



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 26 May 2015

EU-Japan Summit Tokyo, 29 May 2015

The 23rd bilateral summit between the European Union and Japan will take place on 29 May in Tokyo, Japan.

The EU will be represented by Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and by Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. Japan will be represented by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini and European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström will also be present.

The summit, taking place at the Prime Minister's Official Residence, will start at 18.00 (local time) on Friday 29 May with a plenary session devoted to bilateral political and economic relations.

A press conference will be held at around 19.30 (12.30 Brussels time), after which the leaders will continue the summit over a working dinner. The dinner discussions will focus on regional issues and global challenges.

A joint press statement will be issued at the end of the summit.

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Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: www.eucouncil.tv

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

At the summit leaders are expected to discuss:

EU-Japan political and economic relations

Economic developments and the political situation on both sides will be discussed as well as the ongoing negotiations for a strategic partnership agreement and a free trade agreement. Leaders are likely to welcome the progress made in both negotiations and task negotiators to further accelerate both processes in parallel.

The summit will welcome the reinforced EU-Japan security partnership, highlighting the ongoing cooperation in crisis management and exploring new ways of further enhancing the partnership in the field of peace and security. This could include the possibility of future participation of Japan in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions. In this context, the summit should also mark 70 years since the end of World War II by reaffirming the EU and Japan's commitment to global peace, reconciliation and regional cooperation. Leaders are expected to commit themselves to promote and play a larger role in maintaining the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

Leaders will also discuss progress in sectorial cooperation, including in the area of outer space, cyber security, research and innovation (Horizon 2020), the digital economy and energy.

Regional and foreign policy issues

Recent developments in the EU's and Japan's respective neighbourhoods will be on the agenda. In this context, the summit should call on all parties to implement the Minsk agreements and reiterate the need for continued G7 unity in regard to the Ukraine crisis. The summit should also reaffirm the shared interest in promoting peace and security in East and South East Asia. Leaders should underline the need for all parties to avoid any unilateral action, to maintain full freedom of navigation and to find peaceful and cooperative solutions to sovereignty claims in line with international law. The Iranian nuclear issue, the situation in the Korean peninsula, the situation in Syria, Iraq and Libya should also be discussed.

Global challenges

Discussions will focus in particular on the international climate negotiations. Recognising the serious challenge posed by climate change, the summit is expected to call for the adoption of a global Agreement applicable to all Parties, with a view to achieving the objective of the United Nations Climate Convention. In this context, the EU will be calling on Japan to table an ambitious domestic target in advance of the G7 Summit and by the end of June at the very latest.

Leaders are also expected to discuss threats derived by and strongly condemn terrorism and terrorists in all its forms, including the ISIL/Da'esh. The summit should also pledge intensified EU-Japan bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.

Finally, the participants should talk about the post-2015 framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development, global governance and global economy. The multilateral trade agenda will also be discussed in this session.