

19th Annual meeting of the EU-Japan Business Round Table

Speech by Lowri Evans

Brussels, 11th July 2017

Name of the Director who has cleared the material: E. Mamer

BASIS request ID: 5460

Room, time: Palais d'Egmont- Marble Gallery- 18h00

Participants: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], A. Peltomäki, METI and MOFA representatives, BRT co-chairs [REDACTED]

Name of main contact person: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Directorate/Unit: A/4

SPEAKING POINTS

Scene setter/Context of the meeting:

- The EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) was established in its current form in 1999 to foster communication between the Japanese and European industries. Its members are senior executives from some 50 leading European and Japanese companies. Its main objectives are to submit recommendations to the Japanese and European Authorities so as to help develop trade and investment between the EU and Japan, and to encourage industrial cooperation in fields of common interest such as innovation, climate change, or industrial standards.
- This year the BRT takes place at a very positive moment i.e. just after the conclusion of the FTA/EPA negotiations. This is something which was long awaited by the BRT's members and will likely dominate the debates.
- High representatives of the Commission will participate in the BRT meetings i.e. VP. Katainen, C. Malmström and likely VP Ansip. On the Japanese side, the Minister in charge of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), [REDACTED] will attend the dinner.
- This is also the first meeting under the chairmanship of [REDACTED] – Civil Aerospace) from Rolls-Royce on the EU side.

- A. Peltomäki will attend part of the BRT meeting in the afternoon in the "Joint session with the authorities". He will discuss "regulatory cooperation".
- Choreography of the reception and exact timing for the speech : TBC

The three key messages:

1. The conclusion of the FTA negotiations between two important developed economic entities sends a very positive signal to those who oppose globalisation and want to go back to protectionism.
2. Necessity to take into account the global value chains to adopt the right policies and eliminate obstacles where they are.
3. We are willing to continue supporting the BRT through the EU-Japan Centre to help us on this way.

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- Thank the Business Round Table for the invitation and for the opportunity to celebrate together the conclusion of the FTA negotiations which will seal a strategic alliance between two major partners.
- Trade agreements in the EU are nowadays subject at the same time to increasing expectations and scrutiny from both the legislator and the civil society.
- The conclusion in principle of the FTA which should soon start producing high economic value and benefits for our citizens, our workers and our enterprises is therefore very positive news.
- Our agreement will project a strong message to those who want to return to protectionism.
- As far as we are concerned, "there is no protection in protectionism" as President Juncker said. Only by working together we will be able to shape globalisation and the rules of global trade according to our core values.
- It will demonstrate our capacity and willingness to conclude major trade agreements with major partners.
- We all know that Free trade agreements are good for the economy overall, but we should not forget they

will mean little to our citizens if their benefits are not shared fairly and more evenly.

- Besides pointing out trade irritants or lacunas on both sides, the BRT has pleaded in favour of FTA negotiations from the very beginning.
- So, today the BRT can be proud of its role.
- As representatives of the business community it will be your duty to make the most of the opportunities offered by the FTA and to stress its positive returns to workers and to consumers.
- The way we take into account global value chains is also important.
- Both tariff and non-tariff measures that were limiting our business relation have been successfully addressed in the FTA negotiations.
- This will allow preserving or developing value chains to ensure our respective competitiveness in return.
- Regulatory dialogues are also an essential part of our relationship.
- We had recently a Dialogue between DG GROW and METI where we exchanged views on our respective policies.
- Both economies have common challenges and share the same ambitions.
- As authorities we have established a close relationship and we can develop common strategies where necessary.

- Today governmental authorities also talked with Industry.
- Both mechanisms are complementary and should be continued.
- In this context, we are thankful to the BRT for their valuable recommendations such as, to name a few, the ones related to international standardisation, support to SMEs, pharmaceuticals, cybersecurity or energy policies.
- We are also thankful to the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation for the support offered to the BRT.
- All this common work and this major success that is the FTA strengthen our profound conviction that we are today on the right track.
- So let's make a toast to the conclusion of the FTA negotiations as well as to the conclusion of your successful debates today.