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## DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: EU-Korea Summit (Brussels, 8 November 2013)  
EU-Japan Summit (Tokyo, 19 November 2013)  
EU-China Summit (Beijing, 21-22 November 2013, tbc)  
- Orientation debates

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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**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: COREPER

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Subject: EU-Korea Summit (Brussels, 8 November 2013)  
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Delegations will find attached a note issued under the responsibility of the Cabinet of the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the Commission services and the European External Action Service.

Three individual orientation notes (one for each Summit) are set out in addenda 1 to 3 to the present note.

1. The three 2013 Summits between the EU and its strategic partners in East Asia are scheduled to take place between the first and third week of November: EU-Korea (Brussels, 8 November), EU-Japan (Tokyo, 19 November) and EU-China (Beijing, 21-22 November tbc).
2. The EU's overall objective is to bring these partnerships to a new level in a long term perspective, in line with the Guidelines on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy in East Asia and based on the solid foundations already built with the partner countries (the three 'pillars' sustaining EU-China relations; the 'stepping stones' represented by the on-going Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Strategic Partnership Agreement negotiations with Japan; the 'lynchpin' constituted by the 2010 FTA and Framework Agreement with South Korea). These three summits have a particular importance in the context of the almost simultaneous government changes in China, Japan and South Korea this year and as the first opportunity for an extended engagement with the new leaders.
3. As EU Strategic partners, China, Japan and South Korea share key common features:
  - they are vital economic and commercial partners, bilaterally and multilaterally, with trade and investment ties forming the backbone of the relationship and with FTAs in place (South Korea) or in negotiation (Japan) or investment talks in sight (China), implying an ever-growing interdependence;
  - they are counterparts in a developed (China, Japan) or growing (RoK) web of political and sectoral dialogues and cooperation activities through which we grapple with wide-ranging issues of bilateral and global concern (economic growth, sustainable development, climate change, environment protection, energy security, human rights, disaster preparedness, ageing, education, etc.);
  - they have become increasingly important partners in bolstering peace and stability at the international and regional levels, despite different levels of policy convergence and operational follow-up still being at an embryonic stage - with the notable exception of counter-piracy.

4. At the same time, in spite of these commonalities, China, Japan and South Korea represent different strategic opportunities and challenges for the EU as discussed in the individual orientation notes set out in ST 13789/13 ADD1 (Korea), ADD 2 (Japan) and ADD 3 (China). Moreover, relations between China, Japan and South Korea themselves are marked by high economic interdependence, competing regional and strategic interests and volatile political intercourse. How the EU interacts with one of them is observed by, and can impact its engagement with, the others. In this regard, the proximity of the Summit dates and the persisting regional tensions can have magnifying and knock-on effects.
5. The preparation of these Summits therefore calls for a well-coordinated and coherent approach to ensure that they reinforce each other in conveying key EU messages, with a particular focus on the EU's progress towards economic recovery as well as its experience in promoting regional stability and prosperity and capacity to make a contribution to the security architecture in Asia. This series of Summits can have a cumulative impact in raising the EU's profile in Asia, although some sensitive themes will have to be dealt with cautiously.
6. COREPER is thus invited to consider preparation of the three Summits in a joint debate. The specific context and vision for each Summit are set out in detail in the individual orientation notes in ST 13789/13 ADD1 (Korea), ADD 2 (Japan) and ADD 3 (China). On-going coordination of the Summit preparation will be ensured through discussions at COASI level and other preparatory Committees and working groups of the Council, of which COREPER will be kept informed.