



The Japanese version is available [here](#).

Event Highlights

◆EU-Japan Investment Policy Workshop Held in Brussels



On 7 October, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, through its Invest in EU Hub, organised the **EU-Japan Investment Policy Workshop** at the European Commission in Brussels, in cooperation with DG GROW. Bringing together 20 Japanese companies, policymakers, financial institutions and business support organisations, the workshop focused on strengthening Japanese investment in the EU. Participants exchanged views on investment opportunities, practical challenges and policy support, including through dedicated breakout sessions on **batteries, clean tech, and robotics & AI**.



In his opening remarks, **Valère Moutartier, Deputy Director-General of DG GROW**, delivered a clear message: **Europe wants Japanese companies to invest, produce, innovate and grow in the EU**. He emphasised that strengthening Europe's industrial competitiveness and resilience should not mean closing its market, but rather deepening cooperation with trusted partners such as Japan.

[Read the full event report in Japanese and English](#)

◆ Intellectual Property Basics in the EU – Protecting Your Investments

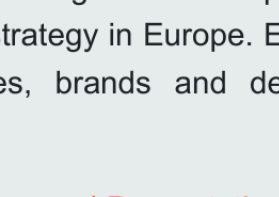
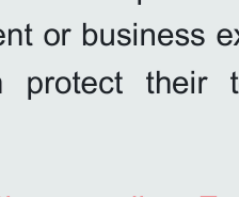
EU-Japan IPA

EU-Japan Intellectual Property Action

Intellectual Property Basics in the EU – Protecting Your Investments

ウェビナー開催 | EUにおける知的財産の基礎 – 投資の保護

15 September 2026
9月15日



On 15 September, the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the European Patent Office held the webinar **“IP Basics in the EU – Protecting Your Investments”**, with support from the EU-Japan Centre's Invest in EU Hub. In his opening remarks, the Centre's EU-side Managing Director, **Manuel Hubert**, emphasised the importance of considering intellectual property protection from an early stage of any investment or business expansion strategy in Europe. Experts then explained how Japanese companies can protect their technologies, brands and designs to safeguard their competitive advantage.

[Watch the recording: English / Japanese | Presentation slides](#)

Latest Updates on EU Policies and Regulations



EU Selects 46 New Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act

On 9 October 2026, the European Commission selected **46 new Strategic Projects across 16 EU Member States** under the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) to strengthen the EU's raw materials supply chains. Covering extraction, processing and recycling, these projects aim to reduce external dependencies and support strategic industries. Among them is **3ECYCLE**, a copper recycling project in the Netherlands led by **Mitsubishi Materials Europe B.V.**, a subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi Materials Corporation. Selected projects benefit from streamlined permitting procedures and improved access to financing support, contributing to the EU's raw materials security and circular economy objectives.

[Read more](#)



EU and EIB Launch Tech Investment Pact

On 22 September 2026, the European Commission and EIB Group launched the **European Institutional Investors Pact (EIIP)** to mobilise long-term institutional investment in European tech scale-ups. The Pact combines policy dialogue with an investment platform facilitating access to venture capital and growth equity opportunities. Thirteen institutional investors have expressed interest in initiatives including the **€15 billion European Tech Champions Initiative 2.0** and the **€5 billion Scaleup Europe Fund**. According to the European Innovation Council (EIC) website, the latter may also welcome non-European investors aligned with its objectives in a second fundraising round, potentially including Japanese investors.

[Read more: EIB Press Release | EIC – Scaleup Europe Fund](#)

State of the Union: Priorities for Europe's Investment Environment

In her State of the Union address on 16 September 2026, **Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** outlined priorities to strengthen Europe's competitiveness: advancing Single Market reforms and faster permitting, accelerating investment in clean energy, grids and storage, and securing critical raw materials. She also announced plans for a **European Corporation on Critical Raw Materials** to support procurement and stockpiling for sectors including batteries, semiconductors and clean technologies.

[Read the speech](#)

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EU Proposes New Public Procurement Rules

On 9 September 2026, the European Commission proposed a Regulation to simplify public procurement, which accounts for around 15% of EU GDP. It would consolidate existing rules and connect national procurement platforms to facilitate cross-border bidding, while strengthening quality, sustainability and resilience considerations. The proposal will now be negotiated by the European Parliament and the Council.

[Read more](#)



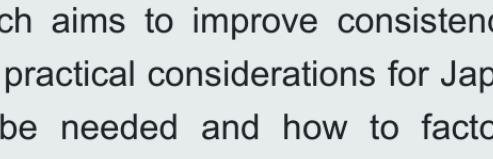
EU Proposes European Innovation Act

On 9 September 2026, the European Commission proposed a European Innovation Act to improve access to finance and help innovative companies scale up in Europe. Measures include a common framework for valuing intellectual property, a digital marketplace for IP transactions, and common procedures for R&D procurement. A separate proposal would establish a common EU framework for regulatory sandboxes, allowing companies to test new technologies for a limited period in controlled settings under regulatory supervision.

[Read more](#)

Featured Article

EU Foreign Investment Screening Reform: Key Points for Japanese Companies



EU、外国投資審査制度を刷新：注目すべきポイント

日欧産業協力センター [欧州投資ハブ \(Invest in EU Hub\)](#)

コーディネーター 大林恵司マテイ

2026年9月9日

要点

- EUは外国投資を引き続き歓迎し、開かれた投資環境を維持する一方、安全保障または公の秩序上のリスクに対応するため、外国投資審査制度を強化します。
- 2026年新規は、全加盟国に審査制度の整備を義務付け、EU共通の最低限の事前認可対象を設けるとともに、外国投資家が支配するEU域内子会社を通じた投資も明示的に対象に含めます。
- 日本企業は、M&A、出資、合併、グリーンフィールド投資等を検討する際、案件の初期段階から各加盟国の届出要否や審査期間を確認することが重要です。

The Invest in EU Hub's latest article explains changes to the EU's foreign investment screening framework, which aims to improve consistency and predictability across Member States. It outlines practical considerations for Japanese companies, including when prior checks may be needed and how to factor national procedures and screening timelines into investment planning.

Read the article: [English \(PDF\)](#) / [Japanese \(PDF\)](#)

Scaleup Europe Fund to Support Strategic Technologies

The Scaleup Europe Fund, under the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund umbrella, aims to mobilise €5 billion to support growing companies in strategic technologies, including AI, semiconductors, robotics and clean energy. Independently managed by EQT, it combines public and private capital. A subsequent fundraising round could also welcome non-European investors aligned with the Fund's objectives.

[Read more on the EIC website](#)

New Japanese Investments in the EU

NTT's IOWN AI Fund Invests in Spain's iPronics

On 9 September 2026, NTT announced the IOWN AI Fund's first investment in Spanish startup iPronics, joining a \$125 million Series B round alongside NVIDIA and other investors. iPronics develops programmable optical switches for AI data centres, aiming to improve GPU utilisation and reduce power consumption. The funding will support commercial deployment, operational expansion and global growth.

[Read more](#)

HPC Systems Plans Investment in DE's TL Electronic

On 18 September 2026, HPC Systems announced plans to invest €759,000 for a 19.8% stake in German industrial IT hardware company TL Electronic. The partnership will establish a European sales, technical support and maintenance network for high-performance computing (HPC) and AI products. Completion is expected in November, with full-scale collaboration scheduled to begin in January 2027.

[Read more](#)

Nippon Steel Announces €900 Million Investment in Slovakia

On 16 September 2026, Nippon Steel announced a €900 million investment in a new electric arc furnace and air separation unit at U. S. Steel Košice in Slovakia. Supported by up to €350 million from the EU Modernisation Fund, the project aims to reduce emissions and secure supplies of lower-carbon steel. The facilities are scheduled to begin operating in 2029–2030.

[Read more](#)

More case studies are available on [here](#)

Discover why the EU is an attractive investment destination. [Watch the video!](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in the Invest in EU Hub. Stay tuned for our next issue!



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