



**Joint Statement by Philippe Wahl (Chairman and CEO, Le Groupe La Poste)  
and Nobuhiro Endo (Executive Advisor, NEC Corporation)  
co-Chairs of the EU-Japan Business Round Table,  
on the outcome of the EU-Japan Summit of 13 July 2023**

*Paris & Tokyo, 4 August 2023*

As representatives of the [EU-Japan Business Round Table](#) (“BRT”) representing a wide cross-section of EU and Japanese industry, we, the co-Chairs of the BRT, fully support and welcome the wide-ranging and comprehensive actions identified in the [Joint Statement](#) issued by European Council President Charles Michel, President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan. In particular, the BRT underscores the following:

- The Summit’s focus on economic security as a shared commitment from both the EU and Japan sends a meaningful message at a time of international turmoil. The BRT considers the concrete steps taken by public authorities of the EU and Japan at the Summit to implement the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the EU-Japan Green Alliance and Digital Partnership as of high importance and will do its utmost to ensure the business community supports these initiatives. The BRT believes that the EU and Japanese Authorities should continue to improve the EPA as this agreement has proven vital for restoring trade flows between our economies to pre-COVID levels.
- In particular, the BRT welcomes the Summit statement’s recognition of the need for the EU and Japan to take concrete steps to implement fully and without further delay all the EPA commitments; strengthen economic resilience and economic security and enhanced cooperation starting with critical raw material supply chains<sup>1</sup>; accelerate cooperation on the digital transformation including the recent signing of [Memorandums of Cooperation](#) on [Semiconductors](#) and on [Submarine Cables](#); jointly identify a first list of substantial connectivity projects to operationalise the [Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure](#); enhance air connectivity and implement the [Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen](#), among other measures. The BRT applauds these measures which will contribute to enhancing the twin green and digital transitions that will ensure the enhanced competitiveness of our economies. The BRT welcomes the EU and Japan’s intentions to shape the digital trade global rulebook and to conclude their data flow negotiations this year, as well as their recent agreement of [Digital Trade Principles](#) and goal of ensuring and operationalising Data Free Flow with Trust.
- The BRT appreciates the recognition given to the role played by business communities, with a specific mention of the BRT, to promote EU-Japan business cooperation in third countries. This echoes the [BRT 2022 Joint Recommendations](#) which put forward the expansion of cooperation in third country markets through mutually beneficial initiatives as a priority. The BRT underlines that its pan-industry members are fully committed to helping implement the EU-Japan Green Alliance and Digital Partnership through concrete actions.
- The BRT welcomes with pride the extensive action plans that lead to fighting climate change and the common EU-Japan goal of net zero by 2050, and the BRT would ask the Authorities to develop more and specific actions plans towards a global circular economy.
- The BRT values the EU’s lifting of the remaining import restrictions on Japanese food products linked to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. This will help drive the reconstruction of the affected areas.

The BRT looks forward to addressing these topics and other issues aimed at enhancing EU-Japan industrial cooperation at its 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting taking place in Brussels on 7 November 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the [DG GROW-JOGMEC Administrative Arrangement](#)

The EU-Japan Business Round Table’s 87 members are senior executives from a cross-section of EU and Japanese industry – large companies, SMEs, business federations, chambers of commerce and other organisations. They meet annually to discuss issues of common interest; review factors affecting trade, industry and other forms of cooperation; provide an EU-Japan business perspective to topical and long-term issues of public policy and to identify practical recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities. The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation acts as the BRT Secretariat.