

**Meeting of the Regular Energy Dialogue between  
the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the European Commission  
7 June 2012**

**Working Conclusions**

On June 7, 2012, Minister Yukio Edano and Commissioner Gunther Oettinger held a meeting of the Regular Energy Dialogue between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the European Commission. Minister Edano and Commissioner Oettinger reaffirmed their commitment to reinvigorate energy cooperation, as approved at the EU-Japan Summit in 2011, and stressed its importance for the overall relations between Japan and the EU.

In light of the review of Japan's Strategic Energy Plan and the EU Energy Roadmap 2050, Minister and Commissioner exchanged views on long-term energy challenges and policies. They stressed the importance of moving towards a competitive clean energy economy. They reaffirmed the need for open, transparent, efficient and competitive energy markets and transparent and efficient legal and regulatory frameworks and confirmed the joint interest to promote these globally. The two sides also recognised that diversifying sources, routes and types of energy as well as enhancing energy efficiency and developing renewable energy sources have an important contribution to energy security, economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability. Especially in light of the expanded production of shale gas and other unconventional natural gas resources, both sides noted the importance of free trade of natural gas, including LNG, and closer cooperation between Japan and the EU to promote free trade toward the gas producing countries.

Minister Edano and Commissioner Oettinger discussed the role of nuclear energy in Japan and in the EU. They stressed the importance to ensure the respect of the highest nuclear safety standards globally. Commissioner expressed his expectation that Japan continues to share its knowledge and expertise in the nuclear energy field with the international community, including information on the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in order to contribute to international nuclear safety improvement. Both sides informed on the substantial progress of their respective nuclear safety assessments in the wake of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi accident, as well as on possible future regulatory and legislative measures. In line with the Annex to the last EU-Japan Summit statement, both sides confirmed their intention to improve cooperation on nuclear safety including in the context of the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Both sides noted their intention to reinforce exchanges, consultations and cooperation also within other international fora such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the G20 and others.

Minister Edano and Commissioner Oettinger affirmed their commitment to strengthen number of Japan-EU cooperation areas and in particular focus joint activities on:

- Continuing discussion on respective nuclear safety stress tests, methodologies and results;

- Enhancing international legal framework on nuclear safety through closer cooperation and consultation within the framework of the IAEA and the upcoming extraordinary meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety;
- Stimulating bilateral discussions between specialists on both sides on the capabilities and technologies in nuclear plant decommissioning projects, decontamination and waste management;
- Exchanging information on the EU experience on liberalisation of the energy sector, with participation of Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) and European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) on the EU side and relevant authorities on the Japanese side;
- Implementing the joint activities in the research area, such as coordinated research calls on PV and energy storage and reciprocal technical visits on CCS, and further information exchange in other areas such as wind, ocean energy and Smart Grids as well as consideration of cooperation on nuclear safety related research and training activities;
- Organising the third EU-Japan-US trilateral workshop in the field of raw materials including rare earths, to be hosted by the European Commission; and
- Ensuring regular discussions under the Energy Dialogue on energy security and market developments matters, including vis-à-vis strategies toward third countries and international organisations, and activities to improve the response to oil and gas emergency situations.

The next meeting of the Dialogue will take place in Spring 2013 in Brussels.