

Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

On the occasion of its annual meeting on 28 and 29 April 2011, the EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT), a forum of some 50 CEOs and senior executives from leading European and Japanese firms, gathered in Rome. The business community expressed its views regarding the future of EU-Japan economic relations, and agreed on policy recommendations to the European Commission and the Japanese government.



Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet

The business ties between Europe and Japan are good, but they could be improved, if a level playing field with same access on the respective markets would be established. Thus the EU delegation led by Vice President Tajani expressed its wishes to see Japan tackling its non-tariff measures, open its market to Foreign Direct Investments and its public procurements to European industry.

The meeting has further discussed improved cooperation in fields of common interest, such as access to raw materials, space and innovation policies. Moreover, the Vice President offered the setting up of an innovation partnership with Japan.



On the evening of April 28, Vice President Tajani held a speech during a dinner organised by Finmeccanica. In particular, he briefly commented on the recommendations delivered during the day by the business community.

The main theme developed was the necessity of creating innovation Partnerships in fields such as the vehicle industry, renewable energies, rare raw materials. As it is true that the EU and Japan share common societal challenges such as climate change, resources constraint, etc., the Vice President stressed the importance of working together on common solutions.



At the end of the day, both the EU and Japan are global powerful economies and if it is decided to make them closer and inter-linked, reciprocity and mutual trust are keys to the success of any further cooperation and market opening between the two regions.