



Council of the
European Union

010538/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 07/02/18

Brussels, 7 February 2018
(OR. en)

7511/07
DCL 1

PESC 318
COASI 40
RELEX 174
ECOFIN 120
ENER 99
JAI 137
ENV 154
POLGEN 41

DECLASSIFICATION

of document: ST 7511/07 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU
dated: 16 March 2007
new status: Public
Subject: Preparation of EU-Japan Summit

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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NOTE

From : Secretariat

To : Coreper

Subject : Preparation of EU-Japan Summit

Delegations will find attached a paper from the Presidency, drawn up in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission, in preparation of the upcoming EU-Japan Summit.

PAPER FROM THE PRESIDENCY

PREPARATION OF THE EU-JAPAN SUMMIT

(BERLIN, JUNE 2007)

INTRODUCTION

This is the first EU-Japan Summit since Shinzo Abe became Prime Minister. In his recent visit to Brussels he expressed interest in further developing relations with Europe.

EU-Japan relations are in very good shape. Yearly summits usually underline this, take stock of the state of advancement on a number of areas of economic and technical co-operation (which is underpinned by the EU-Japan Action Plan adopted in 2001) and highlight a large number of political issues where the EU and Japan hold similar or shared views. The EU should be looking to develop further dialogue and co-operation on political and security matters and enhance the visibility of the political partnership. This was already done in part through the launching of a strategic dialogue on East Asian Security environment and on Central Asia. COASI-Troika consultations will be taken up again focussing on India. Additional areas of dialogue and co-operation could be explored within the existing (already well developed) structures.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Major issues of real controversy in the EU's relationship with Japan are rare. The challenge is to give more visibility to the relationship. This can be achieved through common initiatives. This year there are a number of key issues which should figure prominently in the Summit discussion and in the Joint Press Statement. The aim should be to obtain genuine "deliverables" on these issues.

Climate change and energy (including energy security) will be key issues at the Summit. The EU should seek to consolidate the outcome of the Spring European Council by securing Japanese support in the run-up to the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm. It will be particularly important to secure a commitment from Japan to the 2 degrees objective and to the timely conclusion of post 2012 negotiations. Engaging Japan on energy security and on clean technologies is also a priority. On energy security, commonalities in the Japanese Energy Strategy 2030 and EU policy should be highlighted and possibilities for co-operation in East Asia explored. The Summit should welcome the launch in April of the new expert dialogue.

East Asia Political and Security Architecture: the EU should aim to be more involved in East Asian regional architecture, including on security issues and in the East Asia Summit. Securing Japanese support on this will be a key objective.

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The area of trade and co-operation, where the EU-Japan relationship is extremely solid and well-oiled, offers a number of important concrete deliverables, such as the initialling of final text of a **EU-Japan Customs Co-operation Agreement** and the launch of a **High Level Trade Dialogue**. Additional deliverables could be the initialling of a **Science and Technology Agreement** (if negotiations progress fast enough to make this possible in time for the Summit), increased **EU-Japan development co-operation**, a new **EU-Japan initiative on IPR protection**, as well as, possibly, a Summit statement on **Innovation Policy Co-operation** (informally proposed by Japan). Finally, exploratory talks have begun on a **EU-Japan Agreement on Mutual Judicial Assistance**, but it is probably too early to consider this a summit deliverable.

On **Human Rights**, the Japanese have decided to accede to the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (this is expected for the autumn). They will want us to give visible support. We might encourage them also to sign (although this is apparently not very likely) the UN Convention of the rights of persons with disabilities and its optional protocol. We should also raise the issue of the death penalty, even though any concrete results (e.g. in terms of reinstating the *de facto* moratorium on executions applied by the previous government) appear unlikely.

AGENDA

As the Summit takes place in Europe, the EU side will make a first proposal for the agenda. Given the short time available, the number of discussion items should be very limited. As in the past, however, a number of important issues not in themselves suitable for discussion (mostly on EU-Japan bilateral relations) will be addressed in the Joint Press Statement issuing from the Summit.

The agenda items (both for discussion and for the Joint Press Statement) should be grouped under three main headings:

- **Developments in the EU and Japan**
- **EU-Japan relations**
- **International and global issues.**

Under the **1st heading (developments in the EU and Japan)** the EU will wish to brief Japan primarily on the outcome on the Spring European Council, although much of this will be covered in the separate discussions on energy and climate change. The EU should express its interest in the continuation of structural reforms in Japan and enquire about constitutional change.

The issue of the death penalty in Japan could be raised under this agenda item. This is a human rights priority for the EU, particularly in light of the recent executions (December 2006) – authorized by the new Minister of Justice – after a de-facto-moratorium since September 2005 during the tenure of the previous Minister of Justice. As it is a delicate issue, raising it under this agenda item is likely to be less provocative than proposing it as an item in its own right.

Under the **2nd heading (EU-Japan relations)** will figure issues such as IPR/innovation, customs co-operation agreement, science and technology agreement, possibly development co-operation, high-level trade dialogue, regulatory reform dialogue and other. None of these probably merit substantive discussion at the Summit. Most of these issues and the progress to be expected on them for the summit will figure in the Joint Press Statement. Possible difficulties on these points will be addressed during the negotiations on the Statement.

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The 3rd heading (**International and Global Issues**) covers most of the discussion items. Climate Change and Energy (following up on the Spring European Council) will be a top priority. Other key issues will be WTO/Doha, China, the Korean Peninsula, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Discussion on Climate Change and Energy will need to include energy security, including the role of Russia. The value of discussions on WTO/Doha will depend in part on developments in the negotiations in the meantime.

On regional issues, the Korean Peninsula is a priority. The evolution of the Six-Party Talks and Japanese role in the talks in light of the very sensitive (especially for PM Abe) unresolved abductees issue will determine the tone of the discussion. Japan will seek support on this issue. As in the past, China will also be a major topic for discussion. PM Abe has made great efforts to improve the bilateral relationship and to defuse the “Yasukuni shrine issue”. Yet concerns remain over China’s lack of transparency on its military budget. As in the past, Japan will seek reassurances that the EU is not intending to lift its arms embargo. On Afghanistan, the EU will further promote Japanese participation in or assistance to the ESDP-police mission. On Central Asia, the EU and Japan share many interests. A strategic dialogue was launched last year and it would be useful to agree on concrete joint initiatives and closer donor co-ordination.

PREPARATION

COREPER is invited to discuss the preparation of the EU-Japan Summit. The results of this discussion will provide input to the preparations of the summit agenda and the negotiations on the Joint Press Statement. Overall responsibility for the summit preparations at the working level remains with COASI, which will keep COREPER informed of the state of preparation (including on the final agenda and logistical arrangements for the Summit) and seek guidance as appropriate.

A coordinated approach to press lines could, as in the past, be useful.