



18th JAPAN-EU CONFERENCE

Standards, Governance and the Rule of Law: Opportunities for EU-Japan Cooperation

Monday, November 16th 2015

Morning Sessions @ Fondation Universitaire

09:00 - 09:15 WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Axel Goethals (CEO, European Institute for Asian Studies)

09:15 - 10:00 OPENING KEYNOTES

Chair: Prof. Dimitri Vanoverbeke (KU Leuven)

H.E. Ambassador Keiichi Katakami (*Mission of Japan to the EU*)

Prof. Mario Telò (ULB & LUISS)

10:00 - 11:15 POLICY PANEL 1 on Japan-EU Cooperation: Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Cooperation and Development Assistance after the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai

Chair: [Professor Takako Ueta](#) (International Christian University)

[Mr. Yves Dussart](#) (European Commission – DG ECHO, Policy Officer, Civil Protection Policy Unit)

[Mr. Yoichiro Yamada](#) (Embassy of Japan to the Kingdom of Belgium)

Q&A Session

11:15 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:15 EXPERT PANEL 1 on Japan-EU Cooperation: Enhancing the Rule of Law at Sea

Chair: Dr. Michael Reiterer (European External Action Service)

“The East and South China Seas”

By [Prof. Tsutomu Kikuchi](#) (Aoyama Gakuin University)

“International Territorial Disputes and Confrontations in the South China Sea from a Legal Perspective”

By [Prof. Yurika Ishii](#) (National Defense Academy of Japan)

“Rule of law and settlement of disputes in maritime matters”

By [Prof. Philippe Gautier](#) (Registrar, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Professor, Université catholique de Louvain)

Discussant: Mr. David Fouquet (Senior Fellow, EIAS)

Q&A Session

13:15 - 14:15 Lunch Break

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Afternoon Sessions @ Fondation Universitaire

14:15 - 15:30 POLICY PANEL 2 on Japan-EU Cooperation:

Progress Made on the EPA/FTA and SPA Negotiations

Chair: Erik Famaey (*Senior Associate, EIAS*)

Mr. Mauro Petriccione (*European Commission – DG Trade, Director for Asia and Latin America*)

Mr. Julian Wilson (*EEAS – Head of Division, Japan, Korea, Australia & New Zealand*)

Mr. Tsutomu Koizumi (*Minister, Mission of Japan to the EU*)

Q&A Session

15:30 - 15:50 Coffee Break

15:50 - 17:30 EXPERT PANEL 2 on Japan-EU Cooperation:

Regulatory Cooperation and the Impact on Industry

Chair: Prof. Takao Suami (*Waseda University*)

“Increasing Regulatory Coherence between the Mega-FTAs – a case for the TPP and the Japan-EU EPA”

By [Prof. Yorizumi Watanabe](#) (*Keio University*)

“Regulatory cooperation – what business is looking for in the EU-Japan FTA?”

Ms Luisa Santos (*Director, International Affairs, BUSINESSEUROPE*)

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By Prof. Patrick Messerlin (*IEP-Paris*)

Discussant: Frederik Ponjaert (*ULB & KU Leuven*)

Q&A Session

17:30 - 17:45 Closing Keynote Address

Chair: Prof. Mario Telò (*ULB & LUISS*)

Ms Lowri Evans (*Director-General, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission*)

17:45 - Closing Reception co-hosted by the Mission of Japan to the EU and by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

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POLICY PANEL 1 on Japan-EU Cooperation:

*Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Cooperation and Development Assistance
after the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai*

The recently concluded 2015 *UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction* would see the adoption of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)*, the successor instrument to the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. Said ‘Sendai Framework’ is built on elements which ensure continuity with the work done by States and other stakeholders under the HFA while also introducing a number of innovations. Remarkable innovations include among other: a stronger emphasis on disaster risk management as opposed to disaster management, the definition of seven global targets, as well as an overarching focus on preventing new risk, reducing existing risk and strengthening resilience. The framework of this renewed global agenda seeking to mitigate the risks associated with natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks offers its key stakeholders new opportunities for deeper cooperation and targeted joint action. As two of the globe’s preeminent Civilian Powers (Mayer, 2015) with a shared long-standing commitments to the broader agenda associated with human security (Remacle 2009), Japan and the EU have sought to deepen their strategic partnership through heightened joint engagement in capacity-building (Geans & Vogt, 2015) and disaster relief (Ueta 2013) in third countries. Both Japan and the EU have the means to contribute significantly to the realization of the Sendai Framework’s goals, and in particular the implementation of its chapter VI dedicated to *International cooperation and global partnership*.

EXPERT PANEL 1 on Japan-EU Cooperation:

Enhancing the Rule of Law at Sea

The joint press statement concluding the 23rd EU-Japan Summit sees both parties emphasize the importance of ensuring the rule of law in global commons, namely cyber, outer space and the sea. To this end, both parties have “*underline[d] the need for all parties to seek peaceful, and cooperative solutions to maritime claims, including through internationally recognized legal dispute settlement mechanisms, and to maintain full freedom of navigation and overflight of the high seas under international law as enshrined in the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea*”. Such a commitment to the Rule of Law at sea entails both clarifying the basis of any claim based on international law and refraining from unilateral actions, including the threat or use of force and coercion. Further dialogue is therefore called for to ensure shared reading and universal application of international law as enshrined in the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea.

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POLICY PANEL 2 on Japan-EU Cooperation:

Progress Made on the EPA/FTA and SPA Negotiations

From the onset the EU-Japan bilateral relationship has had economic concerns at its core. Jump-started in 1991 by the so-called 'Hague Declaration', the EU-Japan political dialogue is one of the first comprehensive bilateral partnerships to be fully institutionalized at the European level (Ponjaert 2009, 2015). Besides its established political dialogue, the EU-Japan relationship is also characterized by its engaged set of stakeholders as reflected in the EU-Japan Business Round Table. Over the past two decades, trade and exchange rates have remained a core feature of the relationship (Bertoldi, 2013) and ultimately an agreement was reached in 2011 on the desirability of both a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA). To this effect, following an initial scoping exercise, negotiations were formally launched in March 2013 and have progressed ever since with up to 7 Rounds concluded so far. Moreover, the joint press statement concluding the 23rd EU-Japan Summit stated both parties have "entrusted our negotiators with the mandate to settle the outstanding differences with a view to reaching agreement encompassing all the key issues preferably by the end of 2015". Accordingly, as the negotiations reach their scheduled conclusion negotiators seek to address the final pending issues with an eye on concluding both a landmark Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) /Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will deepen Japan and the EU's cooperation.

EXPERT PANEL 2 on Japan-EU Cooperation:

Regulatory Cooperation and the Impact on Industry

In March, the European Commission and Japanese Government agreed a common vision¹ towards deepening and enlarging their regulatory cooperation – especially in some key new areas (robotics, construction and medical devices). The goal is to ensure that the public and private sectors will cooperate at an earlier stage in the legislative process, decreasing regulatory discrepancies and formulating common rules necessary for the future. Regulatory Cooperation will be both part of and transcend any FTA/EPA as it covers not only business issues, but also issues such as regulatory cooperation in the field of conflict minerals. Regulatory cooperation can have a wide range of implications considering both the chosen format – e.g. reciprocal mutual recognition vs. joint regulation – and the economic sectors affected. More than in any other chapter of the negotiations, regulatory cooperation involves all stakeholders from the official regulatory agencies to the individual sectoral economic interests. Understanding this multiplicity of actors and the contrasting impact different forms of regulatory harmonisation might have are therefore key to any future regulatory cooperation between the EU and Japan.

¹ See http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2015/0317_02.html

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