

**Question for written answer E-004012/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU-Japan cooperation in the field of space technology

The Space Strategy for Europe published by the Commission in November 2016 refers to cooperation with international partners in the area of research and ensuring the safety and robustness of European satellite systems. Apart from the USA, however, those partners are not named. With that in mind, Japan's rapidly developing space industry perhaps deserves special attention.

Cooperation between the EU and Japan in the space sector has already been in place for quite some time. Japan has successfully participated in tendering procedures relating to the Horizon 2020 programme and to the promotion of space technology research. Our partners are particularly interested in acquiring data from the Copernicus programme. There is enormous potential in establishing close cooperation with Japan, particularly with regard to the country's plans to double the value of its space industry by 2030.

What steps are foreseen with regard to research and strategic cooperation with Japan in the field of space technology?

How does the Commission plan to kindle our Japanese partners' interest in services connected with the Galileo programme?

Have any such steps already been taken?