

26th Annual Meeting of the



on **Wednesday, 12 February 2025**

in the Providence Hall in the Tokyo Prince Hotel (Tokyo) and online
co-Chaired by Dr. Nobuhiro Endo (Executive Advisor of NEC Corporation)
and Dr. Belén Garijo (Chair of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck)

Agenda

JAPAN & THE EU – GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

Post-event, meeting documents and photos will be available on <https://www.eu-japan.eu/brt/annual-meeting-2025>

Tokyo

Brussels

08:30 EU-side Prep. Meeting (in the Hibiscus Room on the 3rd floor) n/a

09:00 Registration & welcome coffee 01:00

OPENING CEREMONY (Moderator: Dr. Endo)

09:30 **Opening Session** with brief remarks by the co-Chairs 01:30

09:40 **Opening Greetings from the Japanese & EU Authorities** 01:40

- METI – **Yoji MUTO** (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- MOFA – **Hisayuki FUJII** (State Minister for Foreign Affairs)
- MIC – **Hideto KAWASAKI** (Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications)
- European Commission – **Kerstin JORNA** (Director-General, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs)

10:10 **Group Photo** 02:10

10:15 Coffee break 02:15

RECOMMENDATIONS-RELATED THEMED SESSIONS (Part 1)

10:35 **Keynote Speeches** (Moderator: Dr. Garijo) 02:35

- **Takayuki KOBAYASHI** (Member of the House of Representatives) (recorded)
- **Kerstin JORNA** (Director-General, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs, European Commission)

11:15 **Themed Panel #1 – Economic Security** (Dr. Endo) 03:15

[Presentations, discussion and Q&A on 1) Cybersecurity; 2) Enhancing the resilience of supply chains; 3) Export Controls & Sanctions; 4) Dual-Use Goods & Technologies]

- **Jean-Eric PAQUET** (Ambassador of the EU to Japan, Delegation of the EU to Japan)
- **Shige WATANABE** (Deputy Director-General / Deputy Assistant Minister (Ambassador), Economic Affairs Bureau, MOFA)
- **Mikihito SAITO** (President, Japan Business Council in Europe, JBCE)
- **Lasse Hamilton HEIDEMANN** (Senior Director for Outreach, DIGITALEUROPE) (online)

12:35 **Buffet lunch & networking** 04:35

RECOMMENDATIONS-RELATED THEMED SESSIONS (Part 2)

14:00 **Themed Panel #2 – Industrial Competitiveness** (Dr. Garijo) 06:00

[Presentations, discussion and Q&A on 1) the Digital Transformation; 2) the Green Transformation; 3) Investment and creating new leading markets; 4) Promoting skills and workforce diversity; 5) Supporting SMEs, start-ups, and scale-ups]

- **Kerstin JORNA** (Director-General, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs, European Commission)
- **Takehiko MATSUO** (Vice-Minister for International Affairs, METI)
- **Markus J. BEYRER** (Director-General & CEO, BusinessEurope) (*online*)
- **Osamu NAGAYAMA** (Honorary Chairman, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.)

15:20 **Working Party Reports** (Dr. Garijo) 07:20

- Working Party 1 – Japan Business Council in Europe – **Mikihito SAITO** (*for both sides*)
- Working Party 2 – Merck Ltd., Japan – **Christopher THOMAS** (*for both sides*)
- Working Party 3 – Fujitsu Limited – **Hidenori FURUTA** (*for both sides*)
- Working Party 4 – NEC Corporation – **Shigehiro TANAKA** (*for both sides*)

15:40 **Approval of the Joint Recommendations for 2025** (Dr. Endo) 07:40

- **Nobuhiro ENDO** (BRT Chair – Japan-side)
- **Belén GARIJO** (BRT Chair – EU-side)

15:50 Coffee break 07:50

FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

16:20 **Innovations & Best Practice Sharing** (Dr. Endo & Dr. Garijo) 08:20

- **Osamu MOGI** (Representative Director & Senior Executive Corporate Officer, Kikkoman Corporation)
- **Nikolaus BOLTZE** (Country Representative – Japan, thyssenkrupp AG)

16:55 **Discussion on the Theme & Priorities for 2025 & beyond** (Dr. Garijo) 08:55

CLOSING CEREMONY

17:10 **Speeches by the Ambassadors** (Dr. Endo) 09:10

- **Jean-Eric PAQUET** (Ambassador of the EU to Japan, Delegation of the EU to Japan)
- **Kazutoshi AIKAWA** (Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Japan to the European Union, Mission of Japan to the EU) (*online*)

17:20 **Closing remarks** (Dr. Garijo) 09:20

- **Nobuhiro ENDO** (BRT Chair – Japan-side)
- **Belén GARIJO** (BRT Chair – EU-side)

17:45 **Reception** (will end by 19:15)