Invest in EU Hub Monthly Newsletter

November 2026 Edition

EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation
一般財団法人
日欧産業協力センター

Latest EU Policy and Business Developments

STANDARDISATION REGULATION:
Update of rules on Standardisation

EU Proposes Faster Standardisation to Facilitate Market Access

On 6 October, the European Commission proposed a revision of the EU's standardisation framework to accelerate the development of European standards. The proposal aims to **reduce the average time needed to develop standards from six to four years** by making greater use of existing technical specifications and introducing interim standards.

European standards play a key role in helping businesses demonstrate compliance with EU legislation. For Japanese companies, the proposed reform could facilitate faster market entry, reduce regulatory compliance costs and improve legal certainty, particularly in sectors such as batteries, clean technologies and AI.

The proposal will now be examined by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

🔗 Read the European Commission's press release

JBIC and EIB Strengthen Cooperation to Support Japan–EU Investment

On 15 October, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on business cooperation, building on their previous agreements in 2018 and 2021.

The renewed partnership focuses on **economic security, particularly strengthening critical mineral supply chains, and Ukraine's reconstruction**. The two institutions will explore opportunities for joint financing, including co-financing, to support projects involving Japanese and European companies.

For Japanese businesses, this enhanced cooperation could **open up new investment opportunities and improve access to financing** for strategic projects involving Japan and the EU.

🔗 Read JBIC's official announcement

EU Advances “Diversify EU” Initiative to Strengthen Supply Chain Resilience

The European Commission is preparing a new initiative, **“Diversify EU,”** to reduce dependence on single non-EU suppliers and strengthen economic resilience.

Through incentives and support measures, the initiative aims to promote **investment in EU production capacity and sourcing from alternative suppliers**, creating new opportunities for Japanese companies to expand their operations and industrial partnerships in Europe.

Following the call for evidence, which closed on 27 October 2026, Japanese stakeholders submitted their views. The Government of Japan called for fair treatment of trusted partners, while the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) emphasised financial incentives to support diversification. The Battery Association for Supply Chain (BASC) highlighted cooperation opportunities in battery materials, manufacturing, recycling, and R&D.

The Commission is expected to present

its formal proposal in December 2026.

European Commission – Proposal Overview and Consultation

EU Eases Carbon Cost Burden on Energy-Intensive Industries

On November 12th, the European Parliament and the Council have reached a provisional agreement to **ease the carbon cost burden on energy-intensive industries under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS).** The agreement adjusts benchmarks used to determine free emission allowances for 2026–2030, providing approximately 120 million additional allowances worth over €10 billion. The measures aim to **reduce regulatory and financial pressures on businesses**, strengthen protection against carbon leakage, and safeguard European industrial competitiveness, while **maintaining incentives for decarbonisation**. The agreement particularly benefits sectors such as ceramics, reflecting the EU's efforts to balance climate ambitions with a more supportive business environment.

Read more – Council of the EU

Commission proposes at least 20% more investment in advanced materials research and innovation by 2035

On 18 November, the European Commission proposed the ***Advanced Materials for Europe*** **agenda**, setting a target to **increase investment** in advanced materials research and innovation **by at least 20% by 2035**. The proposal calls on Member States to coordinate investment in strategic sectors such as energy, mobility and electronics. To help bring new materials from research to large-scale production in Europe, it also calls for better access to testing and pilot facilities and the use of public procurement **to stimulate demand**. The proposed Council recommendation awaits adoption by the Council of the EU.

The proposal also aims to attract researchers and highly skilled professionals in advanced materials to Europe, in line with the EU's ***Choose Europe*** **initiative**.

Read more – European Commission

Read more – Choose Europe

4th Edition
ROMANIA-JAPAN INNOVATION FORUM
MOU Signing Ceremony
Transgaz × Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Demonstration Project Centrifugal Hydrogen Compressor Technology
METI
JETRO

Strengthening Japan–Romania Business Cooperation: 4th Romania–Japan Innovation Forum

On 20 October 2026, the EU-Japan Centre attended the **4th Romania–Japan Innovation Forum & Business Matching** in Tokyo, organised by METI, the Embassy of Romania in Japan, and JETRO.

The Forum highlighted growing opportunities for bilateral cooperation in energy, infrastructure, advanced technologies, and innovation. A key highlight was the signing of an **MOU between Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Romania's Transgaz** on strategic cooperation in hydrogen transport. The partnership aims to combine Japanese hydrogen compression technology with Romania's pipeline expertise, with an initial demonstration planned in Romania.

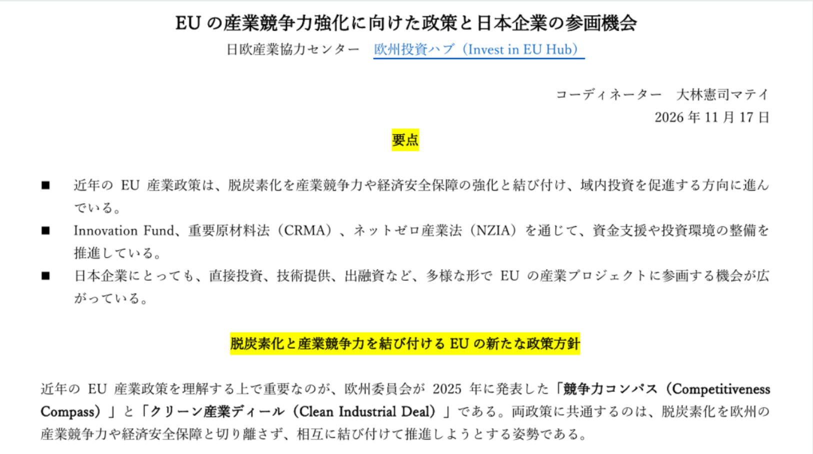
Discussions also explored opportunities for Japanese companies in Romania's energy transition, transport infrastructure, and research and development, underscoring the country's potential as a gateway to Central and Eastern European markets.

Read Kawasaki Heavy Industries' official announcement

Featured Article

EU Industrial Competitiveness Policies and

Opportunities for Japanese Companies



EU の産業競争力強化に向けた政策と日本企業の参画機会

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　大林憲司マテイ
2026 年 11 月 17 日

要点

- ■ 近年の EU 産業政策は、脱炭素化を産業競争力や経済安全保障の強化と結び付け、域内投資を促進する方向に進んでいる。
- ■ Innovation Fund、重要原材料法（CRMA）、ネットゼロ産業法（NZIA）を通じて、資金支援や投資環境の整備を推進している。
- ■ 日本企業にとっても、直接投資、技術提供、出融資など、多様な形で EU の産業プロジェクトに参画する機会が広がっている。

脱炭素化と産業競争力を結び付ける EU の新たな政策方針

近年の EU 産業政策を理解する上で重要なのが、欧州委員会が 2025 年に発表した**「競争力コンパス（Competitiveness Compass）」**と**「クリーン産業ディール（Clean Industrial Deal）」**である。両政策に共通するのは、脱炭素化を欧州の産業競争力や経済安全保障と切り離さず、相互に結び付けて推進しようとする姿勢である。

This article examines the EU's evolving industrial policy, focusing on the **Competitiveness Compass** and the **Clean Industrial Deal**, and their implications for Japanese companies. It also explores three key EU initiatives — the **Innovation Fund**, **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)** and **Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)** — highlighting their investment support mechanisms and opportunities for Japanese companies, alongside concrete examples of Japanese participation in European industrial projects.

Read the article: Japanese (PDF) / English (PDF)

For further information on EU investment opportunities and support mechanisms, explore the Invest in EU Hub's dedicated pages on the **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)**, **Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)** and **EU Funding and Financing**, including the InvestEU Programme.

Japanese Investments in the EU

Astellas to Double Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Capacity in Ireland

On 14 September 2026, Astellas Pharma announced plans to **expand its biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland**, by adding a second aseptic filling line. The expansion is expected to **double the facility's manufacturing capacity**, building on the company's initial €330 million investment announced in 2023.

The additional investment will strengthen Astellas' manufacturing capabilities in Europe and is expected to **create further skilled employment opportunities by 2029** in areas such as engineering, manufacturing, quality control and logistics. The amount of the additional investment and the number of new jobs have not been disclosed.

Read more (IDA Ireland – English)

Epson Opens €6 Million European Business Services Centre in Latvia

On 26 October 2026, Epson officially opened its new **European Business Services Centre in Riga, Latvia**, following an investment of **€6 million**. The centre already employs **134 professionals** and supports Epson's operations across 25 European countries.

The centre provides finance, accounting, IT, human resources, supply chain management and logistics services to 30 Epson offices across Europe. Epson selected Riga from 28 cities in 18 countries, recognising its skilled workforce and favourable business environment. The investment is expected to **create local employment opportunities and contribute to Latvia's service exports and economy**.

Read more (Investment and Development Agency of Latvia – English)

Read more (Epson Europe – English)

ITOCHU to Invest in Aircraft Engine Maintenance Business in Spain

On 28 October 2026, ITOCHU Corporation announced an agreement to **invest in IAG Engine Tech (IET), a Madrid-based aircraft engine maintenance company**, marking its first entry into the maintenance business for narrow-body aircraft engines. Established in 2026 by Iberia Airlines, IET aims to serve both International Airlines Group (IAG) airlines and third-party customers.

Building on Iberia's extensive engine maintenance expertise, IET plans to expand its capabilities to include **LEAP engines from early 2027**, alongside existing engine types. Through this investment, ITOCHU aims to strengthen its aircraft business by leveraging its experience in aircraft leasing and aftermarket services, while supporting the growth of Spain's aviation maintenance sector.

Read more (ITOCHU Corporation – English)

More case studies are available on **here**

Discover why the EU is an attractive investment destination. **Watch the video!**

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

2nd Tokyo EU Investment Forum

Early Spring 2027 (tentative) | Delegation of the EU to Japan, Tokyo

Building on the **first EU Investment Forum in March 2026**, the second edition will bring Japanese companies and European investment partners together to explore concrete opportunities for investment and business expansion in the EU.

- **Gain practical insights** into EU policies, financing and support, alongside Japanese companies' investment experiences.

- **Discuss your investment interests** with EU Member State investment promotion agencies (IPAs) through pre-arranged B2B meetings.
- **Build connections** with European and Japanese business partners at the networking reception.

If your company is considering investing or expanding its operations in Europe, we invite you to join us. The date, programme and registration details will be announced on the **Invest in EU Hub website** and in our newsletter once confirmed. If you would like to receive updates about the Forum, please contact us at **InvestInEUHub@eu-japan.or.jp**.

Explore Business Opportunities in Austria

Upcoming Seminars in Kitakyushu and Nagoya

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA Tokyo and the **Austrian Business Agency (ABA)** are organising two seminars in December to introduce Austria's advantages as a strategic gateway to the EU market. Both events offer insights into Austria's business environment, experiences of Japanese companies, and opportunities for networking.

◆ Kitakyushu | 2 December 2026

Discover Austria's business environment and connect with representatives from 18 Austrian companies in robotics, advanced manufacturing and other sectors.

🗓 **Date:** 2 December, 17:20–20:30 (JST)

📍 **Venue:** RIHGA Royal Hotel Kokura, 3F (Orchid)

🌐 **Language:** Japanese | Networking in Japanese and English

💰 **Participation:** Free of charge

🔗 **Register and view details here** | Deadline: 30 November

◆ Nagoya | 8 December 2026

Co-organised with the Central Japan Economic Federation, this seminar features insights from Japanese companies Yamaha and Shiraishi Kogyo, an introduction to the GO AUSTRIA startup programme, and a networking reception.

🗓 **Date:** 8 December, 17:00–20:30 (JST)

📍 **Venue:** NAGOYA INNOVATOR'S GARAGE, Nagoya

🌐 **Language:** Japanese

💰 **Participation:** Free of charge

🔗 **Register and view details here** | Deadline: 7 December

To register, select “参加登録します”, then click the right arrow (→) opposite “キャンセル” at the bottom of the page.

European STEM Student Internship Programme 2027–2028

Now Inviting Host Companies

The EU-Japan Centre **invites companies based in Japan to host talented European STEM** students.

The programme combines **two months of Japanese language training** with a **six-month company internship**. Selected from 400–800 applicants annually, students bring specialist knowledge and fresh perspectives to R&D and technology projects, while helping companies strengthen internationalisation and links with Europe.

Since 1997, around 800 students have completed the programme. Join us in celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2027!

Application deadline: 15 December 2026

URL: https://www.eu-japan.eu/host-european-trainee-company-japan

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

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