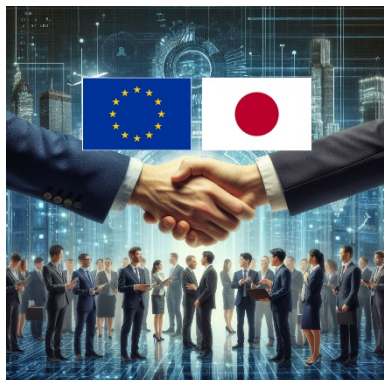




Event Summary – EU-Japan Stakeholders Roundtable. March 5, 2025



DPA areas of strategic support:

Policy Advice

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:** Discussion among stakeholders 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.

- <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>

- 3. Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence:** The conversation centered 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.

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 co-chaired by Executive Vice President of the European Commission for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Henna Virkkunen.