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Summit UE-Giappone

The European Union and Japan are linked by a Free Trade Agreement signed in 2018, which formed the world's largest open trade area, and laid the groundwork for a joint commitment to support the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. The leaders, during their May 27th, 2021 bilateral summit, reaffirmed their determination to protect the environment, and signed a joint communiqué titled "*Towards a Green Alliance*."

The so-called "green alliance" is therefore formed, with the aim of:

- Creating climate-neutral, circular and biodiversity-friendly economies through innovations in green technologies;
- Achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
- Intensifying cooperation on safe and sustainable low-carbon technologies such as renewable energy, particularly offshore wind, new methods of energy storage, battery disposal, etc.;
- Developing and implementing sustainable product policies for repairability and recyclability of products;
- Stimulating implementation of global regulations and standards related to sustainable environmental solutions;
- Strengthening partnerships in research & development projects, defined as early as May 2020 through a letter of intent signed by Japan and the European Union;
- Assisting the energy transition of developing countries towards a climate neutral society;
- Promoting greater international flow of public and private capital toward investments aligned with the Paris Agreement.

The model of a sustainable economy based on climate neutrality, as set out in the European Green Deal and Japan's green growth strategy, has therefore been identified as an important prerequisite for the development of bilateral relations and trade. Japan remains, to date, the largest producer of carbon dioxide in the world, since carbon is used for nearly one-third of the Country's electricity production. So, according to the researchers, to achieve zero emissions in 2050, Japan will first need to be able to generate power

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with a decarbonized emissions-free system by 2035, and become "coal-free" by 2030.

This "green alliance" is part of a broader commitment made by both parties. The leaders, in fact, in a joint statement, have emphasized the importance of collaboration between the European Union and Japan both to meet the new challenges launched by the global epidemic (for example, the initiative on vaccines), and those related to the trade between the two parties, innovation, connectivity and industrial cooperation. Both parties aim to implement and pursue all domestic policies and measures necessary to achieve the goal of climate neutrality by 2050: they recognize that these policies and measures may differ in their design, but are determined to ensure that, taken together, they are fully capable of achieving the common goal. The above cooperation will be conducted in accordance with existing agreements, where available and relevant, such as the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership and the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

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