

PRESS RELEASE

Japanese Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry highlights relevance of climate-neutral fuels

Berlin, June 06, 2024: The Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Taku Ishii, has met with representatives of the eFuel Alliance for an in-depth dialogue. The meeting focused on fundamental issues and measures to promote the industrialized ramp-up of renewable fuels. The focus was also on international cooperation on the production and future use of renewable fuels.

"Japan is becoming a pioneer in the production and utilization of renewable fuels and eFuels in particular," emphasizes Ralf Diemer, CEO of the eFuel Alliance. "The efforts of the Japanese government are also reflected in the membership of the eFuel Alliance. We want to support the next steps closely as a reliable partner for politics, business and science and ensure that international exchange continues to intensify."

With a dedicated eFuel strategy, the Japanese government has already set a strong signal for a pragmatic energy transition in transportation and industry in the past year. Following the US government's Inflation Reduction Act, another leading industrialized nation has thus reaffirmed the role of eFuels and climate-neutral fuels. "Renewable fuels are no longer a purely European issue. From the very beginning, we have been pursuing the approach of thinking and building the value chain of climate-neutral fuels globally. With the increasing number of national governments addressing this issue, the chances grow that we can actually achieve the 2050 targets."

Renewable electricity has so far been difficult to store long-term and transport over long distances. The transportation and storage of hydrogen is also challenging and cost-intensive. By converting it into liquid energy carriers, renewable electricity can be stored, transported and used throughout the entire transport system as well as in industrial applications. In Europe, the import and use of renewable fuels is currently the subject of intense debate. For importing nations and energy-intensive industrial countries such as Germany and Japan, however, their use is essential.

"Japan is taking a much more pragmatic approach," explains Diemer. "The Japanese government has recognized that the transport system of the future will be characterized by several technology paths. This approach essentially solves the distribution problem of renewable fuels that has been artificially created in Europe. Concrete measures and funding are now needed to help establish the industrialized production of renewable fuels worldwide."

With currently nine members from the automotive industry, the off-road sector and Japan's leading energy companies, ENEOS and Idemitsu, the Japanese market has a central influence in the further development of the eFuel Alliance. "We sense that the willingness of our Japanese members to take action is increasing. With this international competition, we hope that it will also have a positive influence on the development of the European market".

>>>The eFuel Alliance e.V.<<<

The eFuel Alliance is an interest group committed to promoting political and social acceptance of eFuels and to securing their regulatory approval. We represent more than 170 companies, associations and consumer organizations along the eFuel production value chain. We stand for fair competition and equal competitive condition for all relevant emission reduction solutions. We are firmly committed to further climate change mitigation and seek recognition for the significant part eFuels can play in sustainability and climate protection. Our aim is to create the conditions for the industrial production and widespread use of CO₂-neutral fuels from renewable sources of energy.

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