

EU-JAPAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA)

WHAT IS THE SPA?

The SPA, which provisionally entered into force on 1 February 2019, is a **comprehensive agreement between the European Union (EU), its Member States and Japan** based on shared values and guiding principles such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedom.



THE SPA IS UNIQUE BECAUSE IT:



Is a legally binding agreement



Provides a legal foundation for bilateral cooperation



Promotes global standards and values

It has far-reaching impact on relations between the EU, its Member States and Japan.

Cooperation Areas

1. Democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms
2. Promotion of peace and security
3. Crisis management
4. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
5. Transferring control of conventional weapons, including small arms
6. Promoting the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes
7. Counter terrorism
8. Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation
9. International and regional cooperation and reform of the United Nations
10. Development policy
11. Disaster management and humanitarian action
12. Economic and financial policy
13. Science, technology and innovation
14. Transport (aviation, maritime and railway sectors)
15. Outer space
16. Industrial affairs
17. Customs
18. Taxation
19. Tourism
20. Information society
21. Consumer policy
22. Environment
23. Climate change
24. Urban policy
25. Energy
26. Agriculture
27. Fisheries
28. Maritime affairs
29. Employment and social affairs
30. Health
31. Judicial affairs
32. Combating corruption and organised crime
33. Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism
34. Combating illicit drugs
35. Cyber issues
36. Passengers' name records
37. Migration
38. Personal data protection
39. Youth education and sport
40. Culture

Priority Areas The Japan-EU SPA is a comprehensive political framework agreement with four priority areas:



Peace and Security

As like-minded global partners, the EU and Japan have a shared commitment towards achieving peace, prosperity and human security. They are resolved to work closely to address global challenges that include crisis situations, disarmament, terrorism, cyber issues, maritime affairs and judicial cooperation.



Environment and Energy

The SPA puts the EU and Japan in the forefront of environmental protection. The EU and Japan must take the lead in combating climate change and its adverse effects, working in close coordination in international organisations working in energy, sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery resources.



New Technologies and Innovation

The shaping of the digital future is one of the most important issues in the EU and Japan. The SPA consequently contains relevant articles about the shared interest in enhancing cooperation on science, technology and innovation, including outer space. The SPA contains clear references to key issues in electronic communications, including internet governance and online safety.



Social Affairs and People-to-People Exchanges

Japan and the EU will work together on challenges in areas such as urbanisation, employment, migration and health, including those arising from demographic dynamics and pandemics. A variety of exchanges in culture, tourism, higher education, youth and sports will also be promoted and enhanced.

SUPPORT FACILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-JAPAN SPA

The EU launched the Support Facility in 2019 to contribute to the **effective implementation of the SPA**, including **strengthened cooperation** in selected policy areas of EU-Japan mutual interest.

The project aims to enhance awareness, understanding and transparency of the EU-Japan SPA amongst stakeholders and the general public, to support the EU-Japan policy dialogues, to promote the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, and to align legislative and policy approaches in areas of mutual interest, including by implementing joint EU-Japan initiatives.

Completed Projects

Under the SPA, the EU and Japan have already **collaborated on several projects** in a variety of areas, bringing together stakeholders and experts with an aim towards **strengthening bilateral ties, bolstering innovation and informing future policies**. These include:



Connectivity Seminar to share connectivity initiatives and examples of specific projects for collaboration between the EU and Japan in December 2022.



Green Transition Seminars (Batteries, Plastic, Renewable energy, Climate science) to provide an opportunity to debate European environmental and climate change policies with the broader stakeholders in Japan in April 2023.



Science, Innovation & Digital (SID) Seminars to disseminate information on the EU's and Japan's activities under Mission Innovation; and to present policy developments and concrete actions related to the development of Solar Energy technologies in July 2023



Literature review, gender stakeholder mapping, institutional exchange and 3 thematic workshop to tackle the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment in Japan's recovery efforts from covid-19 in 2022-23.



4 workshops, including a side event of G7 Summit, to enhance bilateral cooperation in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in 2022-23.



Seminar to mark 75th anniversary since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2023.

HOW IT WORKS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED



The initiatives to be promoted are usually identified in the context of **High-Level Sector Dialogues** and **EU-Japan bilateral talks**, which take place on a regular basis. The activities are a response to the priorities and mutual interests of the EU and Japan, and they involve both the EU Directorates General and their Japanese counterparts in a proactive way.

The SPA aims to involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Public entities, private businesses, civil society organisations and academics with connections to EU-Japan relations are encouraged to participate in the activities and propose new potential initiatives aligned with the priorities and shared interests of the EU and Japan.

Useful Information

- EU-Japan SPA (legal text, EU languages): eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SPA
- EU-Japan SPA (legal text, Japanese/English): mofa.go.jp/Japan-EU SPA
- Delegation of the European Union to Japan: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan
- Mission of Japan to the European Union: eu.emb-japan.go.jp
- European Parliamentary Research Service: Japan: epthinktank.eu/tag/japan
- EEAS: EU-Japan Relations: eeas.europa.eu/The European Union relations with Japan
- MOFA: EU-Japan Relations: mofa.go.jp/Japan-EU Relations



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