



22 October 2009

### **JAPAN NETWORK:**

### **“*FUTURE JAPAN-EU RELATIONS WITH A FOCUS ON THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP*” – MEETING WITH NOBUTAKE ODANO, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE EU**

Meeting on 22 October 2009, 14h00 to 15h00  
Room ‘Adenauer+’

### **Introductory speaking notes for Mr. Erik Bergelin, Chairman of the BUSINESSEUROPE Japan network**

- It is a great honour for us to welcome today His Excellency Ambassador Nobutake Odano, Ambassador of Japan to the EU. We thank you very much for your availability and interest to discuss with us the future of EU-Japan relations.
- BUSINESSEUROPE has a key interest in strong bilateral ties between the European Union and Japan and closely follows and engages into the discussions on how to strengthen our relationship. Our Japan network, to which we have the pleasure to welcome you as guest today, meets on a regular basis and is composed of business representatives from the leading national business federations in Europe, European sectoral organisations and companies.
- The European and Japanese business communities have strong ties and very good relations. There is regular cooperation in different and numerous frameworks, for instance through the cooperation with our Japanese counterpart Nippon Keidanren who we meet on numerous occasions to discuss issues of common concern. For example, we had the pleasure to host a high-level Keidanren delegation in April, and we will join forces with a Keidanren delegation end of November at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Geneva. Moreover, BUSINESSEUROPE is an active member of the EU-Japan Business Round Table.
- The elections to the House of Representatives in Japan on 30 August have brought a tremendous change with the arrival of the DPJ in power after more than 50 years of almost uninterrupted governing by the LDP. We have all read about the ambitious plans the new Japanese government has brought forward and are very curious to learn from you how you assess the new situation. What



can business expect from the new Japanese government? What can Europe expect from the new Japanese government? And what does the new government expect from Europe?

- On 4 May, the annual EU-Japan Summit took place in Prague. BUSINESSEUROPE attaches great importance to that meeting and welcomes the joint interest by the Japanese and European leaders to push forward our strategic partnership. During the meeting, leaders agreed to increase cooperation by putting focus on a few specific non-tariff issues with potential concrete outcomes beneficial for both the EU and Japan. I know that there are currently discussions about these potential issues – could you let us know the state of play?
- We would also be very much interested in your views on the Ten-Year Action Plan for EU-Japan Cooperation, which is coming to an end next year. Discussions will start soon about a new structure that will follow the Action Plan. Before agreeing on such a new framework, we need a clear assessment of what has been achieved in the past ten years, where have been the biggest areas of progress – and where have been the biggest bottlenecks. Therefore we urge both authorities to undertake an in-depth reflection on how and with which objectives EU-Japan regulatory cooperation should be organized in the future. BUSINESSEUROPE stands ready to actively contribute to this debate. Based on this assessment, the EU and Japan should jointly define concrete issues of common interest where closer cooperation could create win-win-situation for both sides. Moreover, a new EU-Japan cooperation structure should set achievable targets, based on a straightforward timeframe with annually measurable progress.
- Ambassador, with these few introductory remarks I would like to now to pass you the floor. Thank you for being with us today and we look forward to your presentation.

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