

**Sherpa of the co-president of the EU-Japan Business Round Table, Mr Le Gall**

*Brussels, 29 February*

## **EU-Japan Business Round table**

Japan was one of the first trading partners with which European business established an official dialogue at top executive level. The EU-Japan Industrialists Round Table was created by Viscount Davignon as early as 1995, with the support of then Commissioner Bangemann for Industry, and it merged with the EU-Japan Business Forum in 1999 to become what is now the EU-Japan Business Round Table.

The EU-Japan Business Round Table includes top executives from European companies in Europe, as well as from European companies established in Japan. It includes individuals coming from a broad range of sectors with different interests. Two horizontal business organizations, Business Europe and the European Business Council in Japan, are also Members of the Round Table. On the Japanese-side, most major companies are represented and closely linked with Keidanren (the Japanese « Business Europe »), and the JBCE, Japanese Business Community in Europe, is a Member.

Currently MM JY Le Gall (CEO Arianespace) and Yonekura (Sumitomo Chemicals) are the two co-chairman of the BRT.

The role of the EU-Japan Business Round Table in advising public authorities in the EU and Japan was recognized in the 2001 EU-Japan Action Plan, and since the Round Table is issuing annually recommendations to both sides' Authorities, which are handed over to the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Prime Minister of Japan. These recommendations are answered in writing (progress report) by the Authorities (coordinated by DG Enterprise and Industry on the EU side), every year, underlining that the EU-Japan Business Round Table is an important forum for communications not only between EU and Japanese business, but also between EU & Japanese business on the one side, and EU & Japanese public authorities on the other.

Each year, the Japanese Government and European Commission submit Progress Reports outlining how they have enacted the Recommendations submitted at the previous BRT Annual Meeting. EU Commissioners, Japanese Government Ministers and senior civil servants always attend the Round Table, to give oral reports and take part in a Q&A session.

The work of the BRT is prepared by the Round Table's working parties. Currently there are working parties on: ***“Multilateral & Bilateral Trade Relations, Investment and***

*Regulatory Cooperation”, “Life Sciences & Biotechnology; Healthcare & Well-Being”, “Innovation; Information & Communication Technologies”, “Financial Services; Accounting & Taxation”, “Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development”.*

New ones are created in response to need. Each BRT member company nominates a “sherpa” to join a working party and to help draft the Recommendations for the annual meeting.

As the Round Table’s secretariat, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation<sup>1</sup> organizes its annual plenary meeting and maintains its website.

### **13th BRT Annual Meeting, Rome, 28-29 April 2011: "EU-Japan Business Cooperation: Growth for the Future"**

The last EU-Japan Business Round Table took place on 28 and 29 April 2011 in Rome, under the co-chairmanship of Messrs. Jean-Yves Le Gall (Chairman & CEO, Arianespace) and Hiromasa Yonekura (Representative Director and Chairman, Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.).

It had the honour of welcoming Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr. Chiaki Takahashi, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Hideichi Okada, the METI Vice-Minister for International Affairs. The meeting took place at an exceptional time, only a short period after the earthquake that struck Japan on 11 March 2011 and the tragedy that followed. BRT members expressed their deepest condolences to the victims of this tragedy, and reaffirmed their confidence that under the leadership of the Japanese Government, and with the full support and solidarity of the international community, Japan will soon recover from this hardship.

[Art. 4.1(b)]

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<sup>1</sup> Supported by DG Enterprise and co-directed by DG ENTR and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan' officials.