

**December 1, 2023**

**Joint Press Statement on Fusion Energy  
Between  
the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan  
and the EU Commissioner for Energy**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the European Commission have long been promoting joint research between Japan and the European Union for the realization of fusion reactors through the ITER project and Broader Approach activities since 2007. These activities culminate today with the start of operation of JT-60SA located in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, the biggest and most advanced tokamak-type fusion reactor in the world.

This event has been the occasion for MEXT, Japan and the European Commission to reaffirm their long-standing and strong cooperation in the field of fusion energy, including the ITER project and the Broader Approach activities, supporting the international effort to develop fusion energy.

Fusion is an important technology in the path to net zero emissions, particularly as the generation of fusion energy does not produce carbon dioxide. The fusion reaction is intrinsically safe: it stops when the fuel supply or power source is shut down. It generates no high-level long-lived radioactive waste. Because of these characteristics, fusion qualifies as one of the next-generation energy sources that simultaneously addresses energy supply and environmental challenges.

Under this understanding, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the EU Commissioner for Energy have reaffirmed their commitment to promote the Broader Approach activities to ensure the realization of fusion energy as this cooperation has produced many positive results such as the construction and operation of JT-60SA.

Furthermore, both sides have reasserted their willingness to support the technical upgrades and operation of JT-60SA to produce groundbreaking research results, useful for ITER and for designing and constructing the fusion reactors of the future.

Finally, both sides have expressed their intention to jointly strengthen the JT-60SA International Fusion School (JIFS), successfully inaugurated in September 2023, to train young scientists and engineers and develop human resources necessary to achieve fusion energy in the future.

The Minister of  
Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology of Japan

The EU  
Commissioner for Energy

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