggest ever negotiated by the European Union. It creates an open trade zone covering over 600 million people and nearly a third of global GDP. It will remove the vast majority of the €1 billion of duties paid annually by EU companies exporting to Japan, and has led to the removal of a number of long-standing regulatory barriers, for example on cars. It will also open up the Japanese market of 127 million consumers to key EU agricultural exports and will increase EU export opportunities in a range of other sectors. The Agreement follows the highest standards of labour, environmental and consumer protection and has a dedicated chapter on sustainable development. It is the first trade agreement negotiated by the European Union to include a specific commitment to the Paris climate agreement.

Commissioner for Trade Cecilia **Malmström** said: *“We are sending a strong signal to the world that two of its biggest economies still believe in open trade, opposing both unilateralism and protectionism. The economic benefits of this agreement are clear. By removing billions of euros of duties, simplifying customs procedures and tackling behind-the-border barriers to trade, it will offer opportunities for companies on both sides to boost their*

*exports and expand their business.”*

Concerning **data protection**, the EU and Japan [concluded the negotiations on reciprocal adequacy](#) on 17 July, which will complement the Economic Partnership Agreement. They agreed to recognise each other’s data protection systems as ‘equivalent’, which will allow data to flow safely between the EU and Japan, creating the world’s largest area of safe data flows.

Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *“Japan and EU are already strategic partners. Data is the fuel of global economy and this agreement will allow for data to travel safely between us to the benefit of both our citizens and our economies. At the same time we reaffirm our commitment to shared values concerning the protection of personal data. This is why I am fully confident that by working together, we can shape the global standards for data protection and show common leadership in this important area.”*

A [full press release](#) on the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement and a [factsheet](#) on the Agreement is also available. The [full statement](#) of Commissioner Jourová and Haruhi Kumazawa, Commissioner of the Personal Information Protection Commission of Japan on the mutual adequacy arrangement is available online, as is a [dedicated press release](#) and a [detailed memo](#).

### **A Strategic Partnership Agreement fit for truly Strategic Partners**

The European Union and Japan are like-minded partners, working together both bilaterally as well as in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations and the G7. The Strategic Partnership Agreement, signed today by President **Juncker**, President Tusk and Prime Minister Abe, will deepen and strengthen EU-Japan relations by providing an overarching and binding framework for enhanced cooperation.

*“In today’s world, no country can think of tackling the global challenges that we are faced with on its own”,* said the High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** ahead of the Summit. *“Japan is a country that we already work so closely with, on many files, from peace-building to denuclearisation, from counter-terrorism to effective multilateralism. The Strategic Partnership Agreement will allow us to strengthen this cooperation across a wide range of sectors, but also open up the possibility for cooperation in new areas, from science, technology and innovation, environment and energy, to climate change and security.”*

A [factsheet](#) on the Strategic Partnership Agreement is available online as is information on support to its implementation under the [Partnership Instrument](#).

At the Summit, the Leaders addressed **regional and foreign policy issues** including the situation on the Korean Peninsula, the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, the commitment to preserving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – the Iran nuclear deal, among others. As the Strategic Partnership Agreement foresees, Leaders also discussed the shared commitment to strengthen cooperation on global issues

and confirmed the EU and Japan's joint vision and support to the rules-based international order with multilateralism, democracy, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, open markets and a global trading system with the World Trade Organisation at its core.

The Leaders also discussed other bilateral issues, including possibilities to strengthen the EU-Japan security partnership, strengthened cooperation in the fields of development policy and education, culture and sports.

### **Further Information**

[EU-Japan Summit website](#)

[EU-Japan relations factsheet](#)

[Joint Statement following the 25<sup>th</sup> EU-Japan Summit](#)

[Remarks of President Jean-Claude Juncker at the press conference following the 25<sup>th</sup> EU-Japan Summit](#)

[Strategic Partnership Agreement factsheet](#)

[Press Release: EU and Japan sign Economic Partnership Agreement](#)

[Economic Partnership Agreement factsheet](#)

[Economic Partnership Agreement website](#)

[Joint Statement by Haruhi Kumazawa, Commissioner of the Personal Information Protection Commission of Japan and Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality of the European Commission](#)

[Press Release: The European Union and Japan agreed to create the world's largest area of safe data flows](#)

[Memo: Questions and Answers on the Japan Adequacy Decision](#)

[Support to the implementation of the Economic and Strategic Partnership Agreements under the Partnership Instrument](#)

[Delegation of the European Union to Japan website](#)