



# Recommendations to the Leaders of the EU and Japan

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## Working Party 1

### ***Trade Relations; Investment and Regulatory Cooperation; Financial Services, Accounting and Taxation***

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# Strengthening the EU-Japan Economic Relationship

- **WP-1/#01\*/EJ Strengthening the EU-Japan Economic Relationship Post –EPA**
  - The effective application of the EPA would prove even more important in ensuring steadfast economic recovery of both sides following the COVID-19 pandemic and the on-going geopolitical crisis.
  - Regularly consult companies of all sizes to ensure the best implementation of regulatory cooperation. There is a need for further harmonisation and mutual recognition of regulations and standards.
  - Ensure that the recently launched “Japan-EU Digital Partnership” advances cooperation on digital issues to foster economic growth and a human-centric digital transformation based on common values.
  - Pursue the recently launched negotiations to review and complete the digital trade chapter of the EPA to the highest standards, including language on cross-border data flows, as set in Article 8.81 of the EPA (three-year review clause).
  - Make good use of the EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure to find synergies in investments and infrastructure projects.



## WTO and Regulatory Cooperation

- **WP-1/#02\*/EJ Recommendations for an ambitious multilateral trade agenda toward the next WTO Ministerial Conference**
  - Reinforce the negotiating pillar of the WTO to better disseminate the benefits of global value chains. The EU and Japan must play a central role in this regard.
  - Making the moratorium on customs duties of electronic transmissions of the WTO permanent, noting that the custom duty-free distribution of electronic transmissions is at the core of technological innovation and the digital economy.
- **WP-1/#03\*/EJ Applying international standards and enhancing regulatory cooperation**
  - Enhance regulatory cooperation to eliminate barriers to trade and investment and to disseminate the experience of the EU and Japan to the rest of the world.
  - A special focus on SPS issues and to actively promote harmonisation to achieve the various climate-neutrality goals.



# Climate-Neutrality and Future Pandemics

- **WP-1/#05\*/EJ Achieve climate-neutrality**
  - Demonstrate strong leadership and encourage the cooperation of all Governments in order to build transparent and fair international trade rules and systems related to climate-neutrality, that are consistent with international rules such as those under the WTO.
  - Enhance regulatory cooperation in the field of green technologies such as offshore wind power and the production of renewable hydrogen and ammonia in order to help to accelerate deployment of these technologies.
- **WP-1/#07\*/EJ Ensure timely negotiations on bilateral/regional agreements on personnel movements under COVID-19 and future pandemics**
  - Draft an action plan on how to deal with future pandemics with a focus on travel restrictions.
  - In case of another pandemic, begin negotiations in a timely manner to allow businesspeople to travel between the EU and Japan and to ensure that companies can bring in new top management, such as CEOs, and specialists, such as engineers, without hindrance.