



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.3.2026
COM(2026) 134 final

2026/0077 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of Japan in Union programmes

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

• Reasons for and objectives of the proposal

Article 16 (1), point (d) of the Horizon Europe Regulation¹ governing the association of third countries to the Horizon Europe programme provides for the possibility of association of third countries and territories that fulfil all the criteria set out therein. Such countries or territories are to participate in the programme based on an agreement covering the participation of the third country or territory to any Union programme.

On 1 April 2022, Japan formally expressed its interest to associate to Horizon Europe by submitting a Letter of Intent.

The exploratory talks phase clarified Japan's interest in associating to Horizon Europe's Pillar II ('*Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness*'). This pillar is characterised by its collaborative nature, existing inter-linkages between its components, as well as by the multi- or interdisciplinary nature of the activities. Its collaborative research orientation, and the priorities outlined in its clusters are rich in potential collaboration with Japan's R&I system and corresponds to both sides' strong political will to address together challenging global issues of our era.

Japan maintains a very strong research capacity in a wide array of research and innovation fields and operates a number of the world's top research infrastructures. Japan is placed very high in terms of innovation capability in key global rankings. Japan ranks third worldwide in terms of Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D at current purchasing power parity in US dollars (2023, latest year for which comprehensive data are available).² Its R&D expenditure represents 3.44% of GDP (2023), and majority of this expenditure comes from the business enterprise sector. According to 2024 figures, Japan has the third largest number of patents applications filed worldwide.³ In 2025, Japan ranks 12th among the 139 economies featured in the Global Innovation Index 2025.⁴

Japan's excellent capacity in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), in combination with national policies that support innovation and protect intellectual property rights, and a favourable political situation, place Japan as a key STI partner for the EU in Asia and the Indo-Pacific area. However, the current level of collaboration and participation of Japanese researchers and research entities in Horizon Europe is far below its estimated potential and the financial resources allocated by the Japanese government to support Japanese researchers under the previous Framework programme for R&I Horizon 2020 have been low.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/595 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013, OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p.1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj>.

² OECD (2025), "Main Science and Technology Indicators", OECD Science, Technology and R&D Statistics (database), (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00182-en>).

³ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (2024). Intellectual property statistical country profile: Japan. WIPO, Geneva. (DOI: <https://www3.wipo.int/ipstats/keyindex.htm>)

⁴ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (2025). Global Innovation Index 2025. (DOI: <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/gii-ranking/2025/jp.pdf>)

Association of Japan to Pillar II of Horizon Europe is expected to unlock a plethora of possibilities for a broader and more systematic EU-Japan collaboration in many strategic fields covered by Horizon Europe's Pillar II, such as health, climate, ocean and environmental research, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), High Performance Computing, clean hydrogen and renewable energy, circular economy, semi-conductors, connected and automated mobility, space, aviation, photonics, and critical raw materials. These are some of the priority areas where the powerful instrument of European Partnerships is also used. These Partnerships are initiatives in which the EU, Associated Countries, and relevant private and/or public partners commit to building a critical mass of investments and implementing them through a programme of joint activities. Participation of Japan in Horizon Europe by becoming associated country will give its legal entities the possibility to join thematic partnerships of common interest.

The association is also expected to have positive spill-over effects on the implementation of the [EU-Japan Digital Partnership \(of May 2022\)](#), with the objective of developing the next generation of semiconductors, and High-Performance Computing and Quantum technology. Through this Partnership, the EU and Japan will work together on the resilience of global supply chains, secure 5G and beyond, safe and ethical applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The association should also be beneficial in delivering the actions envisaged by the [EU-Japan Green Alliance \(of May 2021\)](#). Under this alliance, cooperation is intensified on safe and sustainable low-carbon technologies such as renewable energy, in particular offshore wind, energy systems integration, energy markets reform, smart grids, energy storage technologies, batteries, hydrogen with a focus on renewable and low carbon hydrogen, industrial decarbonisation, Carbon Capture, and Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). An association of Japan to Pillar II of Horizon Europe will thus further strengthen this cooperation and provide an important collaboration platform.

Council Decision (EU) 2023/1081 of 15 May 2023 authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Japan for an Agreement on the general principles for the participation of Japan in Union programmes and on the association of Japan to Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027).⁵ According to Article 3 thereof the Council's Research and the Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI) Working Parties were appointed by the Council to act in the capacity of the Special Committees to assist the Commission during the negotiations. The COASI Working Party and the Research Working Party were regularly engaged in the progress of this negotiation and the European Parliament was kept informed.

Following the exploratory talks phase, the formal negotiations opened on 29 November 2024 and were concluded on 22 December 2025.

In line with the negotiating directives of the Council, the Agreement attached to this proposal is composed of two main parts. First, the 'umbrella agreement' on the general principles for the participation of Japan in Union Programmes and, a Protocol on the association of Japan to Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027).

⁵ Council Decision (EU) 2023/1081 of 15 May 2023 authorising the opening of negotiations with Japan for an Agreement on the general principles for the participation of Japan in Union programmes and on the association of Japan to Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027), OJ L 144, 5.6.2023, p. 58, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/1081/oj>

The ‘umbrella agreement’ is meant to create a lasting legal framework for cooperation between the Union and Japan in relation to Union programmes. It is expected to remain in force in the future, similarly to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement or the framework agreements with Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Partnership countries on the general principles for participation of these countries in Union programmes. Similar Agreements with the Faroe Islands, New Zealand, Canada, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland have already been signed and are applied provisionally. These agreements are, by design, expected to facilitate and shorten the association process of these third countries to other Union programmes, under the current and next MFFs.

The ‘umbrella agreement’ comprehensively regulates the conditions of association of Japan applicable across all Union programmes. It governs the terms and conditions for its participation in Union programmes, modalities for establishing the participation in (association to) any given Union programme and the participation of Japan in the governance of these Union Programmes or activities (reflecting the principle of no decision-making powers). It contains detailed rules for the establishment and payment of the financial contribution of Japan to the Union Programmes, including, where applicable, an automatic correction mechanism. The ‘umbrella agreement’ contains comprehensive rules for the protection of EU’s financial interests, including powers which the Commission, European Court of Auditors, OLAF and European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) exercise to that end, as well as rules on recovery of funds pursuant to Commission decisions on enforced recovery.

New Protocols on the association of Japan to specific Union programme (under the current MFF and the programmes under the future MFF) could be added to this ‘umbrella agreement’ in the future, if such Programmes are open to Japan’s participation under the EU basic act(s) establishing each relevant Programme, and if this is the political wish of both Parties, following the completion of required internal procedures of the Parties. The duration of the Protocols will be limited in time to the implementation of any particular Union programme.

The Agreement also establishes institutional structures, such as the Joint Committee, which is tasked with inter alia monitoring the implementation of the Agreement and examining how to improve and develop the cooperation under the Agreement. The Joint Committee will be responsible for ensuring the proper implementation of the Agreement as well as discussing and setting out possible future areas of cooperation. The Joint Committee is composed of representatives of the Parties to the Agreement and serves notably as a forum, to discuss the performance of Japanese entities during implementation of the Agreement.

It is proposed that any additional Protocol will be adopted via consensual decisions of the Joint Committee established under the Agreement. For the sake of clarity, decisions that may be taken by the Joint Committee are set out in Article 14 of the Agreement. The decision of the Joint Committee on the adoption of new Protocols or amendments thereof will enter into force after the notification in writing of the completion of any necessary legal requirement and procedures of the Parties.

Article 3(4) of the Agreement specifically establishes the content of the future Protocols. Any such Protocols will identify the Union programmes, activities or, in exceptional cases, parts thereof, in which Japan participates; lay down the duration of participation; regulate matters which are programme-specific and not otherwise regulated by the ‘umbrella agreement’; and – in specific cases where the Union programme is implemented through a financial instrument

or a budgetary guarantee – lay down the amount of Japan’s financial contribution to such a Union programme.

The first Protocol on the association to Horizon Europe will not be adopted by the Joint Committee as provided for in the Agreement. It has been negotiated together with the Agreement under a comprehensive authorisation which the Commission obtained from the Council and is expected to be concluded and enter into force together with the Agreement. This way of proceeding was authorised by the Council in the negotiating directives.

The Protocol on Horizon Europe introduces the Horizon Europe-specific terms and conditions for participation in its Pillar II and contains detailed rules on:

- additional conditions for participation – such as requesting information or assurances in relation to the requirements set out in Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation;
- reciprocity – the non-exhaustive list of the equivalent Japanese programmes, activities, actions, projects or, in exceptional cases, parts thereof, reciprocally open to the participation of Union legal entities;
- Open Science – commitment to promote and encourage open science practices in their programmes;
- the financial contribution and automatic correction mechanism – with detailed rules in Annex I;
- exceptionally, the Protocol to this Agreement introduces a bespoke suspension mechanism enabling Parties to suspend (‘pause’) by mutual consent Japan’s participation in Horizon Europe. The reason behind this bespoke suspension mechanism is due to the fact that this is the first time Japan is associating to the EU Research and Innovation framework programme. This mechanism is necessary for Japan’s budgetary authorities as a buffer/safety net in the event of overwhelming success of Japan’s association during its first year. The clause is however not very likely to be triggered based on that provision of the Horizon Europe Protocol.
- Possibility to designate National Contact Points (NCPs)

The Agreement provides for its provisional application as of 1 January 2026, in order to enable legal entities from Japan to reap benefits from Pillar II calls under the Horizon Europe Work Programme for 2026.

The association of Japan to Horizon Europe is expected to bring significant benefits to the Union, as it would provide the widest possible access to Japan’s excellent research and innovation talents, its top-notch research infrastructure and world-leading research institutions.

The draft Agreement annexed to this proposal for a Council Decision is in line with the negotiating directives issued by the Council.

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

The proposal is fully consistent with existing Union policies. Horizon Europe was developed considering the current Commission's political priorities (Headline Ambition: A stronger Europe in the World), the Budget for Results policy (which demands that Union spending programmes must – more than ever – deliver value for money), the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the implementation of the European Union Global Strategy⁶ and the Commission's proposal on the next long-term Union budget.

Association of Japan to Horizon Europe reinforces EU's commitment to international openness and fundamental values in R&I, aligned with the Global Approach to Research and Innovation⁷. It is also aligned with the 2023 Economic Security Strategy⁸, which promotes partnering as a key tool to respond to the changing geopolitical situation, to deepen cooperation with likeminded partners.

To tackle and address the profound societal, economic and ecological challenges that lie before and ahead of the Union, in general, it is vital to cooperate more closely on an international level with our global allies with high R&I capacity. Thus, investing in research and innovation means investing in our future. Associations with key international allies, including countries with a strong research and innovation base such as Japan, amplify these efforts and accelerate the expected results.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

- **Legal basis**

The proposal for a Council Decision is based on Articles 186 and 212 in conjunction with Article 218(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

- **Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)**

The present proposal is in conformity with the principle of subsidiarity as provided for in Article 5(3) of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU). The Union has a shared competence in research and technological development area based on Article 4(3) TFEU. To address the challenges Europe is currently facing, the Union needs to invest in research and innovation (R&I) in order to reach economies of scale, scope and speed. Union-funded R&I activities produce demonstrable benefits compared to national and regional R&I support: they create critical mass to address global challenges; strengthen the Union's scientific excellence through competitive funding; create cross-border, multidisciplinary networks; reinforce human capital; structure national R&I systems; increase the Union's competitiveness; and create new market opportunities.

⁶ A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION'S FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY, 2016 [A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy | EEAS](#)

⁷ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world, COM/2021/252 final.

⁸ JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL ON "EUROPEAN ECONOMIC SECURITY STRATEGY", JOIN/2023/20 final.

- **Proportionality**

The present proposal is in conformity with the principle of proportionality as provided for in Article 5(4) TEU. Actions at Union level will enable trans-national collaboration and world-wide competition to ensure the best proposals are selected. This raises levels of excellence and provides visibility for leading R&I but also supports trans-national mobility and attracts the best talents. This proposal does not go beyond what is required for achieving these Union objectives.

3. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The Legislative, Financial and Digital Statement presented with this Decision sets out the indicative budgetary implications.

In accordance with the Treaties, it is for the Commission to ensure the signing of the Agreement, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of Japan in Union programmes

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 186 and 212 in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) By letter 01 April 2022, Japan expressed its formal interest in becoming associated to Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) established by the Regulation (EU) No 2021/695⁹ ('the Horizon Europe Programme').
- (2) On 15 May 2023, the Council authorised the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of Japan in Union programmes and on the association of Japan to Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027)¹⁰.
- (3) The negotiations have been completed, and the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of the Japan in Union programmes ('the Agreement') was initialled on 22 December 2025.
- (4) The objectives of the Agreement are to establish a lasting framework for cooperation between the Union and Japan and to set out the terms and conditions for the participation of Japan in the Union programmes which are opened for their participation in accordance with the basic acts establishing Union programmes as defined in the Agreement. As such, the aim of the Agreement is that the Union will carry out cooperation measures with Japan pursuant to Article 212 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p.1).

¹⁰ OJ L 146, 6.6.2023, p. 18.

- (5) Pursuant to Article 3(1) of the Agreement, Japan is allowed to participate in the Union programmes and activities, which are open to its participation, in accordance with the basic acts and as covered by the Protocols to the Agreement.
- (6) Pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Agreement, the specific terms and conditions for participation of Japan to Horizon Europe Programme are laid down in a Protocol to the Agreement.
- (7) In line with the negotiating directives received from the Council, the Protocol on the association of Japan to the Horizon Europe Programme was negotiated in parallel to the Agreement and pursuant to Article 14(9) of the Agreement, forms an integral part thereof. Japan associates to Pillar II ‘Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness’ of the Horizon Europe Programme.
- (8) Japan fulfils the criteria set out in Article 16(1), point (d) of Regulation EU 2021/695.
- (9) The Agreement complies with Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695, which requires that the association to the Horizon Europe Programme of the third countries under Article 16(1), point (d) of that Regulation be in accordance with the conditions laid down in an agreement covering the participation of such a country or territory to any Union programme, provided that the agreement: ensures a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country participating in the Union programmes; lays down the conditions of participation in the Union programmes, including the calculation of financial contributions to individual programmes, and their administrative costs; does not confer on the third country any decision-making power in respect of the Union programme; and guarantees the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect the Union’s financial interests.
- (10) The Agreement should be signed on behalf of the Union, subject to its conclusion at a later date.
- (11) In view of ensuring the timely cooperation between the Union and Japan in the field of research, technological development and innovation and allowing for the participation of Japanese entities in the Horizon Europe Programme with a status of entities from an Associated Country, the Agreement should be applied on a provisional basis, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for its entry into force,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of Japan in Union programmes is hereby authorised subject to the conclusion of the said Agreement.

The text of the Agreement is annexed to this Decision.

Article 2

The Agreement shall be applied on a provisional basis, in accordance with its Article 17(2), pending its entry into force.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL STATEMENT

1. NAME OF THE PROPOSAL

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of Japan in Union programmes.

2. LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2.1. Budget lines

Revenue line (Chapter/Article/Item): 6 0 1 0 — Horizon Europe — Assigned revenue

Amount budgeted for the year concerned:

(only in case of assigned revenues):

The revenues will be assigned to the following expenditure line (Chapter/Article/Item):

Whole article 01.0101 (01.010101, 01.010102, 01.010103, 01.010111, 01.010112, 01.010113, 01.010171, 01.010172, 01.010173, 01.010174, 01.010176)

Whole article 01.0202 (01.020210, 01.020211, 01.020212, 01.020220, 01.020230, 01.020231, 01.020240, 01.020241, 01.020242, 01.020243, 01.020250, 01.020251, 01.020252, 01.020253, 01.020254, 01.020260, 01.020261, 01.020270)

Article 01.0205

Budget line 20.XX Administrative expenditure of the European Commission

2.2. Financial impact

Proposal has no financial implications

Proposal has no financial impact on expenditure but has a financial impact on revenue

X Proposal has a financial impact on assigned revenue

The effect is as follows:

(EUR million to three decimal places)

Revenue line	Impact on revenue ¹¹¹²	XX months period starting dd/mm/yyyy <i>(if applicable)</i>	Year N
6 0 1 0	14.180	24 months starting 01/01/2026	7.080

¹¹ The amounts per year need to be an estimation based on the formula or method defined under section 5. For the starting year, the yearly amount is normally paid without a reduction or pro rata.

¹² In the case of traditional own resources (customs duties, sugar levies), the amounts indicated must be net amounts, i.e., gross amounts after deduction of 20 % for collection costs.

Revenue line	2026	2027
6 0 1 0	7.080	7.100

(Only in case of assigned revenues, under the condition that the budget line is already known):

Expenditure line ¹³	2026	2027
Articles 01.0101, 01.0202 and 01.0205	6.873	6.827
20.XX	0.206	0.273

2.3. Anti-fraud measures

Article 325 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU) requires the Commission to counter fraud and any illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union. Preventing and detecting fraud is therefore a general obligation for all Commission Services in the framework of their daily activities involving the use of resources.

Any fraud or irregularities involving EU funds has a particularly negative impact on the reputation of the Commission and the implementation of EU policies. The current Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (COM(2019)196) was adopted on 29 April 2019, to replace the 2011 Strategy. It is a policy document setting out the Commission's priorities in the fight against fraud in view of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. The 2019 CAFS' main objectives are to 1) "further improve the understanding of fraud patterns, fraudsters' profiles and systemic vulnerabilities relating to fraud affecting the EU budget" (data collection and analysis), and 2) "optimise coordination, cooperation and workflows for the fight against fraud, in particular among Commission services and executive agencies" (coordination, cooperation and processes). The strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan which was revised in July 2023 and which, like its predecessor, seeks to strengthen all parts of the anti-fraud cycle: prevention, detection, investigation and correction.

The guiding principles and target standards of the 2019 CAFS are:

- zero tolerance for fraud;
- fight against fraud as an integral part of internal control;
- cost-effectiveness of controls;
- professional integrity and competence of EU staff;
- transparency on how EU funds are used;
- fraud prevention, notably fraud-proofing of spending programmes;
- effective investigation capacity and timely exchange of information;
- swift correction (including recovery of defrauded funds and judicial/administrative sanctions);

¹³ To be used only if necessary.

- good cooperation between internal and external players, in particular between the EU and national authorities responsible, and among the departments of all EU institutions and bodies concerned;
- effective internal and external communication on the fight against fraud.

Protection of the financial interests of the Union is assured through inclusion into the Agreement of the Articles 9-13 which contain detailed measures concerning the Sound Financial Management, which also includes anti-fraud measures. These measures are to be applicable horizontally to ensure protection of EU financial interests across Union Programmes or activities covered in the future Protocols potentially to be adopted by the Joint Committee under the Agreement to associate Japan to a number of Union programmes or activities. They are applicable also to the association of Japan to the Horizon Europe Programme covered by the Protocol on the association of Japan to Horizon Europe, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027), which was negotiated in parallel to the Agreement. Pursuant to Article 17(9) of the Agreement Protocols constitute an integral part thereof.

Notably, the said provisions (Articles 9-13 of the Agreement) provide for the necessary details, processes as well as allow for execution of tasks by the relevant Union institutions and bodies in order to safeguard the financial interests of the EU (the Commission or by other persons mandated by the European Commission, by OLAF, the European Court of Auditors and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)). Throughout the implementation of the Programmes or activities covered by the Protocol(s) to the Agreement, the principle remains intact: the financial interests of the EU are to be protected by means of proportionate measures, including measures relating to the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities, including fraud, to the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used and, where appropriate, to the imposition of the administrative penalties.

In accordance with the Financial Regulation, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the financial interests of the Union, grant the necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors and ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights.

Under Article 9 of the Agreement reviews and audits may be carried out by the Union officials, in particular officials of the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors, or by other persons mandated by the European Commission. Moreover, as expressly provided in Article 9(5) of the Agreement, reviews and audits may be carried out also after the suspension of application of a Protocol, cessation of application or termination of the Agreement.

The Agreement ensures the possibility for the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to carry out administrative investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, on the territory of Japan of a Japanese entity that is party to a funding agreement or any third party of such Japanese entity implementing the funding agreement. Japanese competent authorities if necessary are to provide assistance upon request by the Commission or OLAF to allow them to fulfil their duties.

Under the Agreement Japan is to cooperate, in accordance with applicable international and bilateral agreements, and laws and regulations of Japan, with the competent authorities of the Member States or the EPPO in the investigations and prosecutions of the perpetrators of and accomplices to criminal offences affecting the financial interests of the Union. Requests submitted to Japan pursuant to applicable international cooperation instruments may include as applicable requests made in relation to investigations or prosecutions of the EPPO. This

allows for a cooperation with the EPPO as provided for in Article 104 of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the EPPO.

Furthermore, the Agreement provides for effective mechanism to ensure recovery from Japanese legal entities of funds due pursuant to Commission Decisions on enforced recovery (adopted under Article 299 TFEU).

2.4. Other remarks

The method for calculation of Japan's financial contribution across Union programmes is defined in Article 6, 7 and 8 of the Agreement. In relation to the financial contribution of Japan to the Horizon Europe Programme, further technical details for application of the automatic correction mechanism are laid down in Article 5 of the Protocol on the association of Japan to Horizon Europe and Annex I thereto. The financial contribution model applicable under the Horizon Europe Programme is specific amongst all other Union Programmes under the current MFF, providing for mandatory application of an automatic correction mechanism (in line with Article 16(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation).

3. DIGITAL DIMENSIONS

3.1. Requirements of digital relevance

No provisions in the Council Decision regarding the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, on the participation of Japan in Union programmes address data collection, processing, generation, exchange, or sharing; automation or digitalisation of processes; digital solutions; or the delivery of digital public services.

Therefore, there are no relevant digital dimensions which should be addressed in this chapter.

3.2. Data

NA

3.3. Digital solutions

NA

3.4. Interoperability assessment

NA

4.5. Measures to support digital implementation

NA