

Letter of Intent

on Strengthening Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between the European Commission and the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan

The European Commission and the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan (CAO), on behalf of relevant Ministries which promote EU-Japan science, technology and innovation (hereinafter referred to as 'STI') cooperation (hereinafter collectively referred to as the 'Sides') recognise the importance of the existing framework of cooperation in STI under the 'Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Japan on Cooperation in Science and Technology'.

The Sides acknowledge that cooperation in STI is one of the key areas in the context of the overall cooperation under the 'Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership', the 'Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part', and the 'Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between the European Union and Japan'.

1. Further Deepening of STI Cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Japan

The Sides acknowledge that they are facing important global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, digital transition and ageing societies, which call for enhanced cooperation in STI. In relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Sides acknowledge the importance of enhanced cooperation in research and innovation to overcome pandemics, as well as open access to research data and results.

The Sides also acknowledge that collaborations between both governments, funding agencies and research organisations have been implemented in strategic areas such as Climate Change, Smart Cities, AI (Artificial Intelligence), Quantum Technology, Open Science to solve common societal challenges.

To this end, the Sides intend to exchange views on the implementation of STI cooperation and on future initiatives on a regular basis through the platforms established under the relevant instruments in place. The Sides also intend to have consultations at a higher level when appropriate.

The Sides intend to enhance their STI cooperation in the climate change area, in particular, and to direct STI investments towards realising global climate neutrality. In this context, the Sides aim to disseminate the results of STI cooperation also under broader frameworks such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in line with the policy initiatives of the Sides, such as Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement as well as the European Green Deal and Japan's Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy.

2. Collaboration between the future Horizon Europe and the Moonshot Program

The Sides acknowledge that the European Commission proposed establishing ‘Horizon Europe – the next European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation’ (hereinafter referred to as ‘Horizon Europe’), that is intended to have a pillar on global challenges and cross-cutting missions and that the Government of Japan decided three target areas and six goals for the ‘Moonshot Research and Development Program’ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Moonshot Program’), aiming at tackling social, environment and economic challenges, which is coordinated by CAO, and also conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Therefore, the Sides intend to work together to further intensify their cooperation by exploring synergies between the above mentioned two Programmes with the aim of addressing those challenges and reaching the ambitious goals that the EU and Japan commonly wish to achieve.

For this, the Sides intend to explore appropriate modalities for enhanced STI cooperation such as possible expansion of co-funding mechanisms, joint calls, coordinated calls and twinning, where possible.

3. Further Opportunities for STI Collaboration

The Sides intend to explore the possibility of reciprocal forms of collaboration to promote STI cooperation between the EU and Japan, aiming at facilitating the participation of their STI communities in each other’s respective STI programmes and initiatives.

This Letter of Intent is not intended to create any rights and obligations under international or domestic laws and has no financial implications.

Signed on *26 MAY*, at *BRUSSELS*, and on *26 May*, at *Tokyo*, in duplicate in the English language.

For the European Commission

**For the Cabinet Office of the Government
of Japan**

Mariya Gabriel

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Commissioner for Innovation, Research,
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