



Joint Statement by Dr Belén Garijo (Chair of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck) and Dr Nobuhiro Endo (Executive Advisor, NEC Corporation) co-Chairs of the EU-Japan Business Round Table, on the outcome of the EU-Japan Summit of 23 July 2025 in Tokyo

Darmstadt & Tokyo, 30th July 2025

As representatives of the EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) representing a cross-section of EU and Japanese industry, we, the co-Chairs of the BRT, warmly welcome the successful outcome of the 30th EU-Japan Summit¹, particularly its strong focus on bolstering a rules-based free and fair trade environment, championing robust Multilateralism, advancing industrial policy, and augmenting economic security and resilience. These aims, together with ongoing efforts to diversify supply chains, develop emerging technologies, and promote climate-conscious industrial practices, underscore the strategic importance of our partnership in a fast-evolving and uncertain environment.

We commend the Summit's ambition to strengthen collaboration across these areas, including the expanded High-Level Economic Dialogue, which promises to be a critical platform for aligning policy priorities, identifying strategic complementarities, and supporting common and cross investments. By uniting private-sector expertise with governmental frameworks, we can bolster industrial competitiveness and create a future-ready ecosystem for innovation. We welcome the Summit Leaders' announcement of an EU-Japan Defence Industry Dialogue.

The BRT fully endorses the new 'EU-Japan Competitiveness Alliance,' seeing it as a powerful forum to unify existing efforts—such as the Economic Partnership Agreement, the Digital Partnership, the Green Alliance, and our shared pursuit of emerging technologies—under a cohesive approach. By actively engaging the business community, public bodies, and research institutions, this Alliance will accelerate the transfer of technologies, expand market opportunities, and ensure enduring economic growth for both Europe and Japan.

The BRT stands ready to foster constructive dialogue on trade facilitation, industrial policy, and investment collaborations—endeavours that align with its ongoing role in promoting business cooperation, including through joint initiatives with the EU and Japanese Authorities. This commitment underscores its mission to fulfil the Summit's expectation that the BRT will “take a leading role in consolidating and conveying practical perspectives from industry” into the Competitiveness Alliance. Through close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, we strive to translate the Summit's commitments into tangible progress, delivering broad-based benefits to our economies, societies, and the global marketplace.

The EU-Japan Business Round Table's 93 members are senior executives from a cross-section of EU and Japanese industry – large companies, SMEs, business federations, chambers of commerce and other organisations. They meet annually to discuss issues of common interest; review factors affecting trade, industry and other forms of cooperation; provide an EU-Japan business perspective to topical and long-term issues of public policy and to identify practical recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities. The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation acts as the BRT Secretariat.

<https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/>

roundtable@eu-japan.eu

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2025/07/23/>