



Securing the Digital Horizon: EU-Japan Cooperation on Emerging Disruptive Technologies and Critical Infrastructure

International House of Japan, Tokyo
24 March 2026

A closed-door roundtable organised by the Centre for Security and Strategy (CSDS) and the Institute of Geoeconomics (IOG) as part of the 2nd EU-Japan Digital Week, an initiative under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership

CONCEPT

Mounting geopolitical tensions and accelerating digital transformation brought the EU and Japan ever closer together. Since 2023, the two partners have deepened collaboration in the digital domain to shape an open, secure, and resilient digital future. Against the rapidly deteriorating security environment in Europe and Asia, joining forces on Emerging and disruptive Technologies (EDTs), including artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and advanced semiconductors, is vital not only for boosting economic resilience and technological competitiveness but also as a matter of national security and defence. This effort now also encompasses defence readiness, deterrence, and safeguarding critical and space-based infrastructure. 2026 is set to be a pivotal year for space, with major lunar and planetary missions planned, raising the stakes in terms of risks and increasing tensions in space activities.

The second EU – Japan Digital Policy Dialogue will gather policy experts, industry representatives, and researchers, to examine avenues for joint Research and Development (R&D) initiatives, investments, technology governance, and trusted connectivity frameworks. Participants will discuss practical collaboration mechanisms under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership and identify strategies for aligning standards, resilience measures, and innovation ecosystems in an evolving geopolitical and technological landscape, to jointly promote a rules-based, human-centric digital order in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Objectives:

- **Operationalise the EU- Japan Digital Partnership** by connecting the digital, security, and defence policy agendas, with practical collaboration opportunities in military-relevant and dual-use EDTs and critical infrastructure.
- **Boost defence technological and industrial innovation** by identifying concrete pathways to leverage defence innovation ecosystems, digital and dual-use technologies through joint R&D, testbeds, dual-use scaling platforms, trusted supply chains, and demonstrators.
- **Provide a match-making opportunity** for relevant private European and Japanese industry representatives, including SMEs and start-ups active in dual-use technologies such as AI, cybersecurity, quantum, advanced connectivity, space systems or critical infrastructure monitoring.
- **Map funding and policy instruments** including joint funding opportunities, regulatory and standardisation frameworks that can support cross-border industrial cooperation and scaling of innovative solutions

PROGRAMME

09:00 – 09:10 **OPENING REMARKS**

Kazuto Suzuki

Director, IOG

Eva Pejsova

Japan Chair, CSDS

09:10 – 09:30 **KEYNOTE REMARKS**

Jean-Eric Paquet

Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Japan

Keitaro Ohno

Member, House of Representatives

09:30 – 11:00 **PANEL I – From Innovation to Deterrence: Dual-Use Technologies, Defence and Economic Security**

Dual-use emerging and disruptive technologies are now key to geopolitical competition, defence preparedness, and economic security. AI, quantum computing, semiconductors and advanced materials can enhance intelligence, resilience, and deterrence, but they also facilitate hybrid coercion, technology leakage, and supply chain influence. Building on the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, this session aims to convert shared ambitions into enhancing respective capabilities and practical cooperation on dual-use innovation. The discussion will focus on threat and risk assessments, creating innovation ecosystems, trusted supply chains, technological security and dependencies, interoperable standards and governance, and pathways for joint R&D, testbeds, and scaling support for start-ups and SMEs across both ecosystems.

Moderator

Eva Pejsova

Japan Chair, CSDS

Speakers

Raluca Csernaton

Professor, CSDS, Fellow, Carnegie Europe

Motonobu Fujita

Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

Sebastian Maslow

Associate Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo

Hirohito Ogi

Senior Research Fellow, International Security Order Group, IOG

Olivier Bringer

Head of Unit, DG CNECT, European Commission

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK + GROUP PHOTO

11:30 – 13:00 **PANEL II – Securing the High Ground: Space and Critical Infrastructure for Defence and Trusted Connectivity**

Space-enabled services and critical digital infrastructures support defence operations, military command and control, crisis response, and economic stability across Europe and the Indo-Pacific. However, satellites, ground segments, subsea cables, and advanced connectivity networks face increasing risks from cyberattacks, jamming, spoofing, sabotage, and broader space-domain disputes. Building on EU-Japan ESA-JAXA cooperation in Earth observation and secure satellite data, this session explores ways to enhance space mission assurance, protect digital lifelines, and ensure trusted connectivity. It will consider real-time information sharing, such as space situational awareness alerts and incident reporting, common cybersecurity standards for space assets and operators, resilience of space systems, and the role of 5G, 6G, and quantum-secure communications in enhancing collective security.

Moderator

Kazuto Suzuki

Director, IOG

Speakers

Nanae Baldauff

Senior Associate Fellow, NATO Defence College

Sugio Takahashi

Director, Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Defense, Japan

Kota Umeda

Research Fellow, Emerging Technology Group, IOG

Nobuyuki Kojima

Regional Key Account Manager, Asia Pacific Strategic Market, Space Products, Airbus Defence and Space

13:00 – 14:00 NETWORKING LUNCH