

## EU-Japan cooperation at the nexus of security and development

**The expert roundtable organized jointly by the country office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Tokyo and the Multinational Development Policy Dialogue of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Brussels featured a speech by Prof. Dr. Andreas Berkofsky (European Japan Advanced Research Network) on his recent research on EU-Japan cooperation in the presence of representatives from the Embassy of Japan to the European Union as well as the European External Action Service.**

Prof. Dr. Axel Berkofsky, Professor at the University of Pavia, Italy and Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI), Milan, Italy, started off by emphasizing that the two main initiatives in EU-Japanese relations, namely the negotiations for a new Free Trade Agreement and the Political Framework Agreement show the renewed momentum of EU-Japan cooperation. The fact that two major agreements are currently being negotiated shows that Japan is now back on the EU's agenda, which was previously more dominated by the EU's relations to China. On the FTA, for Japan non-tariff barriers to trade are a big stumbling block to its trade with the region and this issue is likely to stand in the way to adopting a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. Up to now, the negotiations have not progressed very quickly which has led DG Trade to announce that the negotiations will be interrupted if there is no significant progress within the next 12 months. On the other hand, Japanese stakeholders perceive some non-tariff barriers to trade which are hindering the development of European exports to Japan as part of their normal business culture. It is therefore important that

in order to facilitate European Foreign Direct Investments, the EU should urge the Japanese Government to accept that these issues shall in fact be defined as non-tariff barriers and thus become part of the agreement which is to be negotiated.

The Political Framework Agreement is much less controversial and should be more smoothly agreed upon. Concerning non-military cooperation between Japan and the EU, there are already ongoing initiatives in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Further, very practical and concrete steps could lead to an integration of Japanese participation in CSDP missions. The Japanese involvement in the Western Balkans did at the time set a precedent for such a cooperation. Another area of common interest is military to military cooperation in disaster relief actions. Already the possibility to allow each others military to be deployed in a possible area of intervention of the EU or Japan would be a step in this direction. Also, the new deal for fragile states and the joint signature of the agreements on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the agreement on nuclear disarmament which was signed by both, Japan and the EU, should be followed up by concrete cooperation.

Norio Maruyama, Ambassador and Deputy Chief of the Mission of Japan to the EU responded to Prof. Berkofsky's presentation by saying that it is indeed not a coincidence that both powers started negotiations on economic and political issues of common concern during their economic crisis, as both powers need to find ways to increase economic growth and fight unemployment. He underlined the importance of political agreement, because it gives both Japan and

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the EU a legal platform to tackle their common challenges. As for the crises response and crises management, besides the intense cooperation with the EEAS, Japan is working together with the EC on issues such as disaster prevention and appreciates very much the comprehensive approach adopted by the EU which brings closer development and security. As to Japan's role in the global security environment, Japan wants to participate to increase stability in a responsible way. This means in the case of Japan, because of the constitutional constraints, that it attaches more importance to a development aspect of the contribution to the security and stability (including civilian contribution) than a military one ('Japan goes by shoes rather than by boots.'). This is already happening in Iraq, Afghanistan and other potential engagements are not excluded, such as in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and Mali/Sahel region. Ambassador Maruyama confirmed that Japan is already engaged in peace-building as well as in training and capacity building of people engaged in law enforcement activities (police, judges etc). He also underlined the important effort Japan undertakes for gender-mainstreaming. As for the contribution of Self Defence Forces, he mentioned the Japanese participation to the anti piracy operation off the coast of Somalia, and the excellent cooperation with EUNAVFOR. He also mentioned natural disaster relief as an important area of activity for the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. Furthermore, Ambassador Maruyama recalled that the recommendation to collaborate on nuclear disarmament is interesting and relevant. He pointed out that the fact Japan does not possess any nuclear weapons is surely not giving to Japan a strongest negotiating position to bring other countries to decrease or eliminate their stock of nuclear weapons, nevertheless, Japan shares the big responsibility with the EU to realize it.

Joaquín Tasso-Vilallonga, Deputy Head of the Security Policy Division, European External Action Service, confirmed that the EU is currently redefining its engagement in Asian security issues. The EU already participates in a number of relevant security fora such as the G8 and the ASEAN Regional

Forum; holds regular political and security dialogues with several countries in the region; and provides substantial development and security-related assistance. An enhanced involvement in Asian security would be desirable in order to better promote European interest in the region. EU and Japan shared values, our mutual commitment to peace, human rights, international law and multilateralism and fact of being two of the world's largest aid donors, make us natural partners in addressing the security and development nexus. In terms of specific areas of cooperation, in addition to the desired participation in CSDP missions, disaster relief is certainly an area of common interest. It should however be kept in mind that the EU humanitarian assistance policy is primarily civilian and that the use of military means can only be considered as a last resort option. Other areas in which the EU and Japan could develop further cooperation are: broader maritime security issues (i.e., beyond counter-piracy), building regional capacities for CBRN risk mitigation (the EU has recently opened a regional CBRN Centre of Excellence in Manila and is exploring the possibility of opening another one in Central Asia), disarmament and non-proliferation, cyber-security (including the promotion of confidence building measures and responsible State behaviour in cyberspace), counter-terrorism (including countering violent extremism), as well as conflict prevention and peace-building, including mediation and dialogue facilitation.

Radoslaw Tyszkiewicz, Division North East Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service also underlined the importance of the ongoing negotiations for a Strategic Partnership Agreement and the Free Trade Agreement and emphasized that both agreements will be of a legally binding nature. Concerning the recommendations of Prof. Berkofsky he underlined cooperation in non-combat operations, on fragile states, crisis management as potentially fruitful areas of common activity. It would be also interesting for the EU to exchange some best practices with Japan on the improvement of dialogue between military and civilian officials. Tyszkiewicz mentioned also an agreement which has already been signed

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with New Zealand which will enable them to participate in CSDP activities and the possibility for Japan to consider a similar approach.

The recommendations discussed during the roundtable have been published in the booklet "A proposal for a Way Forward on EU-Japan Cooperation at the Nexus of Security and Development" by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Japan Office and the European Japan Advanced Research Network. The publication is available online.