



Press Release

Embargoed until: 20 April 2018 (10:30 CET / 14:30 JST)

Tokyo, Friday 20 April 2018

EU-JAPAN BUSINESS ROUND TABLE 20TH ANNUAL MEETING

EU and Japan – Champions of Global Free Trade

The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) held its 20th Annual Meeting in Tokyo on 20 April 2018 under the theme of “EU and Japan – Champions of Global Free Trade”. The EU-Japan BRT fully supports the EPA and its implementation.

The BRT, a forum of European and Japanese business leaders, was co-chaired by Mr. Kazuo Tsukuda, Senior Executive Adviser of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., and Mr. Eric Schulz, Chief Commercial Officer, Airbus.

Four Themed Discussion topics were discussed by Members: EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA); Digital and Data Economy, Cybersecurity, and Blockchain; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and, Regulatory Cooperation. The BRT also welcomed Japan and EU Authorities to take part in an additional session dedicated regulatory cooperation, as well as to hear respective Authority statements.

During the meeting, it was announced that Mr. Masaki Sakuyama, Chairman, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation will succeed Mr. Tsukuda as new Japan-side Chairman following the 2018 Annual Meeting and handover to Japan Government of the Joint Recommendations in Tokyo. Also announced was that Mr. Ben Story, Strategic Marketing Director, Rolls-Royce plc will succeed Mr. Schulz and become the new EU-side Chairman.

The BRT’s 2018 Recommendations will be formally submitted to the Government of Japan and EU Authorities on dates yet to be decided.

Further information and documents are available at <https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/annual-meeting-2018>

Background

The EU-Japan Business Round Table was created in 1999 to review factors affecting all aspects of EU-Japan business relations. Its members are senior executives from around 50 leading European and Japanese companies. Its main objective is to submit policy recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities in order to develop trade and investment between the EU and Japan, and to encourage industrial cooperation on issues of common interest, such as innovation, energy or industrial standards. The EU and Japanese Authorities respond to the recommendations by formal progress reports. The annual meeting takes place alternately in Japan and in Europe.

Inquiries

EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation (EU-Japan BRT Secretariat)

Tokyo Office Tel: +81 (0)3 6408 0281

Ms Miyako Akiyama miyako.akiyama@eu-japan.gr.jp

Mr Satoru Sekiguchi satoru.sekiguchi@eu-japan.gr.jp