

EU - Japan Summit

Brussels, 13 July 2023

On 13 July 2023, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will meet Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for the 29th EU-Japan Summit in Brussels.

Japan is the EU's closest partner in the Indo-Pacific region; EU and Japan have strong cooperation ties in both global and regional affairs. The summit will highlight this strong relationship as leaders will take stock of progress on several partnerships and lay the ground for deeper cooperation.

Presidents Michel and von der Leyen and Prime Minister Kishida will hold a joint press conference at the end of the meeting. Moreover, a joint statement will be published.

[EU-Japan Summit, 13 July 2023](#)

Indicative agenda

Thursday, 13 July 2023

Brussels time	Tokyo time	
11h55	18h55	Arrival of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida; welcome by Presidents Michel and von der Leyen at Europa Building, VIP Entrance
12h00	19h00	Working lunch
13h00	20h00	Working session
14h15	21h15	Joint press conference by President Michel, President von der Leyen and Prime Minister Kishida

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International and regional issues

EU and Japan are developing a deep and dynamic strategic relationship on several international and regional developments. The two partners have been consistently expressing their joint support for upholding the international rules-based order.

This summit will be an opportunity for EU and Japan to express their condemnation of Russia's war of aggression and support to Ukraine, also by coordinating strong actions and responses. This includes efforts in preventing the circumvention of restrictive measures against Russia.

During the summit, leaders will discuss the Indo-Pacific, China, the situation on the Korean peninsula and economic security. The summit will also be an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in upholding multilateralism, including through reforms of the multilateral bodies (like UN, WTO and WHO).

[EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

[EU restrictive measures in response to the crisis in Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

Bilateral relations

The Strategic Partnership Agreement is the modern foundation of strong relations between Japan and the EU; it encompasses cooperation at political level, trade, investment, digital, climate, security, research and innovation.

During the Summit, the three leaders will take stock of the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) including the Digital Partnership, Green Alliance, Connectivity Partnership and Economic Partnership Agreement. They will also discuss cooperation on security issues.

The Digital Partnership, launched in 2022 at the EU-Japan summit in Tokyo, aims at boosting joint work on digital technologies, including strengthening supply chains, infrastructure and more. In the context of this partnership, EU and Japan signed in July 2023 a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on semiconductors and a MoC to support secure and resilient submarine cable connectivity. Cooperation on semiconductors will help monitor the chip supply chain and facilitate exchanges (also of researchers and engineers) among the two partners.

During the summit, leaders will also discuss the EU-Japan Green Alliance adopted in 2021, focusing on priority actions for its implementation. Under the Green Alliance, EU and Japan signed a MoC on hydrogen in December 2022 strengthening cooperation on renewable and low carbon hydrogen development.

On connectivity, EU and Japan signed in February 2023 an aviation agreement, giving all EU air carriers non-discriminatory access to routes between the EU and Japan. Leaders will discuss further work on promoting EU-Japan connectivity.

Leaders will also focus on the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement, notably on agri-food trade and market access issues. The Economic Partnership Agreement is in force since 2019 delivering tangible results including an increase of 20% increase in trade of goods and 34% increase of agri-food products (between 2018-2022)

Finally, the three leaders will exchange on security issues. EU and Japan have recently agreed to strengthen cooperation on countering piracy (signature of an Administrative Arrangement on 15 March 2023).

Background

The cooperation between the EU and Japan goes back to the 1950s, when the EU was established. The previous EU-Japan summit took place on 12 May 2022 in Tokyo.

[EU-Japan summit, 12 May 2022](#)

[Infographic - EU-Japan trade: facts and figures](#)