

**Japan – EU Joint Statement
of the first meeting of the Japan – EU Digital Partnership Council**

3 July 2023

[Tokyo, Japan]

1. *The Japan-EU Digital Partnership Council met for the first time in Tokyo on 3 July 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by the Japanese Minister for Digital Transformation, **KONO Taro**, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, **MATSUMOTO Takeaki**, the State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, **OTA Fusae**, and the European Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **BRETON**.*
2. *In the current challenging geopolitical context, Japan and the EU (hereinafter referred to as “both sides”) stand more than ever united to defend our common values and vision of the world based on a free, open and rules-based international order. As strategic partners, both sides aim to strengthen mutual economic resilience in order to address global challenges and threats and to build an environment designed to protect and benefit all. Our strong sense of unity has been demonstrated through common stances both at bilateral level and in multilateral fora such as the G7, G20, OECD and WTO. Both sides share the view that the ongoing WTO negotiations under the framework of the Joint Statement Initiative on electronic commerce are a key element to advance the global setting of rules governing digital trade. Through our joint response to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, both sides have shown their shared determination to uphold the free and open international order based on the the rule of law, the UN Charter, and effective multilateralism. In addition, both sides recognise the importance of enhancing our long-standing cooperation in favour of a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive and unconstrained by coercion.*
3. *By launching the first ever Digital Partnership on 12 May 2022, on the occasion of the 28th Japan-EU summit in Tokyo, the political leaders of both sides seized the historic opportunity to advance cooperation on digital issues in order to foster economic growth and promote a human-centric digital transformation based on our shared democratic principles and fundamental rights. Since then, both sides have worked to deliver results in the strategic areas of semiconductors, High Performance Computing (HPC) and Quantum technology, 5G/Beyond 5G, Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), digital trade principles and resilient digital connectivity, while also pursuing a constructive dialogue in the areas of platform regulation, data governance, and cybersecurity.*
4. *On semiconductors, seizing the opportunity of the Japan-EU Digital Partnership Council, the Commissioner for Internal Market , Thierry BRETON and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, NISHIMURA Yasutoshi intend to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation establishing in-depth cooperation on: i) an early warning mechanism for the semiconductor supply chain; ii) research and development for semiconductors; iii) advanced skills for the semiconductor industry; iv) use cases of semiconductor*

applications; and, v) subsidy transparency. Both sides will work on concrete cooperation outputs in those areas. On the EU side, all collaborative research actions will be funded by the EU's Research & Innovation programme Horizon Europe including the actions launched through the Chips Joint Undertaking.

- 5. In the current geopolitical context, both sides aim to support secure and sustainable connectivity links including diversification of routes between both sides and with like-minded partners, which are essential to enable Data Free Flow with Trust. Seizing the opportunity of the Japan-EU Digital Partnership Council, the Commissioner for Internal Market , Thierry Breton and the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications , MATSUMOTO Takeaki , have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on submarine cables for secure, resilient and sustainable global connectivity. This Memorandum of Cooperation includes shared recognition of mutual advantages by reducing the latency of communication, increasing redundancies of routes and secure connectivity through cooperation in international submarine cables, as well as the relevance of the routes connecting Japan and the EU via the Arctic. To realise these advantages, this Memorandum of Cooperation expresses a shared intention to explore and facilitate joint and respective support actions, as appropriate, on trans-oceanic submarine cables, such as awareness raising, financial support, demand aggregation, and, as appropriate, facilitating relevant administrative processes.*
- 6. Following joint preparatory work under the Digital Partnership, the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking launched a call for proposals on High Performance Computing (HPC) aiming to promote: i) reciprocal access for researchers to the Japanese (Fugaku) and EU (LUMI, Leonardo and Mare Nostrum 5) supercomputers in conformity with the respective supercomputers' access policy; ii) the exchange of researchers and engineers between both sides; and, iii) work on HPC applications of common interest in the fields of biomedical research, materials science, seismic/tsunami, weather and climate modelling and performance measuring, as well as testing and optimisation for different supercomputing platforms and architectures. The selected proposal from this EuroHPC call is expected to start before the end of 2023. Both sides are also exploring concrete actions for cooperation on quantum computing infrastructure including the supply chain in view of a potential call for proposals by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, similar to the call on cooperation in HPC, and potential collaborations on the Japanese National Programme based on Japan's quantum strategy Both sides aim to start discussing specific actions such as creating and enhancing computational testbeds.*
- 7. Both sides continue their cooperative actions on 5G mobile technologies and beyond , and explore areas of R&D cooperation. Since 5G networks are being expanded and the development of 6G technology has started, both sides continue to discuss the importance of open, secure, innovative and resilient communication infrastructures.*
- 8. Both sides intend to establish a permanent communication channel to update each other regularly on respective legislative and non-legislative frameworks aimed at realising trustworthy AI. Both sides further intend to have exchanges on technology developments, such as foundational models and generative AI, to better understand their benefits and risks and their implications for trustworthy AI and policy measures. Both sides intend to*

contribute to the G7 discussions on generative AI in the Hiroshima AI process. Both sides also intend to coordinate approaches in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).

- 9. Both sides aim to ensure the free and trusted flow of data across borders underpinned by strong data protection rules. Both sides recognise the importance of completing ongoing negotiations on cross-border data flows to complement the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and intend to address unjustified obstacles to cross-border data flows. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit, both sides supported the priority of setting up an institutional arrangement for a Partnership to operationalise Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT). On the occasion of the first meeting of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council, both sides concurred in the G7 and G20 context to promote bilateral best practices enabling DFFT through the use of eID, Trusted Web, Digital Identity Wallet and Trust Services. Both sides recognise that cooperation between Japanese and European data space stakeholders contributes to promoting, and accelerating EU-Japan trusted data sharing, and intend to enhance and deepen the collaboration among stake holders. In order to promote a fair, innovative, open and trustworthy data economy, both sides acknowledge the importance to promote data and system interoperability among common European data spaces, the Japan data space established in the Japan National data strategy including DATA-EX and the Japanese Ouranos Ecosystem (“Ouranos”).*
- 10. These results represent tangible progress in priority workstreams established under the Japan - EU Digital Partnership. We expect to implement swiftly all the above-mentioned projects which should generate further significant outcomes in the years to come. We have also put in place the foundations to establish operational cooperation in the cybersecurity field, including information sharing and joint training.*
- 11. Both sides envisage to pursue future common actions in areas with high economic potential such as generative Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation of SMEs and interoperability of trust services underpinning digital trade and DFFT. The co-chairs intend to meet again in 2024 to review progress, and make further steps to deepen our partnership.*