

EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table
Berlin Meeting, 3-4 June 2007
“Joining forces for competitiveness and sustainability”

Press Release

The EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table (BDRT) held its annual meeting in the headquarters of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) in Berlin on 3-4 June 2007, in advance of the Japan-EU summit. The meeting brought together business leaders from leading EU and Japanese corporations, and was co-chaired by Baron Georges Jacobs, chairman of the board of UCB, and Mr. Tadashi Okamura, chairman of the board of Toshiba Corporation.

The co-chairmen will present the work of the BDRT to the EU-Japan summit leaders, Ms. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission.

This meeting, which represents a step ahead in EU-Japan business cooperation, allowed for discussions on the main issues affecting EU and Japanese business such as the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, EU-Japan economic cooperation, innovation, energy and climate change.

As strong supporter of the WTO DDA negotiations, the BDRT continues to urge the European Commission and the Government of Japan to exert their utmost efforts in concluding ambitious negotiations by the end of this year. In particular, the EU and Japan need to focus their efforts among major players to make the case for a successful and ambitious conclusion of the round leading to new commercial opportunities for industrial goods and services and a binding trade facilitation agreement.

The BDRT is committed to creating the necessary conditions to deepen the full potential of EU-Japan economic relations, which are far from being fully exploited. With that in view and in line with its commitment to the WTO, the BDRT proposes Japan and the EU authorities to establish a task force with business support to explore the feasibility of a Japan-EU Economic Integration Agreement, which should be an enriched economic agreement that includes priority issues for business such as

strengthened regulatory cooperation, intellectual property, trade enhancement, and improving the investment environment. EU and Japan business expects the results of the outcome of the task force by the 2008 BDRT meeting.

The BDRT members drew serious attention to the joint challenge to ensure availability of environmentally sound energy at a reasonable price. The BDRT supports promotion of the practical advantages of energy efficiency, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels with dissemination of current technology and development of innovative technologies.

For a post-Kyoto Protocol framework, the participation of major carbon-emitting countries, such as the United States, China and India is essential. To realise that, instead of establishing absolute-value targets by country, a sectoral approach based on energy-efficiency targets could be alternative.

NOTE

The BDRT met in the presence of European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen and Mr. Georg Boomgaarden, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office from the German Government, Mr. Kozo Yamamoto, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Ms. Midori Matsushima, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hideo Shimizu, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications from Japan.

The next BDRT annual meeting is scheduled to take place in Tokyo in summer 2008.

Media contact:

In Japan:

Ms. K. Sato, Chief Officer, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, Tel: +81 3 3221 6161

E-mail: eu-japan@eu-japan.gr.jp

Mr. T. Kobayashi, Toshiba Corporation Tel: +81 3 3457-8366

E-mail: tsuneyuki.kobayashi@toshiba.co.jp

In Europe:

Mrs. D. Van Bockstal, Director Tel: +32 2 282 0040 E-mail: office@eu-japan.com

BDRT homepage: <http://www.eu-japan.com/europe/roundtable.html>