

27 May 2021

JBCE welcomes the Joint Statement of the 27th EU-Japan Summit

JBCE welcomes the statement issued by the Prime Minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen on 27 May 2021 on the occasion of the 27th EU-Japan Summit.

JBCE shares the assessment that defeating the COVID-19 pandemic remains the highest priority for Japan and the European Union. We believe that macroeconomic coordination is essential to support a strong and sustainable socio-economic recovery. We welcome the momentum expressed in the statement for a green and digital transformation that will offer new opportunities and the compromise to achieve zero emissions by 2050. Therefore, JBCE strongly supports the proposal outlined in the joint statement to create a new EU-Japan Green Alliance that boosts efforts to achieve energy transition, environmental protection, climate neutrality, and sustainable finance.

JBCE is confident of the benefits of digital transformation and increased trust in data. In order to make the most out of the digital transition, the EU and Japan play a leading role in building and promoting an effective and flexible framework conducive to cybersecurity resilience and an ethical use of artificial intelligence. It is equally crucial to work on global standards and interoperability supporting actions together with coordinated investments on R&D.

JBCE believes that free trade brings a myriad of benefits and requires structures capable of making the most of the free trade practices, fostering the creation of spaces for dialogue and discussion. In this regard, JBCE supports the strengthening and the modernisation of the World Trade Organisation, in particular ensuring a level playing field and boosting environmental and social sustainability as well as updating rules for digital trade.

JBCE welcomes the proposal to establish a new High-level Economic Dialogue with the view to create necessary mechanisms to promote dialogue between both parties. We expect that the Dialogue will be established, and the first meeting will be held soon.

The joint statement fosters collaboration between business groups such as the EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT), the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE), and the European Business Council in Japan (EBC). JBCE appreciates the mention in the joint statement and the confidence placed in it to further strengthen Japan's ties with Europe. JBCE reiterates its commitment to remain at the heart of EU-Japan cooperation.

As stated by **Chris Jackson, President of JBCE**, *"the publication of today's joint statement is a further step towards the consolidation of trade relations between Europe and Japan, and a firm foundation for continued dialogue. JBCE pledges to continue working to enhance cooperation between Japan and Europe and to boost the resilience of trade relations between the two regions based on the respect for sustainability, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, free and fair trade, effective multilateralism and the rules-based international order."*

As there are definitely high expectations of JBCE in EU-Japan business cooperation, JBCE will continue to work hard as a core player to meet these expectations.

About JBCE

Founded in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organization representing the interests of about 90 multinational companies of Japanese parentage active in Europe. Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including information and communication technology, electronics, chemicals, automotive, machinery, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceutical, textiles and glass products.

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