

**Statement by Philippe Wahl (Chairman and CEO, Le Groupe La Poste)  
& Masaki Sakuyama (Chairman, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation),  
co-Chairs of the EU-Japan Business Round Table,  
on the outcome of the 2021 EU-Japan Summit**

As the co-Chairs of the EU-Japan Business Round Table (“BRT”<sup>1</sup>), we welcome the ‘Joint Statement’<sup>2</sup> and the statement on ‘Towards a Green Alliance’<sup>3</sup> released following the EU-Japan Summit held on May 27, 2021. The statements align with many of the BRT’s Joint Recommendations adopted at the BRT’s Annual Meeting on November 5, 2020, with the BRT welcoming this opportunity to express that it is:

1. Strongly encouraged by the Summit measures outlined to “[take] forward a flourishing partnership”, through efforts such as building resilient green and digital economies, and facilitating the recovery of trade.
2. Greatly appreciate the Summit’s pledge to promote the “participation of more business organizations, notably SMEs” and the emphasis that “business cooperation should be encouraged between the business communities of Japan and the EU, such as EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT)...”.
3. Looking forward to discussing with EU and Japan Authorities at the BRT next meeting in November 2021, and taking this moment following the Summit to highlight several of the BRT’s recommendations made in November 2020<sup>4</sup> that we continue to regard as relevant:
  - EU-Japan efforts to coordinate the development of Covid-19 treatments, discuss preparedness for future pandemics, ensure smooth trade flows and strengthen e-health;
  - The need for greater EU-Japan coordination in multilateral forums to address the recovery of our health, economic and trade systems, and also the promotion of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT);
  - Leveraging the EU-Japan EPA and SPA, regulatory cooperation, and the creation of new standards to accelerate the green and digital transitions;
  - Calling for strengthened EU-Japan business cooperation, involvement of SMEs, and greater EU-Japan engagement in third countries;
  - Japan-EU Green Alliance and how industry can help make it a reality.

### **Background**

The EU-Japan Business Round Table was created in 1999 to review factors affecting all aspects of EU-Japan business relations. Its 70 members are senior executives from 50 large companies, 11 SMEs and 9 business federations, chambers of commerce or other organisations and represent a cross-section of EU-Japan industry. In addition to holding annual discussions on issues of common interest affecting EU and Japan, the BRT adopts and submits recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities. The work of the BRT is supported by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation<sup>5</sup> which acts as the BRT Secretariat

### **More information**

E-mail [roundtable@eu-japan.eu](mailto:roundtable@eu-japan.eu) or see <https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/about-brt>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/about-brt>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49922/eu-japan-summit-may-2021-statement.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49932/eu-japan-green-alliance-may-2021.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/system/files/pastmeetings/2020/brt2020\\_part1\\_en.pdf](https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/system/files/pastmeetings/2020/brt2020_part1_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.eu-japan.eu/>