



EU-Japan Business Round Table

Press Release

Tokyo, Monday 28 November 2011

EU-Japan Business Round Table co-Chairmen Jean-Yves LE GALL and Hiromasa YONEKURA met today with Prime Minister NODA to call for strong leadership and commitment in EU-Japan trade talks.

During their meeting with Prime Minister NODA, Messrs. LE GALL (Chairman & CEO of Arianespace) and YONEKURA (Chairman of Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.) addressed the work of the EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) and a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) / Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and Japan.

Messrs. LE GALL and YONEKURA stressed the importance and the growth potential of EU-Japan trade and economic relations, considering the size of both markets. They urged Prime Minister NODA to provide leadership to ensure a successful outcome of the ongoing discussions between the Authorities on the scoping.

After the meeting, Mr. LE GALL said: "We are encouraged by the fact that Prime Minister NODA received us today, at a critical moment in the development of ambitious EU-Japan trade and economic partnership. We would very much appreciate his continued support to overcome obstacles, in particular non-tariff barriers." Mr. YONEKURA said: "Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister NODA, we expect that both Authorities will come to agree on the start of negotiation on an FTA/EPA very soon. We in the business community will step up our efforts to support the authorities' ongoing discussions, such as EU-Japan private-sector dialogues on the issue of non-tariff barriers."

The next EU-Japan BRT annual meeting will be held on 3 and 4 April 2012, in Tokyo.

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Background

The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) was created in 1999 to foster communications between Japanese and European industries. Its members are senior executives from around 50 leading European and Japanese companies. Its main objective is to submit recommendations to the 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, climate change, or industrial standards.

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