



EU-Japan Business Round Table

Press Release

Tokyo, Monday 18 April 2011

“EU-Japan Business Cooperation: Growth for the Future”

EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) co-Chairmen Jean-Yves LE GALL (Chairman & CEO of Arianespace) and Hiromasa YONEKURA (Chairman of Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.) met today in Tokyo and confirmed their commitment to push for an improved EU-Japan business environment during the next BRT meeting in Rome, on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 April 2011.

Around 50 senior executives from leading European and Japanese companies will participate in the Rome meeting, which will take place on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 April 2011 at the Hilton Rome Cavalieri. The Meeting's agenda will focus on the development of industrial and R&D cooperation between European and Japanese enterprises in common priority areas, and on the future framework for the EU-Japan relationship.

Messrs. LE GALL and YONEKURA will hold a press conference immediately after the meeting on Friday 29 April, from 13:00 to 13:30, at the Hilton Rome Cavalieri. Mr. Antonio TAJANI, Vice-President of the European Commission, will participate in both the BRT Rome meeting and in the press conference.

Following his meeting with Mr. YONEKURA, Mr. LE GALL said: “The BRT Rome meeting will take place at an exceptional time, a short period after the 11 March earthquake in Japan and the tragedy that followed. In this context, both sides have intensified their efforts to prepare, ahead of the next annual EU-Japan Summit, their recommendations to EU and Japan Authorities to strengthen significantly the EU-Japan relationship. I look forward to our discussions on these recommendations during the Rome Meeting on Thursday 28 and 29 April”.

Mr. YONEKURA said: “I am very pleased that we will be able to hold the BRT Rome meeting as scheduled even though Japan is facing extraordinary challenges in the wake of the 11 March earthquake, and I am most grateful to Mr. LE GALL and all EU members for their strong support to make it possible. The recent positive developments in the joint effort of the EU and Japan Authorities are particularly encouraging, and I

hope that the recommendations we formulate at the Rome meeting will prompt the Authorities to make a significant step forward at the next annual EU-Japan Summit to bring EU-Japan relationship to new heights. I am looking forward to a lively discussion at the Rome meeting.”

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Background

The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) was created in 1995 to foster communications between Japanese and European industries. Its members are senior executives from around 50 leading European and Japanese companies. Its main objective is to submit recommendations to Japanese and European 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, climate change, or industrial standards.

www.eu-japan-brt.eu

Notes to Editors

The press conference will be held in English, Japanese and Italian. Three-way simultaneous interpretation will be provided. To be accredited, journalists and photographers should register their intention to participate no later than Tuesday 26 April by e-mailing jessica.michelson@eu-japan.eu or telephoning +32 2 282 0043.