

*Delegation for relations with Japan***D-JP\_PV(2012)1023****MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 23 October 2012, from 14.00 to 15.00  
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 14.13 on Tuesday, 23 October 2012, with Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (Chair) in the chair.

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2012**

The minutes were approved without amendment.

**3. Communications by the Chair**

Mr van Baalen welcomed H.E. Mr Kojiro Shiojiri, Ambassador of Japan to the EU and Mr Arunas Ribukas from DG Trade in the European Commission

**4. Update on the most recent developments in EU-Japan relations with particular reference to the EU-Japan FTA/EPA**

Mr van Baalen invited the Ambassador to take the floor.

Mr Shiojiri firstly congratulated the EU on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, noting that Japanese scientists had also received a Nobel Prize this year for stem cell research. He termed the economic situation in Japan as "not so bad" with 2% growth in the current year and an unemployment rate of 4.3%.

There was some "gloom" in Japan over the trade deficit with the EU in recent months because of the high rate of the yen and the need for Japan to import a large amount of energy. Japan's trade with China had also been hit by the current territorial dispute.

On the EU-Japan FTA/EPA, the Ambassador pointed to evidence of increased support from European industry. He looked forward to a positive signal coming from the EU and the conclusion of a "high level and ambitious agreement".

The Ambassador outlined the official Japanese position on the dispute with China over the Senkaku Islands, stressing that his government wanted the issue to be dealt with peacefully under international law. He stated that the 1951 San Francisco Treaty had legally determined the post-war boundaries in the region. He noted that Japan and China had a very important relationship and that their economies were closely intertwined. Finally, the Ambassador referred members to an article on the issue that he had written for the publication "New Europe".

In answer to Mr van Baalen, he stressed that Japan had asserted its ownership of the islands in 1895, having spent ten years establishing that it was "terra nullius". China had only started to make a claim in the 1970s following surveys that had indicated that there were potentially rich resources in the surrounding seas. The islands were a sovereign territory of Japan, however private individuals had owned them until the Japanese government had purchased them. Tokyo's position was that it accepted the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

The Ambassador also informed Mr van Baalen that the next elections in Japan would have to take place by the summer of 2013 at the latest but he could not predict exactly when they would be. He noted that the ruling party had a very small majority in the Lower House and was in the minority in the Upper House - this would make it difficult to pass legislation unless it could reach an agreement with the opposition.

In answer to Mrs Garcia Herrero, the Ambassador had the following points to make. He noted that the sales tax was being increased from 5% to 10% by 2015, although this was still relatively low by European levels. He recognised that this issue had caused divisions in the ruling party. On energy, he stressed that there were significant differences across the political spectrum. However, he emphasised that no new reactors were being built and that they should cease operation after 40 years. Stress tests were carried out every two years and the process for re-opening a reactor was very strict.

The Ambassador informed Mr Vaughan that opinion polls in Japan did indeed show a drop in the level of support for the ruling party. He noted, too, that former Prime Minister Abe had been elected leader of the opposition LDP. However, he did not detect any "boiling up" of nationalist feeling in the country, despite the current problems with China.

Mr van Baalen then outlined the current state of play of the EU-Japan FTA, reminding members that there would be a debate and resolution in the European Parliament in the week. He then asked Mr Arunas Ribukas of DG Trade to address the meeting.

Mr Ribukas noted that the Commission had adopted its draft mandate for the negotiations on 18 July 2012. Council's endorsement was awaited and - although there was no strict timeline - it was hoped that this step could be taken before the end of the current year - either late November or December. The Commission looked forward to the EP resolution, which would be voted that week. He noted that groups representing a number of European industries had written to the Commission supporting the FTA. He argued that the FTA would help eliminate trade barriers and create a level playing field between the EU and Japan. An agreement could result in a 1% increase in GDP growth. He recognised the problems over NTBs but stressed

that these were be tackled through negotiations.

Mr van Baalen noted that his political group very much supported the start of negotiations.

Mr Walesa, shadow rapporteur on the agreement, referred to two recent workshops on the FTA at which the majority had argued for going ahead with negotiations. The EP's draft resolution recognised the need for safeguards for such sectors as the automobile industry, railways and electronics. The resolution had been adopted by a large majority in the Trade Committee and he strongly supported moving ahead.

Mrs Garcia Herrero was pleased that the EP had had the opportunity to state its opinion and she applauded the draft resolution, stressing that Council should take proper note of this position. She noted the concerns among some member states about the agreement but emphasised that the FTA would be of benefit to both the governments and people of the EU.

Mrs Schaldemose and Mr Peterle both supported the draft resolution and for the negotiations to begin. Mr Peterle underlined, too, the important political dimension to the EU-Japan relationship.

Mr Ribukas accepted that some member states still had concerns about certain elements of the negotiations. He stressed, however, that this was a matter for the Council and the Commission looked forward to receiving the green light to start negotiations at an early date.

## **5. Bureau visit to Japan (29 October to 1 November 2012)**

Mr van Baalen noted that the Bureau would be paying a visit to Tokyo from 29 October to 1 November 2012. He thanked the Japanese Ambassador and the EU Delegation for the assistance they had given. He noted that the subjects would include the EU-Japan FTA; the China-Japan relationship; relations between Japan and ASEAN countries; the euro crisis; and nuclear safety and the Japanese energy policy in the post-Fukushima era.

## **6. Any other business**

There was no other business

## **7. Date and place of next meeting**

Members would be informed of the time and date of the next meetings as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 15.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SARAŠAS/JELENLÉTI IV/  
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/  
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Predsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/  
Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (\*)

Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Sandra Kalniete

Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/  
Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter

Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Ioan Mircea Pașcu,  
Christel Schaldemose

Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/  
Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplementos/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/  
Varajäsenet/Suppleanter

Adam Bielan, Csaba Sógor, Derek Vaughan, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa

187 (2)

Alojz Peterle

193 (3)

49 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra  
punkt/Hμερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/  
Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-agħenda/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/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/  
Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Mε 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 invitāția președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/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/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

### Ribokas (DG Trade)

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 ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Europska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (\*)

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/>Alla թեսմուկա օրգան/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituīji/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní účastníci/Druги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secréteriat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporth titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| PPE       | Anne Vahl          |
| S&D       | Evangelos Lepouras |
| ALDE      | Katarzyna Bojczuk  |
| 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/Talmannens kansli

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

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| Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/<br>Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoráts/Généralinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat<br>Generali/Directoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/<br>Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat                                                              |  |
| DG PRES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
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| DG ITEC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/<br>Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisēs tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/<br>Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsjänsten                                                                                                               |  |
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| Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsekretariatet |  |
| Tim Boden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Bonjθóć/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assister                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Kathleen Huygen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmiņķas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsesda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande  
 (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Mistopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/  
 Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Präsident/Priekšsēdētāja vietniece/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Vici President/Ondervoorzitter/  
 Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande  
 (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiilige/Méλoς/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/  
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 Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficijal/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Fucionário/Funcționar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman