



EU-Japan Summit **Brussels, 25 April 2019**

The European Union - Japan summit will take place on 25 April in Brussels. 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 Shinzō Abe.

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

The leaders are expected to reaffirm their strong support for the rules-based international order, to promote multilateralism as well as free and fair global trade, and to coordinate in view of the G20 summit on 28-29 June in Osaka. The summit will also be an opportunity to appraise the implementation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

The summit will start with a leaders' meeting followed by a plenary session devoted to bilateral, global and foreign policy issues, and a joint press conference .

The summit will be concluded by an informal dinner.

[EU - Japan summit webpage](#)

Media programme

17.30 - Arrival of Prime Minister Shinzō Abe

17.35 - Leaders' meeting

17.55 - Plenary session

19.10 - Joint press conference by Presidents Tusk and Juncker and Prime Minister Abe

19.45 - Summit dinner

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

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>

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

Economic Partnership Agreement

The leaders will use the summit to confirm both sides' commitment to full and swift implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which entered into force on 1 February 2019. Leaders are also expected to give impetus to the ongoing negotiations on a high standard investment protection agreement.

The EPA is the world's largest trade agreement to date. When fully implemented, 97% of the tariffs applied on EU exports to Japan, which before the agreement amounted to about €1 billion per year, will be removed.

The implementation of the agreement will create sizeable new opportunities for EU agricultural exports, removing the previous Japanese tariffs on products such as cheeses or wines, while protecting EU intellectual property rights on Japanese markets. It will also open up services markets and significantly increase EU companies' access to Japan's procurement bids.

The EPA is based on the highest standards of labour, safety, environment and consumer protection. It is also the first trade agreement which includes a specific commitment to the Paris climate agreement.

EU companies export to Japan was €64,7 billion in goods for 2018 and €34,7 billion in services for 2017. The predicted annual increase of EU exports after the entry into force of the EPA is over 13%.

[EU-Japan free trade agreement \(European Commission\)](#)

Strategic Partnership Agreement

The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) seeks to strengthen cooperation and dialogue across a broad range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. It highlights the shared values and common principles that constitute the basis for the deep and long-lasting cooperation between the EU and Japan, as strategic partners, including democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The agreement, which is (pending ratification) provisionally applied in large parts, will strengthen relations in fields such as international peace and security, connectivity, sustainable development and climate change as well as data protection, judicial and law enforcement cooperation.

[EU-Japan relations \(EEAS\)](#)

Bilateral cooperation

Leaders will discuss specific measures to enhance EU-Japan relations. In particular the summit will provide an opportunity to discuss the establishment of a sustainable connectivity partnership with Japan. The partnership would include areas such as transport, energy, digital and people to people exchanges.

Leaders are also expected to strengthen EU-Japan digital cooperation and reaffirm their strong support for an open, free and secure cyberspace.

Furthermore, the EU and Japan are expected to discuss cooperation in research and innovation, secure and affordable energy supplies and joint funding for master programmes at European and Japanese universities.

[Connecting Europe & Asia: The EU Strategy](#)

Regional and foreign policy issues

Recent developments in the EU's and Japan's respective neighbourhoods will be on the agenda. In this context, leaders will discuss the conflict in eastern Ukraine, Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its actions in the Kerch Strait. Leaders will reiterate their support for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and call on all parties to fully implement the Minsk agreements.

The situation in the Korean peninsula will also be addressed, with both sides remaining fully committed to the goal of achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction.

The summit should also reaffirm the shared interest in promoting peace and security, including maritime security in the East and South China Seas. On Iran, leaders are expected to stress the importance of the preservation and continued implementation of the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA).

Global challenges

The summit will be an opportunity for Japan and the EU to prepare for the upcoming G20 meeting in Osaka on 28-29 June 2019. Leaders are expected to reaffirm their shared values, commitment to the rules-based international order and an open and fair global economy that benefits everyone.

Leaders will underline their engagement to keep the global economy open and strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. Leaders are expected to commit to advance WTO reform to create a truly global level-playing-field.

Leaders will highlight their readiness to step up efforts to tackle climate change, renew their commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, and reconfirm their resolve to address environmental challenges, by developing circular economy, resource efficiency and protecting biodiversity.

Finally, building on the EU-Japan mutual data adequacy decision creating the world's largest area of safe data transfers, leaders are expected to further promote this approach, based on a high level of protection of personal data and intellectual property rights, at international level.
