



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Delegation for relations with Japan*

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**D-JP\_PV(2012)0514**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of 14 May 2012, from 15.00 to 17.00  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 15.13 on Monday, 14 May 2012, with Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2012

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Communications by the Chair

The Chair welcomed the Japanese Ambassador to the European Union, H.E. Mr Kojiro Shiojiri.

He also welcomed the EEAS Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Gerhard Sabathil and Mr Mauro Petriccione, Director in the European Commission for trade relations with Asia and Latin America.

He noted that the meeting was to prepare for the 33rd EU-Japan IPM that would take place on 30 and 31 May in Brussels.

He noted that the exhibition "Kizuna" (Solidarity) in reconstruction: One year after the Great East Japan Earthquake" had taken place in the European Parliament on 24 April. He thanked the Japanese embassy, Mr Zasada and Mrs Kalniete for their support of this event, which was very well attended.

#### 4. Preparations for the 33rd EU-Japan IPM, 30 - 31 May 2012, Brussels

The Chair noted that the draft programme and the agenda for the IPM had been distributed.

Members were invited to volunteer as first speakers for agenda items.

Members were also once again invited to offer to host the Japanese delegation in their own countries following their visit to Brussels. A further mail would be sent out to members.

The Chair gave the floor to Mr Sabathil of the EEAS to update members on the current state of play of EU-Japan relations.

Mr Sabathil noted that last year's EU-Japan summit had set out the framework for future cooperation between the two sides. Firstly there should be a comprehensive strengthening of the EU-Japan relationship on all issues; however the starting points of the two sides had been different. Japan's focus was on upgrading the economic relationship and moving towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The EU also favoured an FTA but wanted in addition to develop a binding framework that covered political and sectoral issues - i.e. one that was not only focussed on trade. The two sides had come a long way but "were not there yet" on agreeing on when the FTA negotiations should start and there was a need for member states to endorse the negotiating mandate on the two agreements. It was hoped that the next EU-Japan summit would give this mandate and that negotiations might be launched but the date was not yet set.

The guidelines for energy cooperation had been established at the last summit and there had been some progress to date. However this cooperation had been "patchy" and more could be done, particularly on decontamination and decommissioning. The energy dialogue had been upgraded to ministerial level and Commissioner Oettinger was due to visit Japan in June. The potential in this area was great; however there were many challenges and much was dependent on the discussions on energy that were taking place in Japan at present. The effective cooperation post-Fukushima had given more impetus to humanitarian assistance and disaster management. This should be developed following the visit to Japan of Commissioner Georgieva in July. He noted that the Commissioner had been the first ministerial-level visitor to Japan in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster.

Mr Sabathil pointed to the cooperation between Japan and the EU on the situation in Iran, North Korea, the Middle East, Myanmar and in their respective neighbourhoods. He also noted the differences between the two sides on the resumption by Japan of the death penalty on 29 March 2012. He stressed that the strategic partnership should be of mutual benefit; however it had not yet achieved its full potential. He committed to working closely with the European Parliament and other partners to promote this partnership.

Mr Petriccione stressed the importance of trading relations with Japan, which had the world's third largest national economy and was a fully fledged market economy. It had also been a staunch ally of the EU in multilateral trade fora. Nevertheless, there had been a long and "somewhat unfortunate" history of market access problems with Japan over several decades. The current exercise was an opportunity to fix these problems and to develop a new trade relationship. However, the legacy of the past was not easy to overcome.

He gave details firstly of the scoping paper that was being prepared, which was similar to those agreed with nearly all the other parties with which the EU had launched free trade

agreements. However, it was more sophisticated and specific to the EU- Japan relationship. It was nearly finalised, save for some fine-tuning on issues such as geographical indicators. Secondly a list of Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs), such as those on automobile products, was also being finalised. This had been criticised by member states for not going far enough, however it represented a compromise and was aimed as a road map for future negotiations. Thirdly, the issue of procurement in railways had been the subject of an exchange of letters between Commissioners de Gucht and Barnier and their Japanese counterparts, following the WTO government procurement agreement negotiations in Geneva last December. This set out the guidelines for a road map for the future of procurement in railways. This road map was proving to be very difficult and was still a "work in progress".

Finally the Foreign Ministers Council would meet under the trade ministers' configuration at the end of May. It would be decided at that point whether there was a sufficient blueprint for member states to give the green light to a negotiating mandate with Japan. If this was the case then the mandate would be sent to the EP and the Commission would be very happy to discuss it.

Mr van Baalen noted that on previous visits to Japan the MEPs had heard from Japanese industrialists that the NTBs were not a major problem; however the EU side had given a contradictory view. He asked whether the problems had now been identified and could be addressed.

Mr Petriccione stressed that the Commission paper had indeed set out 30 different NTBs, including around five or six in the automobile sector. There were differences among member states on the issue and these needed to be resolved.

Mrs Garcia Hierro Caraballo highlighted the dangers of nuclear proliferation and asked about member states' approaches to the issue. She asked too about the fishing sector.

Mr Sabathil stated that the EU was discussing nuclear safety with Japan and the member states - and not the broader issue of nuclear energy, which was a matter of national choices.

Mr Petriccione stressed that trade in fishery products was not a contentious issue as both sides were net importers. Cooperation would be important over the sustainable development clause that should be included in the agreement as conservation of fishing stocks was very important.

Ambassador Shiojiri referred to the constructive dialogue between the EU and Japan on nuclear safety that would be continued during the visit by Commissioner Oettinger in June. He noted that in the last fortnight all 54 nuclear plants had been closed in Japan. Polls indicated that 26% of Japanese people opposed reopening them again.

Mr Vaughan asked for more information on the particularly difficult issues regarding NTBs.

Ambassador Shiojiri stressed that the scoping exercise was in its last stages. He believed that common understanding had been strengthened and that agreement would soon be reached.

Mr Petriccione pointed to continuing problems over the automobile industry, in which Japan was extremely competitive. He noted that the EU was the largest exporter of food in the world and that Japan was an "interesting" market. In this sector the problem was not tariffs but the Japanese regulations, such as those on food additives. There were also problems over public procurement, particularly in the railway sector.

The Commission hoped that these issues might be resolved through negotiations but they could not be solved at this stage. The road maps being drawn up set out the end objectives that both sides shared and served as an "instruction manual" for negotiators. The compromises so far were - in his view - generally acceptable, except for the divergences on railway procurement. However there was a clear gap between the two sides, for example on standards in the automobile sector. The Commission considered that Japan's taxation of cars to be discriminatory. He accepted that there were also differences among the member states on the approach to be taken by the Commission and it was important to achieve a balance.

Mr van Baalen asked about the discussions between South Korea, China and Japan on free trade agreements and he also pointed to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Mr Petriccione considered that - on balance - the TPP would be a positive development as it should lead to a simplification and liberalisation of trade barriers that would also have an impact on Japan's trade with third parties. He drew parallels with the impact of the EU internal market, as member states had not wanted to have two sets of regulations. He did not deny, however, that there would be an element of competition. He also pointed to the EU's examination of a possible FTA with the USA. He looked towards an ambitious trade agreement between Japan and South Korea but was less sure about the prospects of success for an agreement between Japan and China.

#### 5. Any other business

There was no other business.

#### 6. Date and place of next meeting

The Chair noted that the 33rd EU-Japan IPM was scheduled to take place on 30 May and 31 May 2012. Members would receive further details by email. They would also be informed in due course about the next regular meeting of the delegation.

The meeting closed at 16.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/  
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/  
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Johannes Cornelis van Baalen
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputăți/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Frieda Brepoels, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadojuantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Zuzana Brzobohatá, Derek Vaughan, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa

187 (2)
193 (3)
49 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkės punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-aġenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observerer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tal-President/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Gerhard Sabathil, Mauro Petriccione
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Nicolas Levine, Luisa Ragher
Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeilimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Fracijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi poliitici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppenas sekretariat

PPE	Anne Vahl
S&D	Angelos Lepouras
ALDE	Conan D'Arcy
ECR	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFD	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmanens kansli

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ģenerālsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC	Sandro D'Angelo
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Õigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Tim Boden	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assisterter	
Kathleen Huygen	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci President/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
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