



“EU-Japan relations: Shaping the Future”

Date: 23 March 2016

Time: 4pm to 6pm

**Venue: Delegation of the European Union to Japan,
4-6-28 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047**

The European Union and Japan have essential mutual interests that will likely continue to coincide over a longer period. Such interests include the economic and social progress of globalization on the basis of politically free and democratic societies, free markets worldwide, free trade, the ecological foundations of mankind, and the security of global commons.

In 2015, the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) has conducted an audit on the state of Europe-Japan relations in European capitals. A key finding of the audit was to highlight the paradoxical nature of the Japan-Europe partnership, based on shared values and close preferences regarding the future nature of the international order, but not yet having reached its potential. We concluded on the importance of committing to stimulate continuous exchanges between key policymakers, industry representatives and analysts to further strengthen the ties between Japan and Europe. On the basis of the audit conducted by ECFR, we want to explore the consequences of these common interests in practical politics.

We are delighted to invite you to the event **“EU-Japan relations: shaping the future”** in cooperation with the EU Delegation to Japan and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). The event will address three main questions:

- What role do the European Union and Japan expect of each other, especially with regards to global governance, international security and the future of multilateralism? How can they work together to address common challenges in those areas?
- How to build a substantial agenda of strategic cooperation between the EU and Japan, in both the bilateral and the multilateral front? What can we expect from the two major agreements currently under negotiation, the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and the Free Trade Agreement/Economic Partnership Agreement (FTA/EPA)?
- Is East Asian maritime security an area of common concern for the EU and Japan?

The discussion will feature **Yukio Okamoto**, President of Okamoto Associates (OAI), **Yoichi Kato**, Senior Research Fellow at the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation (RJIF), **Yoko Iwama**, Professor of International Relations at GRIPS, and **François Godement**, Director of ECFR's Asia programme. The event will be chaired by **Robert Dujarric**, director of the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies at the Temple University.

The discussion will be held in English. Simultaneous interpretation between English and Japanese will be available.