

Japan-EU Digital Trade Principles

The European Union (EU) and Japan:

recall their commitments in Chapter 8, Section F of the EU-Japan (Japan-EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and reconfirm their support for the G7 Trade Ministers' Digital Trade Principles confirmed on 22 October 2021 and their leader's commitment for EU and Japan (Japan-EU) Digital Partnership confirmed on 12 May 2022.

are united in their support for open digital markets and in their opposition to digital protectionism and digital authoritarianism and consider that digital and telecommunications markets should be competitive, transparent, fair, and accessible to international trade and investment.

share the view that a safe online environment supports the open digital markets.

reaffirm that ensuring respect for a high level of privacy and security is necessary to enable data to flow freely across borders with trust, including the trust of individuals and businesses, in order to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, to support the trade of goods and services and to foster future interoperability by building upon commonalities, complementarities and elements of convergence between their existing regulatory approaches,

promote technologies enhancing trust, *deepen* mutual understanding of data governance on both sides, and on that basis *work together* to enhance international cooperation to address unjustified obstacles for the free flow of data across borders while preserving the regulatory autonomy of both sides in the area of data protection and privacy,

recall the importance of strengthening cooperation on data protection, including on domestic enforcement cooperation between supervisory authorities,

reaffirm the importance that data is protected by high enforceable standards including when transferred across borders.

highlight that businesses must have a secure digital trading environment, with the highest standards of cybersecurity and resilience against illicit or malign activity.

stress that ensuring trusted government access to personal data held by the private sector, in line with the “Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data held by Private Sector Entities” adopted at the OECD, helps to provide transparency and legal certainty.

recognise the role of digital trade as a key enabler of sustainable development and its contribution to the green and digital transformation of our economies and therefore consider that digital trade rules should be future-proofed and responsive to innovation and emerging technologies.

underline that digital trade should support entrepreneurship and empower a full range of businesses to participate in the global economy, notably women entrepreneurs and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

emphasise that digital trade should be used to support jobs, raise living standards, and respond to the needs of workers, innovators, and consumers.

share the objectives of ensuring predictability and legal certainty for businesses engaged in cross-border digital trade, fostering a safe and contestable online environment and removing and preventing the emergence of unjustified barriers to digital trade, which have a detrimental impact on trade and investment flows.

support, and are committed to, the ongoing negotiations under the framework of the Joint Statement Initiative on electronic commerce in the World Trade Organization as a key instrument to advance global rule-setting in digital trade, which should result in a high standard and commercially meaningful outcome as soon as possible, benefiting developing and developed economies alike, and reaffirming each country’s right to regulate for legitimate public policy objectives based on democratic values.

The EU and Japan share the recognition that in order to achieve these objectives, there is a need to cooperate and, where appropriate, coordinate their approaches on addressing digital protectionist measures and trends around the world.