

Joint Press Statement

European Commission – United States of America – Japan

Advancing Economic Security: the EU, Japan and the US Forge Strategic Partnership on Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resilience

Washington D.C., 4 February 2026

Today, the United States the European Union and Japan met during the Critical Minerals Ministerial meeting held in Washington D.C. in which several EU member states also took part.

The United States, the European Union and Japan are now taking significant steps towards increasing their economic security and national security by jointly enhancing resilience in critical minerals supply chains. They have announced their intention to expedite cooperative efforts for a mutually beneficial Partnership, with two components.

This includes a commitment within the next 30 days to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the European Union aimed at boosting critical minerals supply chain security. The forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding will identify areas of cooperation to stimulate demand and diversify supply for both participants by identifying and supporting projects in mining, refining, processing, and recycling. It will also include discussion of measures to prevent supply chain disruptions, promote research and innovation efforts, and facilitate the exchange of information on stockpiling. In addition, on 27 October 2025, the leaders of the United States and Japan signed a Framework for Securing the Supply of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths through Mining and Processing, covering the abovementioned areas.

Building upon existing international cooperation and initiatives, the United States, the European Union, and Japan intend to develop Action Plans and explore a plurilateral trade initiative with like-minded partners on trade in critical minerals. Such a plurilateral trade initiative could include exploring the development of coordinated trade policies and mechanisms, such as border-adjusted price floors, standards-based markets, price gap subsidies, or offtake-agreements.

The Department of State will lead U.S. engagement on the Memorandum of Understanding. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative will lead U.S. engagement on the Action Plan.

The European Union, the United States and Japan intend to further engage on these aspects, as well as explore additional possibilities for critical minerals resilience and other measures, in relevant international fora, including the G7 and the Minerals Security Partnership or any successor forum.

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