



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Delegation for relations with Japan

REPORT

of the visit to Japan of the Bureau of the Delegation for relations
with Japan
(Tokyo, 29 October - 1 November 2012)

Introduction

The Chair of the European Parliament delegation for relations with Japan, Mr Hans van Baalen (ALDE, Netherlands) led a Bureau visit to Tokyo from 29 October to 1 November 2012. He was accompanied by the Second Vice-Chair, Mr Artur Zasada (EPP, Poland); Mr Csaba Sógor (EPP, Romania - replacing First Vice-Chair Mrs Sandra Kalniete); and Mr Alojz Peterle (EPP, Slovenia), rapporteur on the EU-Japan Framework Agreement.

The MEPs held discussions with their counterparts and representative of the Japanese government at a crucial time for EU-Japan relations with the conclusion of the scoping exercise for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) - called the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) by the Japanese side - and a political Framework Agreement and the prospect of a beginning of negotiations on this before the end of the year. The visit was also taking place at a time of heightened tension between Japan and China over the Senkaku Islands (called the Diaoyu Islands by Beijing). The visit also provided an opportunity to prepare the 34th EU-Japan Interparliamentary Meeting that is due to take place in the course of 2013.

Thematic summary of the visit

EU-Japan relations

The visit came in the week following the adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution on EU trade negotiations with Japan. This resolution had stressed that a free trade agreement should lead to a win-win situation for both economies as the huge potential of the EU-Japan commercial relationship had not been realised. It called on the Council to authorise the Commission to start negotiations on the basis of the EU-Japan scoping exercise and clear targets. The resolution also highlighted the need to ensure that the issue of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) was properly resolved.

The meetings in Tokyo therefore provided an excellent opportunity for the MEPs to underline the position of the Parliament and in particular they raised the issues of NTBs on a number of opportunities. They stressed that the European Parliament would be required to give its assent to the final agreement, that it would play a constructive role and that it should be involved at all stages of the negotiation process. They also pointed to the continuing reservations among some member states about NTBs and whether Japan could deliver on them. They stressed the need for the Japanese side to be aware of these sensitivities - "it is not simply an agreement with Brussels but with 27 member states".

The Japanese side expressed strong support for the FTA and the Framework Agreement. (It should be noted that the meetings were with politicians and officials dealing with foreign affairs and trade who would be the negotiators of any agreement). They welcomed the green light from Parliament's side to the start of negotiations and looked forward to Council authorising the Commission to begin. They argued that any problems or differences could be dealt with most effectively within the framework of negotiations and that these negotiations should start as soon as possible. The final FTA/EPA would be more ambitious and far-reaching than those which Japan was currently negotiating with other countries.

The Japanese stressed the significance of the Cabinet decision of July 2012 in which the Japanese government had made a clear commitment to remove NTBs. MEPs were struck by the comment of one interlocutor who stated that to overcome inertia in Japanese regulatory bodies " we need a push from Europe". In a couple of meetings the Japanese interlocutors noted that Japan did have other options as it was moving forward on FTA negotiations with a number of other trade partners.

There was also discussion of the political dimension of the EU-Japan relationship and the proposed Framework Agreement. Both sides stressed that the relationship - based on such common values of democracy and the rule of law - was about more than trade and that the FTA on its own was not enough and that a comprehensive political agreement was needed.

On a number of occasions the Japanese side thanked the EU for the support that it had given to Japan at the time of the Great East Earthquake. They noted, too, the support that Japan was now providing to the EU through EFSF bond purchases and increased contributions to the IMF resources. Finally, the Japanese congratulated the MEPs on the award to the EU of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Japan's relations with its neighbours

The discussions on Japan's relations with its Asian neighbours were dominated by the current differences between Tokyo and Beijing over the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands (called the Diaoyu islands by the Chinese). All Japanese speakers gave the official position - i.e. that the Islands were undisputedly part of Japan. They noted that there was a mismatch between democratic Japan and non-democratic China and that it was important that the democracies worked closely together.

They stressed that Japan wanted a peaceful resolution to the situation and that the current stand-off was having a detrimental impact on trade between the two countries, which had tripled in the last decade. There was recognition in particular that the dispute could have serious consequences for the proposed trilateral trade talks between Japan, China and South Korea that were planned to start by the end of the year.

In more general terms they considered that China was becoming increasingly assertive in Asia - one speaker argued that it was seeking hegemony - and could therefore present a threat to the region's peaceful development.

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan had signed an FTA with ASEAN countries and looked forward to further economic integration in the region. It was pushing for negotiations on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with ASEAN and other East Asian countries at the upcoming East Asian summit. The Trans-Pacific Partnership was also mentioned in a number of meetings with the Japanese side noting that there was still debate in the country about whether to join the process.

Internal situation of Japan and the EU

MEPs updated their counterparts on current developments in the EU, notably the euro-zone crisis. They detailed the measures that were being taken to resolve the problems and to prevent a recurrence of the crisis. They stressed that the EU would overcome its current difficulties, although some current assumptions would have to change.

It was apparent from the discussions on the current energy situation in Japan that there are widely divergent views on a post-Fukushima energy mix. In private discussions views ranged from the opinion that "without nuclear energy the country cannot survive" to "Japan needs to get rid of nuclear power".

Proponents of nuclear power argued that Japan could not be over-dependent on imported fossil fuels and that the risks inherent in the nuclear industry could and should be managed. Those opposing nuclear power stressed that the industry already could not deal with nuclear waste and the power plants were not properly insured. Moreover the industry - which had prior to 11 March 2011 funded the energy policy debate - was corrupt. It was nonetheless generally recognised on all sides that much work needed to be done to develop sources of renewable energy, which could represent a valuable business opportunity.

There was some discussion of the current economic situation in Japan and the challenges faced as a result of the ageing population and the growing costs of providing social security. The highly controversial government proposals for an increased consumption tax to raise revenue were highlighted.

At the time of the visit the exact date of the Japanese elections was not clear, although they needed to take place by August 2013 at the latest. (They were subsequently scheduled to take place on 16 December 2012). The government had suffered from many defections, mainly over its tax reforms and was in an increasingly weak situation.

MEPs also raised the subject of capital punishment in Japan, particularly in the light of the increase in the number of executions in recent months. The Japanese side underlined that there was an ongoing debate on the issue but they stressed that opinion polls showed strong support for the maintenance of the death penalty.

34th EU-Japan Interparliamentary Meeting (IPM)

The Japanese side presented a draft agenda for the 34th EU-Japan IPM that is scheduled to take place in 2013. This would cover the political and economic situation in the EU and Japan, including Japan's relations with its neighbours, the euro-zone crisis and EU-Japan relations.

Mr van Baalen stressed that any visit to Japan should take place after the upcoming elections. He also proposed visiting either Fukushima or Nagasaki, in addition to Tokyo. He stressed, too, the importance of the EP delegation holding meetings with Japanese interlocutors at the highest level.

Summary of individual meetings

Monday 29 October 2012

14:00-15:00 Briefing session with H.E: Mr Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, Ambassador, EU Delegation

Mr Schweisgut briefed the delegation on the current political situation in Japan and the prospects for the EU-Japan FTA/EPA and Framework Agreement.

15:30-16:45 Meeting with Mr Takaaki Asano, Research fellow at the Tokyo Foundation

Mr Asano - who was accompanied by several colleagues who also spoke - noted the following during the meeting:

- Japan signed its first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Singapore in 2002 and currently 13 such agreements were in force, with ten others in the pipeline (South Korea had signed ten FTAs and the USA had signed 14). However, only 18% of Japan's total trade volume was covered by FTAs, whereas the equivalent for South Korea was 34%, around 40% for the USA and 25 to 30% for the EU.
- ASEAN worked within a consensus-based framework and had a target date of 2015 for the removal of most of the import duties and the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Japan had signed an FTA with the ASEAN countries in 2008.
- The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) was a "living agreement" that was expanding; however it was not clear whether Japan would join it.
- An EU-Japan FTA would constitute a major and "high quality agreement", indeed it would be more comprehensive than any trilateral FTA between Japan, China and South Korea.
- Agriculture only made up 1.5% of Japan's GDP; however the sector was very important as rural areas enjoyed disproportionate political influence. The tariff for Japanese agricultural products was around 17%, compared to the average tariff of around 4.4%. By way of contrast, South Korea's average tariff was 12%.
- Any imposition of economic sanctions by Beijing on Japan as a result of the current territorial dispute would have a detrimental effect on both sides. It was difficult to have a normal relationship with China as the usual model of economic dependency did not apply. Japan had significant assets in China and direct investment in China totalling \$6 billion that could be held hostage by the Chinese authorities. On the other hand, China had only \$300 million

worth of investment in Japan. In September 2012 there had been a fall of between 30 and 40% in auto sales from Japan to China. The cost for Japan of doing business in China would consequently increase, with higher insurance premiums. China's growth rate was likely to decline to around 6% per annum, as had happened with Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

- False information about Japan was being disseminated in China and the current situation between the two countries was "not healthy". China wanted to "make a new empire at the centre of Asia".
- Japan had a close relationship with South Korea but no formal ties because of the legacy of the past and ongoing territorial disputes.

17:30-18:15 Meeting with Mr Kazuya Shimba MP, Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Shimba made the following points:

- He re-affirmed Japan's sovereignty over the Senkaku islands, referring to long-standing Japanese arguments, including that it had been "terra nullius" in 1895, the absence of a Chinese objection at the time of the 1951 San Francisco Treaty and the existence of Chinese maps showing the islands as being Japanese territory.
- Japan would not itself refer the matter to the International Court of Justice as it did not recognise there being a dispute about Japan's ownership of the islands; however Tokyo was keen to resolve the issue peacefully in accordance with international law and did not want it to become an obstacle to economic relations. There had already been violence in China against Japanese property. MEPs referred to the experience of Slovenia and Croatia in resolving the issue of maritime borders.
- Japan was grateful for the assistance provided by the EU at the time of the Fukushima disaster. Japan was now providing support to Europe, including EFSF bond purchases and increased contributions to the IMF resources.
- The EU-Japan relationship was very important for both sides and the global economy and the FTA/EPA was a top priority. Japan was aware of the varying opinions with the EU about the issue and there were also different viewpoints among the Japanese.
- The MEPs referred to the European Parliament's plenary resolution of the previous week and stressed that the EP would play a constructive role in the steps to be taken towards the FTA/EPA and they were keen for negotiations to start as soon as possible. However there were concerns over Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and it was important for both sides to be sensitive to the issues that had been raised in the scoping exercise.

- Mr Shimba noted that before 11 March 2011 Japan had been planning to increase the use of nuclear energy to up to 40% of the energy supply. The situation had changed dramatically after the tragic events. Japan was heavily dependent on fossil fuels from the Middle East, however these were not guaranteed because of the political volatility of the region. Hard decisions would have to be made about future energy policy.
- The death penalty was a matter for the Ministry of Justice; however Japan was a country where the rule of law applied and it was important to take account of public opinion.

19:30

Dinner hosted by Dutch Ambassador H.E. Mr Radinck van Vollenhoven at his Residence

Discussion at the dinner focussed on Japan's perspective on the euro crisis

Tuesday 30 October 2012

09:45-10:30 Meeting with Mr Jun Yamada, Deputy Director General of European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Yamada made the following points:

- Japan was trying to transform the challenge of the energy debate into a business opportunity and Europe was a model for green development. It was important to ensure a "soft landing" in relation to any closing down of nuclear power plants. Currently there was a tentative goal to phase out nuclear power by the 2030s which was a compromise between those who wanted to go faster or slower.
- There was a strict monitoring system for food coming from the Fukushima region;
- Japan and the EU should be aiming to achieve a comprehensive agreement as "a mere FTA is not enough" and it was important to follow a double track approach. The Japanese people wanted the links with Europe to be strengthened
- The MEPs proposed that the Japanese Foreign Minister should address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament. They also underlined that during their next visit they would appreciate meeting with members of the new government, including the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister. On that visit they would also like to go outside Tokyo, possibly to Fukushima or Nagasaki.

11:00-11:45 Meeting with MP Toshiyuki Kato, Chairman of the House of Councillors Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

Mr Kato made the following points:

- The EU and Japan shared common values; however this did not apply to Japan's relations with China. He outlined Tokyo's position on the Senkaku Islands, noting that they had been purchased by the government from a private owner under Japanese law.
- China had only begun to claim the islands in the 1970s when the prospects for huge natural resources in the adjoining seas had become known. Japan had a policy that it would accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and he was confident that it was in a position to make the proper response. Tokyo had no desire for the peace in the world to be disturbed.

- The ASEAN countries were playing an increasingly important role in the region. It was also important for the world's democracies - such as Japan, the EU and the USA - to work together.
- It was vital to reach agreement on the FTA/EPA. He recognised nonetheless that there were still outstanding issues to be resolved. The MEPs stressed their support for an ambitious agreement that went beyond one focussed exclusively on trade. They underlined the need to address NTBs and emphasised the parliamentary dimension of the approval process.
- Mr Kato stressed that there were 54 nuclear reactors in Japan which could not be simply "carried away by emotional feelings". It was important for Japan to coordinate its actions on this issue with countries such as France, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- The death penalty in Japan was open to discussion and Mr Kato expected the debate to continue.
- MEPs noted that the euro-crisis had now stabilised and that the EU would be in a position to deal with other urgent issues.

14:00-16:00 Visit to the Kikkoman factory, Noda City, Chiba Prefecture

- The delegation visited the Kikkoman factory in Noda City. Kikkoman was founded in 1917 from a combination of family-owned businesses. The Kikkoman Group's roots are in the production and marketing of soy sauce. Kikkoman Soy Sauce - which in its advertisements it terms "the world's favourite soy sauce" - has nine production plants in Japan, the Netherlands, the USA, and Asia. It has an international workforce of 6,500.
- Kikkoman began its European operations in Germany in 1979, opening its first production plant in the Netherlands in 1997. It followed a diversified strategy for different European countries: e.g. for the Dutch customer the focus is "easy and simple", for Poland the focus is "traditional" and for the United Kingdom "diet intention". Its sales had increased five-fold since it opened its plant in the Netherlands and there was potential for further expansion, particularly in Eastern Europe.
- Kikkoman was also involved in a variety of related and unrelated lines of business in Japan and overseas, such as the sectors of pharmaceuticals, wines, liqueurs, fruit juices, tomato products and Asian food. It also had subsidiaries in the restaurant and wholesale business.

19:30 Dinner hosted by Mr Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, Head of EU Delegation, at his residence

The theme of the working dinner was energy policy post-Fukushima and members heard from a number of guests about the differing views in Japan on how its energy policy should be developed in the future.

Wednesday 31 October 2012

09:30-1030 Meeting with Mr Hirofumi Katase, Director General for Trade Policy

Mr Katase made the following points:

- Prior to 1985 Japan had tended to imported raw materials from ASEAN countries and exported back the finished products. More recently Japan exported parts to ASEAN countries where the products were finished.
- Tokyo was keen for the south east Asian region to become more integrated, This was a process of de facto economic integration; however there would be no customs union and it was not necessarily comparable to the process taking place in the EU.
- Japan was promoting the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to develop trade co-operation and free trade agreements among the 16 current countries of the East Asia Summit. This would be on the agenda for the East Asia Summit taking place in November in Cambodia. China was both a competitor and a partner of Japan in the region.
- There was a clear political commitment in Japan to advance the EU-Japan FTA/EPA and the "remarkable" Cabinet decision of July 2012 had set out the government's clear commitments to remove NTBs. Indeed the prospect of an FTA/EPA had provided an excellent opportunity to tackle the question of NTBs and it was essential to have a speedy launch of the negotiations to maintain the momentum.
- The EU needed to appreciate that the Japanese authorities had invested a great deal of political capital into the issue. Japanese industry was in favour of the elimination of NTBs but discussions with regulatory agencies would be greatly facilitated if they were taking place within the context of trade negotiations.
- The MEPs underlined the importance of tackling the NTBs, for example in railway procurement and beef products. They stressed that Japan needed to be attentive to all the European players - including the 27 member states and not merely to the message from "Brussels". They emphasised the sensitivities and the need for confidence building measures.
- Japan and other Asian countries were providing support for the improvement of transport links via their Official Development Assistance programmes and Public Private Partnerships (PPEs). One important development that was cited was the overland link via Thailand and Myanmar to Chennai (the "Detroit of Asia") to avoid the bottle-neck of the Malacca Straits.

11:00-11:45 Meeting with Mr Minoru Kawasaki MP, Chairman of the House of Councillors committee on Financial Affairs and the former Chairman, Mr Motoyuki Odachi MP.

The following issues were covered by the EP Delegation:

- The MEPs expressed confidence that the EU would overcome the current crisis and that the euro would survive. The planned establishment of a banking union within the euro-zone was not merely a technical issue but sent out a strong political message about the EU's ambitions and intentions to tackle the crisis.
- It was important to ensure solidarity and social cohesion in the European model but some assumptions that currently underpinned this model would have to be fundamentally changed. It was important to define what the EU wished to do together - it worked very well in many areas such as trade - and what was best left to member states.
- MEPs noted that in some areas it was impossible to reach unanimity and the enhanced cooperation procedure enabled some member states to move forward with proposals. For example, eleven member states to date were moving ahead through the procedure to apply an EU financial transactions tax (FTT).

12:15-14:15 Lunch meeting hosted by the European Business Council in Japan

MEPs were informed that the European Business Council (EBC) had been established in 1972 by members of individual member state chambers of commerce. It had a membership of around 3000 companies through the national chambers and approximately 400 companies participate directly in one of the EBC's 30 industry committees. The Council sought to strengthen the EU-Japan business relationship and to coordinate policy proposals.

- The discussions focussed on the priorities of EU industry in Japan. The EBC acknowledged the crucial role of the European Parliament in the path towards achieving an FTA/EPA and welcomed the EP resolution of the previous week as "tough but very fair". MEPs underlined the wish of the Parliament to be involved at every stage in the process.
- The EBC stressed that the most important issue for European industry was the use of the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) which was slightly different from international standards. The JIS obliged companies to undergo additional tests in order to get their products approved in Japan. EBC speakers also highlighted NTBs in the food and airline sectors.
- EBC speakers noted that it took a long time to gain the trust of Japanese consumers but this would be repaid by the subsequent loyalty. Indeed, some European companies had become part of the Japanese establishment and benefited in particular from keeping their staff in Japan for extended periods

so that they might learn the language and develop a greater appreciation of the culture.

14:30-15:30 Meeting with Mr Kenji Hiramatsu, Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Hiramatsu made the following points:

- He set out the official position on Japanese sovereignty over the Senkaku islands, and its foundation in international law. There was therefore "no way to change our position" on the issue. Tokyo had refrained from building on the islands in order not to exacerbate the situation.
- Nevertheless, Mr Hiramatsu underlined, Japan's relationship with China was very important and he hoped that the issue would be resolved peacefully. The two countries had close economic ties, which were already being adversely affected by the dispute.

17:15-18:15 Meeting with MP Banri Kaieda, Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Economy, Trade and Industry

Mr Kaieda made the following points in the meeting:

He outlined the economic situation in Japan, noting that it faced the problems of an ageing society with the concomitant increased social security costs. The consumption tax was part of the government's policy to tackle the situation.

He stressed that the Japanese side was fully aware of the EU's market access priorities and pointed to the Government Revitalisation Unit's roadmaps on BSE and car standards. He recognised the sensitivity of certain issues and underlined that further progress would be assisted by an early start to negotiations.

MEPs stressed that the EP resolution of the previous week had sent out a positive signal regarding an early start to negotiations on the FTA/EPA. It was, nevertheless, necessary for Japan to be aware of the concerns of some of member states. The delegation stressed that NTBs remained a very difficult issue and there was a particular mention of procurement in railways. Members hoped that an EU company would be chosen as part of the final selection round for the JR East signalling project.

18:30 Dinner hosted by the EU-Japan Parliamentary League of Friendship

There was an initial discussion on possible dates and agenda for the 34th EU-Japan Interparliamentary Meeting (IPM). Main agenda items are likely to be the FTA/Framework Agreement, post-Fukushima energy policy, the euro-crisis and the political environment in the EU and the Asian region. The EP delegation might also travel to Fukushima or Nagasaki. Mr van Baalen stressed that he wanted the visit to take place after the Japanese parliamentary elections which were due to take place by August 2013 at the latest.

Thursday 1 November 2012

09:00-11:45 Visit to Tokyo railway station and a return trip on the shinkansen (high speed train) from Tokyo Station to Utsunomiya Station

The delegation made a return trip by high speed train (shinkansen) to Utsunomiya station which is 100 kilometres from Tokyo. The journey in one direction took approximately 40 minutes.

Lunch hosted by JR East

13:30-14:30 Meeting with Mr Toshiro Ichinose, Executive Director (head of corporate planning) at JR East HQ in Shinjuku

Mr Ichinose informed the delegation that the first Shinkansen ("New trunk line") train had begun operations in 1964. The network currently linked most of the major cities on Honshu and Kyushu islands and had a total length of 2,640 kilometres with a further 967 kilometres either already under construction or planned. Shinkansen trains had a clear advantage over airlines in distances up to 500 kilometres and were competitive in time from city centre to city centre up to a distance of 700 kilometres.

Since 1964 there had been no passenger fatalities on Shinkansen trains and the average delay was less than 30 seconds. The maximum speed was currently 300 kilometres per hours but this would increase to 320 kilometres per hour in 2013. The trains ran on lines that were reserved for them. The network carried an average of 930,000 passengers every day. Mr Ichinose also underlined the environmental friendliness of the Shinkansen trains which had lower carbon emissions

The JR East representatives underlined that the company had now opened up and was willing to establish new channels of cooperation with foreign suppliers. They accepted that, in the past, JR East had operated under a closed system where contractual practices were "not well documented". MEPs stressed that the EU was keen to develop future partnerships with JR East, in particular in signalling systems.

16:00-17:30 Visit to Narita Airport to examine the ground-handling market

During the visit - which included the observation of baggage handling on "air side" - MEPs were informed about the procedures for obtaining ground-handling contracts at Narita airport. They found the system to be less regulated than that prevailing in the EU, with the role of the airport being mainly to ensure safety and security.

The delegation also looked at the situation of customer service and was impressed by the facilities provided to passengers, including the presence of trained and qualified staff and full provision for the disabled and those with reduced mobility.



DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

BUREAU VISIT

29 October - 1 November 2012
Tokyo

Members (4)

Mr Hans VAN BAALEN, Chairman	ALDE Netherlands	<i>Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Security and Defence Delegation for relations with the United States Delegation for relations with the Afghanistan</i>
Mr Artur ZASADA, 2nd Vice-Chair	EPP Poland	<i>Committee on Transport and Tourism</i>
Mr Csaba SÓGOR	EPP Romania	<i>Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)</i>
Mr Alojz PETERLE	EPP Slovenia	<i>Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rapporteur on the Framework Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Japan</i>

Secretariat of the EP Delegation

Mr Tim BODEN Administrator

Interpreters EP Delegation (3)

Ms Mari HASEBE
Ms Mieko KUSANO
Ms Kazuko OGASAWARA

EPP	Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
ALDE	Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europa



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Delegation for relations with Japan

BUREAU VISIT

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 34th EU/JAPAN IPM

TOKYO

29 October - 1 November 2012

FINAL PROGRAMME

Saturday 27/Sunday 28 October 2012

Individual arrivals of Members and staff

14:00 Preparations for meetings (staff)

18:30 Preparatory meeting with EU Delegation (Secretariat only)

Monday 29 October 2012

Morning Preparations for meetings

12:30 Final preparatory meeting (Secretariat only)

13:20 All participants meet in hotel reception

13:45 Departure from the hotel for EU Delegation

14:00-15:00 Briefing session with H.E: Mr Hans Dietmar Schweisgut,
Ambassador, EU Delegation

15:30-16:45 Meeting with Mr Takaaki Asano, Research fellow at the Tokyo
Foundation

Also present:

Yutaka HARADA, Senior Fellow & Professor, Waseda Univ.

- Akiko IMAI, Director for Public Communication & Research Fellow

- Kiyoyuki TOMITA, Director for Policy Research

Subject: Japan-ASEAN relations

17:30-18:15 Meeting with Mr Kazuya Shimba MP, Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

Transfer to hotel

19:30 Dinner hosted by Dutch Ambassador H.E. Mr Radinck van Vollenhoven at his Residence

Theme: Japan's perspective on the euro crisis)

Tuesday 30 October 2012

09:45-10:30 Meeting with Mr Jun Yamada, Deputy Director General of European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Subject: Japan-EU Framework Agreement

11:00-11:45 Meeting with MP Toshiyuki Kato, Chairman of the House of Councillors Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

Subject: Japan-China relations

Depart for Kikkoman's factory in Noda City, Chiba Prefecture

13:00 Refreshments in a restaurant near the Kikkoman's factory

14:00-16:00 Visit to the Kikkoman's factory, Noda City, Chiba Prefecture

Depart for the hotel

19:10 Departure from the hotel

19:30 Dinner hosted by Mr Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, Head of EU Delegation, at his residence

Theme: energy policy post-Fukushima

Wednesday 31 October 2012

09:30-10:30 Meeting with Mr Hirofumi Katase, Director General for Trade Policy

Subject: Japan's trade policy with ASEAN

- 11:00-11:45 Meeting with Mr Minoru Kawasaki MP, Chairman of the House of Councillors committee on Financial Affairs. Also present: former Chairman Motoyuki Odachi MP.
Subject: Japan's position towards the euro crisis
- 12:15-14:15 Lunch meeting hosted by European Business Council in Japan at ARGO restaurant
- EBC participants
- Duco Delgorge, Chairman of the EBC (President, MIE Project Co. Ltd.)
 - Danny Risberg, Vice Chairman of the EBC (President and CEO, Philips Electronics Japan)
 - Alison Murray, Executive Director, EBC Secretariat
 - Bjorn Kongstad, Policy Advisor, EBC Secretariat
- 14:30-15:30 Meeting with Mr Kenji Hiramatsu, Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Subject: Japan-China relations and Japan-ASEAN relations
- 17:15-18:15 Meeting with MP Banri Kaieda, Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Economy, Trade and Industry
Subject: Japan-EU FTA
- 18:30 Dinner hosted by the EU-Japan Parliamentary League of Friendship at 'Tofuya Ukai' restaurant
Subject: EU-Japan FTA/EPA

Thursday 1 November 2012

- 08:30-09:00 Delegation meeting
- 09:00-11:45 Visit to Tokyo railway station and a round trip on shinkansen (high speed train) from Tokyo Station to Utsunomiya Station
- 12:00 - 13:30 Lunch hosted by JR East at Hotel Metropolitan Marumouchi
- 13:30-14:30 Meeting with Mr Toshiro Ichinose, Executive Director (head of corporate planning) at JR East HQ in Shinjuku

Depart from the JR East HQ for Narita airport

- 16:00-17:30 Visit to Narita Airport to examine ground-handling market

Depart for the hotel

Friday 2 November 2012 Saturday 3 November 2012
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Departure of participants