



**2023/2107(INI)**

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# **DRAFT REPORT**

on eU-Japan relations  
(2023/2107(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Reinhard Bütikofer

Rapporteur for the opinion of the associated committee pursuant to Rule 57 of  
the Rules of Procedure:  
Danilo Oscar Lancini, Committee on International Trade

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on eU-Japan relations  
(2023/2107(INI))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to joint statement adopted at the 29th EU-Japan summit held on 13 July 2023 in Brussels,
- having regard to the 41st EU-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Meeting held on 12 and 13 July 2023 in Strasbourg,
- having regard to the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership<sup>2</sup> in force since February 2019,
- having regard to the document entitled ‘Towards a Green Alliance to protect our environment, stop climate change and achieve green growth’ adopted at the EU-Japan Summit of 27 May 2021,
- having regard to the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence approved by the Council on 21 March 2022,
- having regard to the strategy document entitled ‘Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe – A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy’ of June 2016,
- having regard to the joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council entitled ‘the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific’ of 16 September 2021 (JOIN(2021)0024) and to the Indo-Pacific strategies adopted by several EU Member States,
- having regard to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank of 1 December 2021 entitled ‘The Global Gateway’ (JOIN(2021)0030),
- having regard to the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between the European Union and Japan signed in Brussels on 27 September 2019 during the first Europa Connectivity Forum,

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<sup>1</sup> [OJ L 216, 24.8.2018, p. 4.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [OJ L 330, 27.12.2018, p. 3](#)

- having regard to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of 20 June 2023 entitled ‘On “European Economic Security Strategy”’ (JOIN(2023)0020),
- having regard to the EU-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation on semiconductors and to the Memorandum of Cooperation to support secure and resilient submarine cable connectivity signed on 3 July 2023 at the first Japan-EU Digital Partnership Council meeting,
- having regard to the EU-Japan Administrative Arrangement on Cooperation in Critical Raw Materials Supply Chains agreed on 6 July 2023,
- having regard to the Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen signed by the Commission and Japan on 2 December 2022,
- having regard to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the update of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan “An enhanced EU Maritime Security Strategy for evolving maritime threats” of 10 March 2023 (JOIN(2023)0008),
- having regard to the Council Decision (EU) 2023/362 of 14 February 2023 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and Japan on certain provisions of agreements between Member States of the European Union and Japan for air services<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Administrative Arrangement between EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and Japan’s Deployment Surface Force for Counter-Piracy Enforcement signed on 15 March 2023,
- having regard to the Research Framework Arrangement for cooperation on foresight between the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) signed on 13 July 2023,
- having regard to Digital Trade Principles adopted at the third High-Level Economic Dialogue between the EU and Japan held on 27 June 2023,
- having regard to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1453 of 13 July 2023 repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1533 imposing special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or dispatched from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to Japan’s new plan for a free and open Indo-Pacific (‘The Future of the Indo-Pacific’) announced in March 2023,
- having regard to Japan’s security strategies updated in December 2022 (National Security Strategy, National Defence Strategy, Defence Build-up Programme),
- having regard to the Hiroshima for Global Peace Plan,

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 50, 17.2.2023, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> [OJ L 179, 14.7.2023, p. 90.](#)

- having regard to the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, which include priorities of openness, transparency, economic efficiency and debt sustainability,
- having regard to the G20 Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing,
- having regard to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions,
- having regard to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct,
- having regard to the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment,
- having regard to the Joint Statement on a new era of trilateral partnership of 18 August 2023 agreed by Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States at the trilateral leaders' summit held at Camp David,
- having regard to the report of 25 November 2020 entitled 'NATO 2030: United for a New Era' by the Reflection Group appointed by the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) concluded on 10 December 1982 and in force since 16 November 1994,
- having regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,
- having regard to the UN General Assembly resolution on aggression against Ukraine adopted on 2 March 2022,
- having regard to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and having regard to the Paris Agreement, which entered into force on 4 November 2016,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 17 April 2014 containing the European Parliament's recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership agreement<sup>5</sup> (SPA),
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2018 on the adequacy of the protection of personal data afforded by Japan<sup>6</sup>,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 8 July 2020 on the international and domestic parental abduction of EU children in Japan<sup>7</sup>,

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<sup>5</sup> [OJ C 443, 22.12.2017, p. 49.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [OJ C 388, 13.11.2020, p. 150.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [OJ C 371, 15.9.2021, p. 2.](#)

- having regard to having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2020 on the EU Trade Policy Review<sup>8</sup>,
  - having regard to having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2021 on connectivity and EU-Asia relations<sup>9</sup>,
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 7 June 2022 on the EU and the security challenges in the Indo-Pacific<sup>10</sup>,
  - having regard to having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 18 January 2023 on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy – annual report 2022<sup>11</sup>,
  - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on International Trade,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2023),
- A. whereas the EU and Japan will celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2024;
  - B. whereas Japan is the EU’s closest strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region; whereas both sides share a very broad range of values and goals;
  - C. whereas it is of paramount importance for the EU to cooperate with Japan given the Indo-Pacific’s growing economic, demographic, and political weight and its geopolitically and geo-economically strategic position;
  - D. whereas the EU and Japan seek peace and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific, in particular by promoting compliance by all countries with UNCLOS; whereas Japan is an important defender of the rules-based international order in the region;
  - E. whereas Japan adopted new national security and defence strategies in December 2022;
  - F. whereas the EU and Japan have both voiced their support for Ukraine and their opposition to Russia’s brutal, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression;
  - G. whereas the EU and Japan have both committed to climate neutrality by 2050;
  - H. whereas the EU and Japan have committed to supporting secure and sustainable connectivity links;
  - I. whereas cooperation on scientific, societal, cultural and political issues and the mutual exchange of experience can strengthen the partnership and deliver for citizens on both sides;

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<sup>8</sup> OJ C 425, 20.10.2021, p. 155.

<sup>9</sup> [OJ C 456, 10.11.2021, p. 117.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [OJ C 493, 27.12.2022, p. 32.](#)

<sup>11</sup> OJ C 214, 16.6.2023, p. 26.

- J. whereas the Japan-EU Digital Partnership was launched at the EU-Japan summit held in Tokyo on 12 May 2022;
- K. whereas the second EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum was held in Stockholm on 13 May 2023;
- L. whereas the 49th G7 summit was held in Hiroshima from 19 to 21 May 2023;
- M. whereas Japan participates in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad);
1. Highlights that the EU-Japan relationship is of exceptionally like-minded partners, built on a solid basis of shared values, democracy, common goals and mutually compatible interests, making Japan one of the EU's most important and trusted partners globally; strongly emphasises the EU's interest in deepening and broadening this partnership bilaterally and also in plurilateral and multilateral contexts; advocates for a Team Europe approach to the relationship;
  2. Acknowledges the fundamental role of the EU-Japan economic partnership agreement and the EU-Japan SPA in the relationship; urges the remaining three EU Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the SPA; calls for the full implementation of both agreements; welcomes the development of an increasingly dense network of bilateral dialogues, consultations, memoranda and agreements with the annual EU-Japan Summit at the centre; welcomes also ever closer relations between Japan and individual EU Member States;
  3. Applauds the work of the Japanese G7 presidency in 2023 and the overall excellent cooperation in the G7; points out that the EU also needs to cooperate very closely with Japan in the G20, the UN and its specialised agencies, the UNFCCC, international standardisation organisations and financial institutions and other international formats in the pursuit of peace, human rights, prosperity, the rule of law and the implementation of the sustainable development goals;
  4. Observes with interest Japan's efforts to promote a stable architecture in the Indo-Pacific, for instance through its participation in the Quad, its engagement with Pacific island states or the recent Camp David Agreement with Korea and the US; continues to note Japan's concerns about North Korea; intends to continuously cooperate with Japan in order to oppose China's aggressive policies towards its neighbours; shares Japan's position that Taiwan is an important partner and a precious friend; shares, further, Japan's high regard for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); welcomes the fact that some new vice-ministerial formats also include the EU (in groupings such as Japan/Australia/Korea/EU and Japan/Korea/US/EU);
  5. Is grateful for the USD 7.6 billion of robust and unwavering support Japan is providing to Ukraine for its self-defence in Russia's war of aggression; agrees with Japan that it is crucially important to promote the alignment of all international actors that support the UN principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity against imperialist revisionism or hegemonic coercion; expresses the EU's clear commitment to supporting efforts to uphold peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait, and to promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific;

6. Wants to collaborate with Japan in developing more balanced relations with countries from the Global South; emphasises the importance of implementing necessary climate change policy financing, sustainable and free trade and a fair international energy transition; emphasises the importance of the Global Gateway Initiative and the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment; welcomes the first five EU-Japan connectivity projects and the Far North Fiber Project;
7. Takes note of the shift in Japan's national security strategy; continues to support Japan's engagement for a world without nuclear weapons; calls for a comprehensive security partnership between the EU and Japan as the basis for enhanced consultations, common exercises, shared defence research and development and work on joint contingency planning for dangerous crises; welcomes Member States' 2+2 dialogue formats with Japan; welcomes NATO's Individual Tailored Partnership Programme with Japan, but regrets the fact that the opening of a NATO liaison office in Japan has been delayed; proposes the creation of an EU/NATO/AP4 (Japan/Korea/Australia/New Zealand) security dialogue format; encourages the European External Action Service to post a military attaché in Tokyo; would welcome the negotiation of an EU-Japan Framework Participation Agreement; is critical of the fact that the Enhancing Security Cooperation In and With Asia (ESIWA) project is not very substantive; calls for enhanced maritime awareness cooperation on the basis of the Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) initiative; insists on including non-conventional security issues such as disinformation, cyber, space and climate change;
8. Shares the Japanese emphasis on economic security and welcomes its support for the de-risking paradigm; takes note, in this context, of the G7 Coordination Platform on Economic coercion; points out the huge relevance of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership; values the G7 Framework for Collaboration on Digital Technology Standardisation, cooperation with Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) on critical raw materials, the Industrial Policy Dialogue and the Hiroshima AI Process for responsible artificial intelligence (AI); regrets Japan's reluctance to participate in Horizon Europe and supports the Council and the Commission in promoting this aim;
9. Regrets the fact that the EU-Japan Green Alliance of 2021 still remains a largely unfulfilled promise; notes that Japan has committed to releasing water from the Fukushima power plant only on the basis of scientific standards, transparency and independent supervision; hopes for a more proactive Japanese role on loss and damage, as well as climate finance, at the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 28);
10. Emphasises the importance of people-to-people contacts for sharing and comparing experiences on issues such as gender equality, an ageing society, new cultural developments or labour practises; values parliamentary exchanges and the human rights dialogue, where we can discuss the death penalty in Japan; proposes the creation of an EU-Japan young leaders forum on global partnership; reiterates its concerns about parental child abduction; welcomes the Japanese government's Guidelines on Respecting Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains of 2022 and welcomes its efforts to adopt legislation equivalent to the EU's corporate sustainability due diligence directive in 2024;



11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Government of Japan.