



Press Release

Paris, Tuesday 30 April 2013

EU-Japan Business Round Table met for its 15th Annual Meeting “Opening a New Chapter in EU-Japan Relations”

The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT), a forum of some 50 European and Japanese business leaders, held its Annual Meeting in Paris on 29 & 30 April 2013 under the theme of “Opening a New Chapter in EU-Japan Relations”. The meeting was co-chaired by Messrs. Jean-Yves Le Gall, President of CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) and former Chairman & CEO of Arianespace, and Osamu Nagayama, Chairman and CEO of Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. The BRT had the pleasure of welcoming high-level representatives of the Japanese and EU Authorities: Mr. Kazuyoshi Akaba, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. Masaji Matsuyama, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Soichiro Seki, Director-General for International Affairs, Global ICT Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission, and Mr. João Aguiar Machado, Deputy Director General for Trade of the European Commission. Mr. Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, hosted the BRT members at the official dinner held at Quai d'Orsay.

The meeting also addressed the following subjects: the negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) / Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and an agreement covering political, sectoral and global cooperation between the EU and Japan; EU-Japan cooperation including business with / in emerging economies; and resources issues.

During the meeting, the BRT agreed on a set of recommendations to be submitted to European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan.

Opening a New Chapter in EU-Japan Relations

The BRT Members believe that further enhancing EU-Japan cooperation will help create new growth in the EU and Japan and welcomed the decision made by the EU and Japanese leaders to open a new chapter in EU-Japan bilateral relations.

In the expectation that a deep and comprehensive FTA / EPA and a Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Japan will boost EU-Japan trade and investment and promote job creation and economic growth in both economies, the BRT recommends that the FTA / EPA negotiations should be completed as early as possible and their outcome be compatible with the high level of their ambition. The BRT calls upon both authorities to ensure that negotiations

will be undertaken in a transparent manner in order to enable industry to take possible outcomes into account in future business strategies. The BRT also reiterates its call that the resulting EU-Japan FTA / EPA should be ambitious, balanced, mutually beneficial, comprehensive, and tackle major outstanding issues such as tariffs, non-tariff barriers, public procurement, investment, services, competition, IPR, regulatory cooperation including harmonisation and the mutual recognition of regulations and standards. In addition, addressing elimination of tariffs and non tariff barriers in parallel in the negotiations is necessary to guarantee a successful outcome.

At the end of the meeting, the BRT announced that Mr. Fabrice Brégier, President and CEO of Airbus, became its new EU-side Chairman.

Dr. Le Gall said, “Having chaired the BRT for the last four years, and with EU-Japan relations on the point of changing given the recent start of the negotiations, I believe it is the perfect time for Airbus to take over the co-chairmanship and co-pilot the BRT on this important journey. As the BRT is the sole organisation of its kind consisting of European and Japanese business leaders, I am confident that it will play an important and useful role in supporting the newly-started negotiations and call on the Authorities to take full account of our proposals and recommendations as they work towards a successful outcome for their negotiations.”

Mr. Nagayama said, “After almost four years of strenuous efforts by the authorities, negotiations for an EU-Japan FTA/EPA have finally started. This is the opening of a new chapter in the bilateral relations, and we expect EU and Japan to build a powerful, high-level economic partnership that will help to boost trade and investment, create new jobs, and spur growth in both economies. We at the EU-Japan Business Round Table will provide support to the negotiations and continue to be firmly committed to establishing stronger, mutually-beneficial EU-Japan relations.”

Mr. Brégier said, “It is a great honour to be appointed the new EU-side Chairman. The EU-Japan Business Round Table is a driving force for promoting trade between the EU and Japan. There are many areas of cooperation where we can learn from each other. It is through initiatives like this that we can forge closer business, economic and cultural ties for our mutual benefit.”

Inquiries and Contacts

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Background

The EU-Japan Business Round Table was created in 1999 to review factors affecting all aspects of EU-Japan business relations. Its members are senior executives from around 50 leading European and Japanese companies. Its main objective is to submit policy recommendations to Japanese and European authorities in order to develop trade and investment between the EU and Japan, and to encourage industrial cooperation on issues of common interest, such as innovation, energy or industrial standards.

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