



Press Release

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**EU-Japan Business Round Table 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

***EU-Japan – The Dawn of a New Relationship***

**The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Brussels on 11 July 2017, adopted its 2017 Recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities and formally submitted them to the European Commission.**

At the meeting, business leaders from the EU and Japan welcomed last week's news that the EU and Japan have reached an "agreement in principle" for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). In addition to discussing trade issues, the BRT Members also had detailed discussions on digital economy issues and on possible future EU-Japan science and research cooperation. The BRT's 2017 Recommendations will be formally submitted to the Government of Japan in due course.

The EU and Japanese Authorities took part in the meeting at a high-level: Andrus Ansip (Vice-President – Digital Single Market), Jyrki Katainen (Vice-President – Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness) and Cecilia Malmström (Commissioner – Trade) from the European Commission; and Hiroshige Seko (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry), Kentaro Sonoura (State Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Jiro Akama (State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications) from the Government of Japan.

The BRT brings together 50 companies and organisations from Europe and Japan to review factors affecting all aspects of EU-Japan business relations, submit policy recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities and to encourage industrial cooperation on issues of common interest. The BRT is co-chaired by Eric Schulz (President – Civil Aerospace, Rolls-Royce plc) and Kazuo Tsukuda (Senior Executive Adviser, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.).

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Documents from the BRT's 2017 annual meeting will be available after the meeting at <http://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/annual-meeting-2017>

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