

EU/Japan Economic Partnership Agreement: free flow of data

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The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Danilo Oscar LANCINI (ID, IT) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol amending the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament give its **consent** to the conclusion of the Protocol.

By decision of 12 July 2022, the Council approved negotiating directives for the Commission to negotiate the inclusion of provisions on cross-border data flows in the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership. On 24 October 2022, the EU and Japan launched the negotiations on cross-border data flows. On 28 October 2023, the negotiations were concluded in principle at the EU-Japan High-Level Economic Dialogue.

This agreement brings much needed legal certainty that data flows between the EU and Japan will not be hampered by unjustified data localisation measures, and ensures the benefit from the free flow of data with trust in full compliance with our respective rules on data protection and the digital economy.

The outcome of the negotiations confirms EU and Japan continued commitment to the rules-based international trading system and joint determination to shape global data flow rules that respect shared values and respective regulatory approaches. Moreover, this agreement will contribute to deepening the partnership with Japan, which is a crucial EU partner in the Indo-Pacific.

Negotiated rules on cross-border data flows with Japan complement the existing mutual adequacy arrangement between the EU and Japan for personal data, and are in line with the consolidated proposal for provisions on cross-border data flows and protection of personal data and privacy in trade agreements. The proposal pursues the Commission's strategy laid down in the Trade Policy Review, the EU Data Strategy, the Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and in the Joint Declaration on privacy and the protection of personal data co-signed by the EU and Japan.