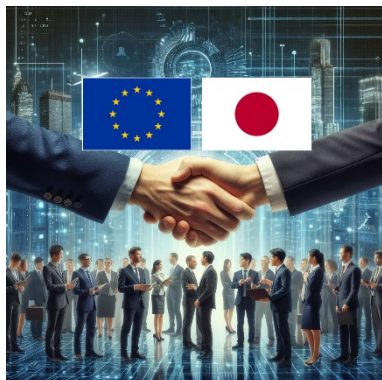# Event Summary – EU-Japan Stakeholders Roundtable. March 5, 2025

## DPA areas of strategic support:

### Policy Advise
Regulatory Convergence, Standard Harmonisation, Ethical frameworks; Digital Services Interoperability

### Technology Diplomacy
Artificial Intelligence (AI); Semiconductors; Data Governance and Online Platforms; Digital Identity and Interoperability; Quantum Technologies and High-Performance Computing; Cybersecurity, Digital Connectivity:5G/6G Arctic Submarine Cables

### Research Cooperation
Facilitate networking and partnership-building between academic and industry organisations including through Study Visits, Outreach and Joint Networking Events

The EU-Japan Digital Partnership Stakeholder Consultation Roundtable took place on 5 March 2025 in Brussels and online, bringing together over 110 participants. The event was held in the context of the broader EU-Japan digital collaboration ahead of the 30th EU-Japan ICT Policy Dialogue. It offered a key opportunity for stakeholders to engage with policymakers from the European Commission and share their insights on the EU-Japan Digital Partnership.

The roundtable aimed to provide updates on activities implemented within the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, allowing stakeholders from industry, academia, and think tanks to share perspectives and foster dialogue on strategic areas for future cooperation.

The event was hosted by the European Commission's DG CNECT and was organised with support by the Digital Partnerships in Action (DPA) project. Presentations and panel discussions focused on Cybersecurity, Connectivity (Arctic submarine cables and 6G), and Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence:

1. **Cybersecurity:** Discussions underscored the importance of aligning EU and Japan's cybersecurity frameworks to simplify compliance and enhance resilience. Japan's IoT labelling scheme (JC-STAR) and the EU's NIS2 Directive were highlighted as models for collaboration. Experts called for improved threat intelligence sharing, joint incident response strategies, and enhanced cybersecurity skills training. The role of AI in cybersecurity, post-quantum cryptography, and trusted cloud infrastructure was also explored.

2. **Connectivity – Arctic & Beyond 5G/6G:** The presentation from the DPA Study on "Benefits and opportunities of Arctic Connectivity submarine cables for secure, resilient and sustainable global connectivity" highlighted the role of trans-Arctic submarine cables as a new frontier for EU-Japan connectivity, emphasising how diversifying submarine cable routes would reduce over-concentration risks and increase global digital security. In addition, discussion following the presentation from the 6G-MIRAI-Harmony project stressed joint standardisation efforts, AI-native design, and infrastructure innovation as a shared priority for both regions.

3. **Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence:** The conversation around AI centred on creating ethical, trustworthy, and interoperable systems. Stakeholders highlighted the convergence between the EU AI Act and Japan's Hiroshima AI Process. There was strong support for joint initiatives such as AI sandboxes, AI factories, and training programs to develop talent and test AI in real-world conditions. Cross-border collaboration was encouraged for AI safety research and harmonisation of risk categorisation, ensuring global scalability.

- https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/partnerships
- https://www.linkedin.com/company/digital-partnerships-in-action
- https://x.com/DPAinnovation
- https://eprd.pl/en/dpa

## Key Messages:

After initial overviews to set the stage presented by the European Commission and key stakeholders' organisation representatives from both the EU and Japan, a moderated discussion addressed the progress of activities conducted as part of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership in relation to Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Digital Connectivity, addressing the main challenges encountered as well as suggestions to enhance the EU-Japan digital cooperation.

The key messages that emerged from the discussion are the following:

- The EU-Japan Digital Partnership is a trust-based partnership that does not take place in isolation of broader socio-economic developments and the geo-political context. This partnership stands for free trade, multilateralism, and jointly addressing challenges for the digitisation of the economy and society.
- Several work areas are in full action mode, notably Semiconductors, Quantum/HPC, 6G, AI, economic security, online platforms (DMA, DSA, competition issues, disinformation, product safety), cybersecurity (labelling, trainings and competitions), data (data spaces, eID, DFFT) and submarine arctic cables. More can be expected from the work programme moving ahead.
- Various activities are being scoped and offer space for more cooperation, such as on quantum, data governance and cybersecurity. Topics are broad and complex, with fruitful conversations and actions ongoing that require a strong commitment from all relevant stakeholders and funding at policy level.
- The type of activities differs but there is a clear desire for practical engagement, including specific projects around pilots, technical demonstrators and showcases
- Stakeholders suggested new areas of cooperation and generally advocated for tangible actions such as pilots, showcases, standardisation cooperation, and concrete initiatives for implementing joint technical developments.

## Key Recommendations:

The main recommendations emerged from the Roundtable include the following:

- Bridging digital technology gaps through closer AI, cybersecurity, and infrastructure cooperation.

- Encouraging industry-driven initiatives to shape the future of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, i.e. a focus on practical engagement around joint pilots, technical demonstrators and showcases.

- Aligning regulatory and governance frameworks to facilitate mutual economic benefit and reduce administrative burden.

- Strengthening cybersecurity through public-private collaboration and aligning global standardisation.

- Developing human-centric AI that prioritises innovation and economic growth without losing sight of safety, ethics, and interoperability.

Looking ahead, the importance of continued stakeholder engagement and future roundtables to strengthen digital cooperation was underlined, also in light of the 30th EU-Japan ICT Dialogue held on March 6th, the EU-Japan Digital Week taking place from 31st March until 7th April in Tokyo, the upcoming 8th Digital Policy Dialogue on 1 April, culminating in the 3rd Digital Partnership Council on 12th May in Japan chaired by Executive Vice President of the European Commission for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Henna Virkkunen, which will be followed by a Digital Policy Event and Stakeholder engagement at the World Expo in Osaka on 13th May 2025.