

EU-Japan Business Round Table
Tokyo Meeting, 3-4 July 2008



“Press Release”

The European Union (EU)-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) held its annual meeting in Tokyo on 3-4 July 2008, in advance of the G8 Summit at Lake Toya. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Hajime Sasaki, Chairman of the Board of NEC Corporation, and Baron Georges Jacobs, Chairman of the Board of Delhaize Group, Honorary Chairman of UCB. The co-chairmen presented the recommendations of the BRT to the Japanese and EU leaders, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Hugh Richardson, European Commission Ambassador to Japan, and Mr. Philippe Faure, French Ambassador to Japan and representing the EU Council Presidency, on 4 July 2008.

Japan and the EU have a similar political base and shared values, and together account for 40% of global GDP. Given the complicated issues that the world economy is facing today, the BRT calls for Japan and the EU to cooperate even more closely in the future.

1. As a strong supporter of the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, the BRT continues to urge the EU Authorities and the Government of Japan to make the utmost efforts to reach an ambitious conclusion this year.
2. Following up on last year's BRT meeting in Berlin, the BRT presented specific recommendations for deeper EU-Japan economic cooperation in areas such as Innovation, Environment, Investment, Services, Regulatory Cooperation, Mobility, Security and Safety, and Public Procurement. The BRT calls on its Authorities to move forward on these issues to deliver concrete results for business.
3. On climate change, the BRT calls for the participation of all major carbon-emitting countries, including the U.S., China and India in a future post-Kyoto Protocol. In addition, these countries should share reasonable and feasible mid-term and long-term global GHG emission reduction commitments.

4. BRT members also exchanged views on promoting innovative societies and addressing the challenges of global integration with emerging economies. They urge their Authorities to cooperate more closely on these matters in the future.

5. Short reports by BRT Working Parties were presented in the following fields; Trade & Investment, Tax & Accounting, ICT, WTO, Life Sciences & Biotechnology and Sustainable Development. Each report contains specific recommendations to advance economic cooperation between the EU and Japan.

The next BRT annual meeting is scheduled to take place in Europe in the second half of 2009.

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