



EU-JAPAN SYMPOSIUM 2025

A Changing Economic Security Environment: Examining Developments from Europe to Japan and the Indo-Pacific

7 March 2025
10:30 – 15:45 CET

Istituto Affari Internazionali-IAI
Via dei Montecatini, 17
Rome, Italy

Working language: English

Multiple factors have pushed economic security to centre stage in international politics: ongoing interstate tensions in the Indo-Pacific, G7 and EU sanctions on Russia over the war in Ukraine and their impact on energy prices and export trajectories, the conflict in Gaza and its associated tensions in the Red Sea, the lingering effects of the post-pandemic supply crunch, protectionist headwinds in major economies, and the challenges of energy transitions. Japan, along with other major developed economies in Europe, is being called upon to navigate an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, where both traditional and non-traditional security threats have taken on transregional dimensions. This project will bring together Japanese and European experts to map out new pathways for coordinated policies aimed at strengthening Japan and Europe's economic security within the context of their deepening geopolitical alignment.

PROGRAMME



10:00-10:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:30-11:00 Opening & Keynote Speeches

- **Amb. Michele VALENSISE**, IAI President TBC
- **Dr. Aurelio INSISA**, Project Coordinator, IAI

11:00-12:00 Panel I - Economic Security in 2025 and beyond

Japan and G7 European countries face a complex international environment that threatens their economic security. Inter-state tensions in the Indo-Pacific remain high, with many flashpoints still unresolved. Europe struggles to maintain military support for Ukraine against the Russian invasion and is increasingly concerned about the sustainability of US assistance to Kyiv. Tensions in the Middle East and the Red Sea threaten trade relations and undermine maritime security. Finally, Chinese and US sanctions continue to complicate the prospects of middle powers reliant on the manufacturing sector. What can Japan and G7 European countries learn from each other in addressing these challenges? How exactly do their economic security demands converge? Where can they cooperate to enhance their economic security? Can they plan for future challenges together?

Running Themes

- European and Japanese perspectives on tensions in the Taiwan Strait
- The EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy and its implications for Japan
- The threat of new protectionist policies
- Global challenges to maritime security

Chair **Dr. Riccardo ALCARO**, IAI

1 Speaker from Japan:

Prof. Stephen NAGY, ICU

2 Europe-based Speakers:

Prof. Christopher W. HUGHES, University of Warwick

Dr. Nicola NYMALM, University of Edinburgh

12:00-13:00 Buffet-lunch

13:00-14:00 Panel II - Energy Security, Supply Chains, and Critical Materials

New tensions in the Middle East and the Red Sea threaten trade and energy imports. This trend is particularly concerning for countries like Japan and the G7 European economies, which rely on energy to power their large manufacturing sectors, just as they begin to adapt to the geo-economic landscape shaped by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Moreover, immediate energy import concerns add to the pressures of the energy transition. The critical challenge of the energy transition is further complicated by the restructuring of global supply chains following the Sino-American trade war and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as by China's continued hegemonic position in critical materials. What can Japan and G7 European countries do to reduce their energy and supply chain vulnerabilities? How can they lessen their dependence on China for critical minerals? And what is their energy security agenda in the wake of the war in Ukraine and the Gaza War?

Running Themes

- Japan's and Europe's energy security adaptation to the war in Ukraine
- The impact of the Gaza War and Houthi strikes in the Red Sea on Japan's and Europe's energy security
- Geopolitical implications of the energy transition for Japan and Europe



- Geopolitical implications of Chinese hegemony in critical materials supply chains for Japan and Europe
- Japan's and Europe's positions in restructured global supply chains
- Geopolitical implications of Taiwanese FDI in the semiconductor sector for Japan's and Europe's reshoring industrial policies
- Geopolitical implications of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Chair **Ms. Francesca MAREMONTI**, IAI

2 Speakers from Japan:

Dr. KOBAYASHI Amane, IEEJ

Ms. SATO Kana, IEEJ

1 Europe-based Speaker:

Dr. Michal MEIDAN, OIES

14:00-14:30 Coffee break

14:30-15:30 Panel III - Economic Security and Disruptive Technologies

The AI revolution, along with technological developments linked to the energy transition, complicates the economic security calculus for Japan and Europe. The United States and China are leading the race in these emerging technologies, which are set to disrupt existing hierarchies in industrial production. The energy transition has driven the rise of Tesla and China's growing dominance in the global EV market, threatening European and Japanese market shares in the automotive sector. Simply put, recent technological advances risk leaving Japan and Europe behind. Can Japan and Europe regain lost ground? Is there room for cooperation in regulating new technologies, and can the G7 serve as an effective forum? In which sectors should Japan and Europe focus their efforts to reclaim a competitive edge? How will the nexus between economic security and traditional "hard" security evolve in a rapidly changing technological landscape?

Running Themes

- Geopolitical impact of Chinese and American leadership in AI technology for Japan and Europe
- AI regulation and multilateral governance
- Geopolitical implications of China's dominance in the EV market for Japan and Europe
- Potential technological cooperation between Japan and Europe

Chair **Dr. Aurelio INSISA**, Project Coordinator, IAI

1 Speaker from Japan:

Prof. SUZUKI Kazuto, University of Tokyo

2 Europe-based Speakers:

Dr. Giulio PUGLIESE, KCL & EUI

Second Speaker, TBA

15:30-15:45 Concluding Remarks

- **Dr Aurelio INSISA**, Project Coordinator, IAI

19:30 Dinner - Venue TBA