

Sustainability and Security: Managing the Next Wave of Economic Security Risks

NH Collection Roma Centro, Via dei Gracchi 324, 00192 Rome, Italy

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The EU, Italy and Japan are facing mounting and simultaneous economic security challenges. China's recent export controls on rare earths have forcefully demonstrated that economic dependencies, especially along the supply chains clean and future technologies such as batteries and EVs, create dangerous vulnerabilities for coercion. At the same time, China's industrial overcapacities and state-backed exports of cheap EVs and battery components threaten to erode the competitiveness of Japanese, Italian and other European companies, both in their home markets as well as globally. Aware of the tougher shift in European economic security policy, exemplified for example by the EV countervailing duties, many Chinese companies are now using greenfield investments to circumvent European economic security measures.

This event brings together policymakers, experts, and industry leaders to discuss how Japan, Italy and other European partners can collaborate on economic security more closely. It will explore how "demand-side measures" can underpin existing economic security policies, assess the effectiveness of current policies in the automotive sector and address new risks posed by increased foreign direct investment, especially from China.

09:00-09:30 **Welcome coffee and registration**

09:30-10:30 **Defining Trustworthiness: Bolstering economic security through demand-side measures**

What economic security issues should be prioritized? How can like-minded partners harmonize trustworthiness criteria, distinguishing clearly between trustworthy and untrustworthy actors? As G7 countries align public procurement policies with economic security objectives, what strategic considerations should guide sustainability requirements and cooperation with partner countries?

10:30-11:00 **Networking break**

11:00-12:00 **The future of the automotive industry**

How can policymakers balance the imperative of reducing carbon emissions with the risks of excessive green supply chain dependencies on China? What effects are additional tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles having? Which policies have so far yielded good results in supporting the European and Japanese automotive industries, and what lessons can be drawn?

12:00-12:15 **Coffee Break**

12:15-13:15 **New investment risks: circumvention of economic security measures**

How can Europe and Japan address the risks posed by greenfield investments that circumvent economic security measures? How are technology acquisition strategies adjusting to new restrictions? As greenfield investments generate new supply chain dependencies, what complementary policies can effectively prevent excessive strategic leverage from being created?

13:15-14:00 **Lunch Reception**