



Press Release

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EU-Japan Business Round Table 18th Annual Meeting

Handover of Joint Recommendations to Government of Japan and EU Commission

The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) held its 18th Annual Meeting in Tokyo on 20 April 2016 under the theme of “EU & Japan – Taking strides towards a common sustainable future”.

The BRT, a forum of European and Japanese business leaders, was co-chaired by Mr. Kazuo Tsukuda, Senior Executive Adviser of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., and Mr. Fabrice Brégier, President and CEO of Airbus S.A.S.

Today, Joint Recommendations have been submitted to Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska who received them on behalf of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

The BRT had the pleasure of welcoming high-level representatives of the EU and Japanese Authorities including Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission, Mr. Junji Suzuki, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Mr. Yoji Muto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting also addressed the following subjects: the ongoing negotiations for the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement/Economic Partnership Agreement (FTA/EPA), regulatory cooperation, circular economy, and improving the investment environment in the EU and Japan.

During the meeting, it was announced that Mr. Eric Schulz, President – Civil Aerospace, Rolls-Royce plc will succeed Mr. Brégier and become the new EU-side Chairman.

EU and Japan – Taking strides towards a common sustainable future

The BRT is strongly convinced that the EU-Japan FTA/EPA will lead to an expansion of trade and investment, job creation and acceleration of growth in both economies, as well as contributing to the creation of new opportunities for global growth. The BRT highlights its request to the highest Authorities of the EU and Japan to focus on addressing the remaining obstacles to the conclusion of a comprehensive, ambitious, high-level, and mutually-beneficial FTA/EPA as early as possible.

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 the EU and Japanese 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. The EU and Japanese Authorities respond to the recommendations by formal progress reports. The annual meeting takes place alternately in Japan and in Europe.

www.eu-japan-brt.eu

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