



EU IN THE INDO-PACIFIC JEAN MONNET NETWORK

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4

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PROJECT UPDATE

The EUIP team wishes you all a happy new year (both for the Julian and Lunar calendars). We are officially in year two of our project which is exciting as it will see us collate the primary data we collected from the nine different focal locations and work towards evaluating and interpreting the data.

This project will undertake a special “delphi process” which will connect researchers in the focal locations with researchers in Europe. This will lead to the marquee events for this project, the policy “sandpits” that will occur later in the year (and early 2025). Sandpits will be held in Bangkok, Christchurch, Delhi, Melbourne, Seoul, Shanghai, Taipei, Tokyo, and Yogyakarta.


In this issue of the newsletter, the priority area of the green transition will be overviewed and a spotlight on the focal location of Japan is offered. Furthermore, recent publications and a 2024 calendar is included.

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Nāku noa, nā

Nicholas Ross Smith

EUIP PRIORITY: GREEN TRANSITION

The European Union's Indo-Pacific strategy places a significant focus on "green transition". This is a concept that is born out of the European Green Deal that was launched in 2020. The European Commission initiated the European Green Deal in order to transition the EU into a "modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy" with the specific goals of:

1. no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050
2. economic growth decoupled from resource use
3. no person and no place left behind

The European Green Deal has also impacted the EU's external action with the "green transition becoming a focal point of their Global Gateway initiative as well as a key priority area in the Indo-Pacific.



GREEN TRANSITION IN PRACTICE

The EU has been proactive in the Indo-Pacific with regards to the priority area of green transition.

Current initiatives and projects include:

- **Team Europe initiative Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor Leste, including support for the hydropower in Fiji**
- Green Team Europe Initiatives on green and clean energy transitions with ASEAN, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mozambique, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Tanzania
- The Green Alliance with Japan
- Just Energy Transition Partnerships launched with Indonesia and Vietnam
- Support to transport decarbonisation in the region, including in maritime and air transport.

GREEN BLUE ALLIANCE FOR THE PACIFIC AND TIMOR LESTE

Climate mitigation

- Implementation and enhancement of NDCs
- Monitoring systems

Climate Adaptation and resilience

- National adaptation Plans
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- Strengthening inter-governmental coordination

PFM/Financial Risk management

- Policy coherence with climate objectives
- Enhancing financial resilience
- Transition to risk-informed investment planning/budgeting
- Strengthening PFM systems

Ridge to Reef, Ocean to people

Integrated approaches to ecosystem management

- Restoration of biodiversity
- Expand nature-based solutions
- Income opportunities (agro-forestry, eco-tourism)

Sustainable management of oceanic and coastal fisheries

- Stock assessment and research
- Sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Compliance with international law and maritime security
- Aquaculture and value chains

Reduce human impact on the environment

- Pollution control



QALIWANA
HYDRO POWER PLANT, FIJI



BELOI
ATAURO ISLAND, TIMOR-LESTE

FOCAL LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: JAPAN



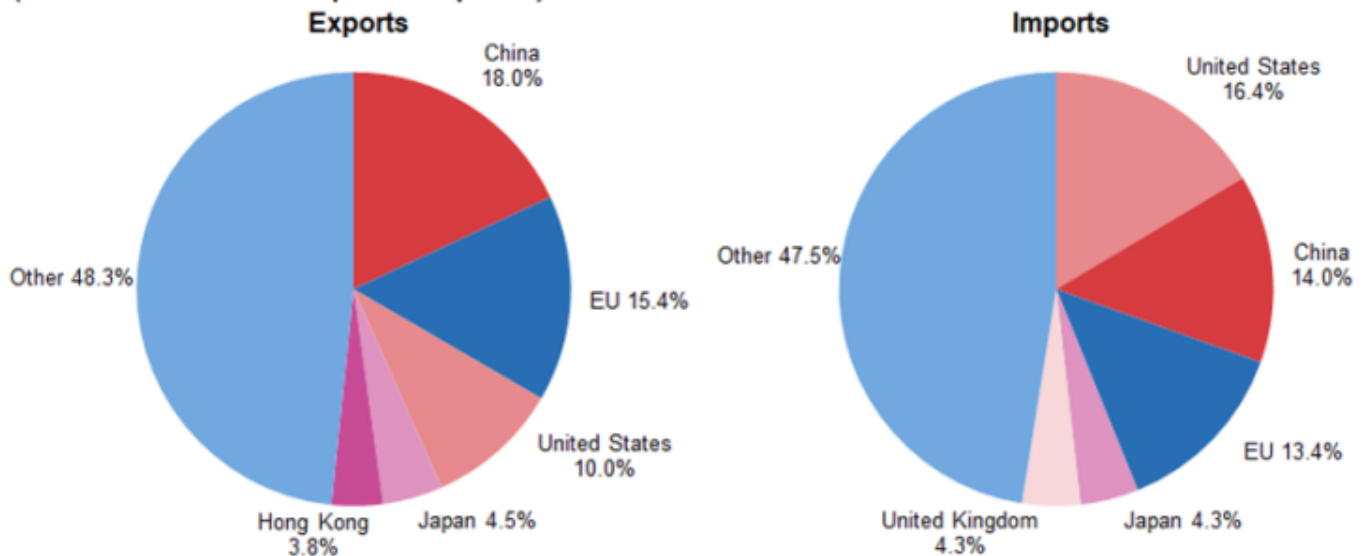
Japan is one of the European Union's (EU's) most important partners in the Indo-Pacific. Japan is the EU's eighth most significant trade partner in the world, and the EU is Japan's third most important trade partner. Japan, which has the fourth largest economy in the world, is also the second most important trade partner of the EU in the Indo-Pacific, after China. Until comparatively recently, trade and investment issues dominated the relationship. However, with increased Chinese assertiveness since 2013, and enhanced EU engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the political dimension of the EU-Japan relationship has gained far greater salience. In July 2018 the EU and Japan concluded not only a path-breaking Economic Partnership Agreement, but also a Strategic Partnership Agreement covering political issues. This was followed in 2019 by the EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure.

The relationship is regarded by Japanese experts as a highly significant and growing partnership between 'like-minded states'. Although in the past it was often said that there was an 'expectations deficit' in the relationship, this is no longer the case, and the dominant narrative around the current relationship is that it has significant political potential. However, increased expectations of what can be achieved raise the possibility of a new 'capabilities-expectations gap', or an 'implementation gap', if the initiatives referred to in the SPA and the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy (2021) are not turned into concrete policies and practices. Concerned parties on both sides are acutely aware of these issues, and granular policy work is being coordinated between Brussels and Tokyo to make these new expectations a reality.

JAPAN'S TWO-WAY TRADE

Japan among the world's largest traders of goods, 2020

(% share of world exports/imports)

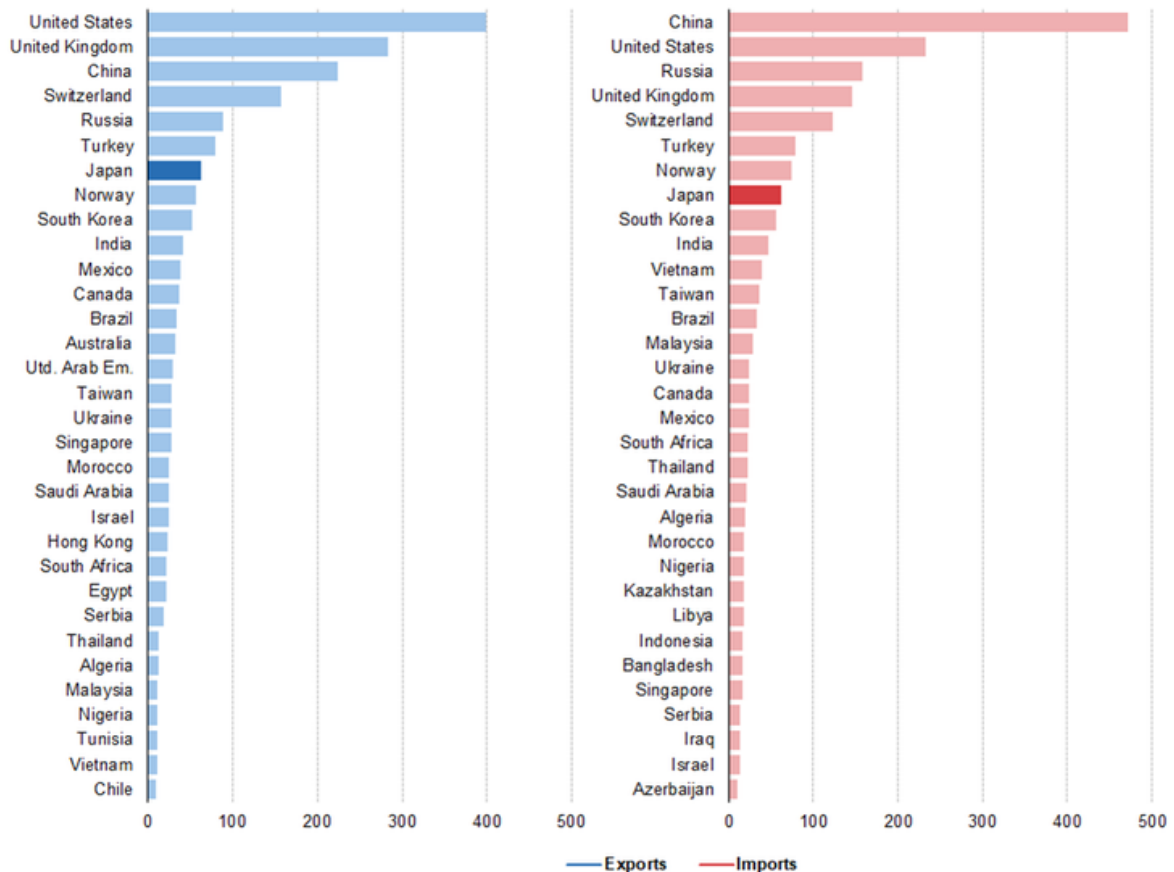


Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

eurostat

Top trade in goods partners of the EU with a focus on Japan, 2021

(€ billion)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)

eurostat

JAPAN AND THE EU: A SHARED COMMITMENT TO PEACE, SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Article 1 of the EU-Japan Summit Joint Statement, marking the conclusion of the 29th Summit on July 13th, 2023, refers to an 'ever closer strategic partnership' between the two countries. Article 3 notes that 'the security of Europe and that of the Indo-Pacific are closely interlinked', and condemns both 'Russia's brutal, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression' and 'the continued defiance of UN Security Council resolutions by North Korea'.

In Article 8 both parties 'reaffirm the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive, prosperous and secure, and that protects shared principles including sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful resolution of disputes, rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms'. There is recognition of 'the commonalities of our respective Indo-Pacific strategies', and a commitment to 'cooperate on mutual objectives in the region, including addressing health, climate, environmental and sustainable finance-related issues, as well as matters related to security and defence'.

There is also reasonably strong language in the Joint Statement on China. According to Article 9, the EU and Japan 'stand prepared to build constructive and stable relations with China, recognising the importance of engaging candidly and expressing our concerns directly'. Both parties pledge to deepen exchanges on China, 'including on the situation in Hong Kong as well as on human rights, including in Xinjiang and Tibet'.

In Article 10, both parties declare themselves 'seriously concerned about the situation in the East China Sea, including in the waters surrounding the Senkaku islands, and the South China Sea and strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion and increase tensions that could undermine regional stability and the international rules-based order'. Furthermore, maritime disputes should be settled according to the relevant provisions of UNCLOS.

With regard to Taiwan, the two parties 'underscore the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as indispensable to security and prosperity in the international community'. Both parties reaffirm their stated basic positions on Taiwan including their stated 'one China' policies, and call for the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues.

SPECIFIC EU-JAPAN PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

With regard to implementation of a shared political agenda, Article 5 of the Joint Statement identifies the following concrete priority steps to enhance the partnership:

1. Ensure the full and effective implementation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in strengthening the resilience of trade and investment relations for the benefit of citizens and the business community.
2. Strengthen cooperation on economic resilience and economic security and enhanced cooperation starting with critical raw material supply chains, welcoming the signing on the Administrative Arrangement between the Directorate General for Internal, Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMES (DG GROW) and Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) on 6 July 2023.
3. Establish a Strategic Dialogue at foreign ministerial level and develop further the security partnership.
4. Intensify cooperation on counter-piracy, welcoming the signature of an Administrative Arrangement on 15 March 2023.
5. Step up joint work on the energy and green transitions under the EU-Japan Green Alliance, welcoming the Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen signed on 2 December 2022.
6. Accelerate cooperation on the digital transformation, following the first meeting of the Digital Partnership Council in Tokyo on 3 July 2023, and the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on semiconductors and a Memorandum of Cooperation to support secure and resilient submarine cable connectivity between the EU and Japan.
7. Operationalise the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure by jointly identifying a first list of substantial connectivity projects.
8. Further enhance air connectivity between the EU and Japan, building on the 'EU-Japan Horizontal Agreement for Air Services' signed in February 2023. 11825/23 4 EN
9. Continue to exchange views for Japan's possible association to Horizon Europe and welcome the signature of the Research Framework Arrangement for cooperation on foresight.
10. Further cooperate in the field of space, welcoming the Administrative Arrangement on Cooperation for Copernicus, signed on 17 January 2023.

THE JAPAN RESEARCH TEAM



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RECENT OUTPUTS FROM PROJECT MEMBERS

Journal articles

van Willigen, Niels, and Nicolas Blarel. "Why, how and to whom is the European Union signalling in the Indo-Pacific? Understanding the European Union's strategy in the Indo-Pacific in the epicentre of multipolar competition." *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* (2024): DOI:13691481241230857.

Smith, Nicholas Ross, and Tracey Fallon. "From Positive to Negative Historical Statecraft: The Shifting Use of History in China's Diplomacy." *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy* (2024): 1-33.

Smith, Nicholas Ross and Tracey Fallon. "The importance of bona fide friendships to international politics: China's quest for friendships that matter", *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, (2024) 37:1, 22-43.

Chung, Sae Won, and Ben Tonra. "EU-Korea security cooperation: a new normative partnership?." *Asia Europe Journal* (2023) 21:4, 507-525.

FUTURE EVENTS



UC
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CANTERBURY

NCRE
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH ON EUROPE

EU IP
EU IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
JEAN MONNET NETWORK

NCRE Roundtable:
**The EU in the Indo-Pacific through
the eyes of New Zealand**

Panelists: Martin Holland, Serena Kelly,
Matthew Castle & Nicholas Ross Smith

LOGIE 613, 2-3:30pm, Friday Feb 23



EUSA
ASIA PACIFIC
EUROPEAN UNION ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION

**CALL
FOR
PAPERS**

EUSAAP Conference 2024

**Revisiting EU -
Asia Pacific Relations**

Yogyakarta, 20-21 May 2024

Timeline

- Call for papers closing : 29 February 2024
- Applicants notified of paper acceptance: mid-March 2024
- Participants' acceptance: 10 calendar days after post-acceptance notification sent
- Full paper submission (required): 01 May 2024
- Guest registration closing : 01 May 2024

Further information

Conference Website

Indonesian Participants

2024 CALENDAR

MARCH

Complete interviews with officials and influencers in the 9 focal locations

APRIL

Begin the Delphi process connecting Indo-Pacific researchers with European ones

SEPT

Complete the Delphi process and produce 2 page summaries for each focal location

DEC

Undertake policy sandpit events in China, India, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, and Thailand.



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