

# EU-Japan Cooperation

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# Similarities

- Democracies – shared values, rule of law, human rights, media freedom, etc
- Dependent on open trading system
- Commitment to multilateralism – UN, IFIs, WTO, G20, G7, ASEM
- Agree on comprehensive approach to security and importance of rules-based approach to resolving disputes; conflict prevention, peacekeeping, human security

# Differences

- Unitary state with strong cultural identity v 28 Member States with cultural diversity
- Different decision-making structures
- Opposite sides of the world
- EU normative agenda (promoting democracy and HR) not given same priority by Japan
- Japan looks to US for security, including nuclear umbrella, and support vis-à-vis China
- Market access – trade disputes

# History of cooperation

- Strategic partners but ...
- Many nice summits, statements (44 paras!) action plans and roadmaps but limited real cooperation given the number of shared values and interests
- Distance? Lack of understanding? Changing leaders? Other priorities?
- Currently making slow progress on FTA and parallel political agreement

# So how to improve?

- Stick to current plans for general cooperation, in multilateral fora and bilateral agreements?
- Or set a number of priority areas?
- Are existing mechanisms sufficient?
- Too much emphasis on summits?
- More regular dialogues and PtP?
- How to gain public support?

# Complete the FTA

- Trade has been and remains the heart of the EU-Japan relationship
- Both parties have major trade deals under negotiation with the US (TPP and T-TIP)
- Given rise of the BRICS important for geo-political reasons that EU-US-Japan agree on market access, investment and regulatory standards

# Foreign Policy

- Good general cooperation (Balkans, Ukraine, Iran, anti-piracy, disaster management, Middle East) but do not have too high expectations of EU involvement in East Asia security issues.
- EU (like Japan) focused on its neighbourhood
- So continue multilateral track eg proliferation, sustainable development, climate change; and try and show public some common successes (Myanmar? ASEAN integration, Paris COP 15?)

# Security cooperation

- Similar concepts - Proactive contribution to Peace
- Maritime security - piracy
- Capacity building across Asia – effective implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC, (esp Myanmar) UNSCR 1540)
- Arms Trade Treaty (ATT – few in Asia have ratified), Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation (esp S Asia), nuclear safeguards (SQP)
- Strengthening outer space security
- Sign framework agreement on CSDP



# Innovation

- EU and Japan have huge R&D capacity and good track record on innovation
- Deepen cooperation on ageing societies, health, robotics, low carbon technologies, urban transport, cyber and energy security
- Again important to look for win-win success stories to sell to the public

# Future - New ideas

- Good timing with new EU leadership/Abenomics
- Japan seeking new role – views EU as important partner
- International public opinion, media, think tanks
- Gender equality
- Africa: regional security/economic issues/terrorism
- New energy mix

Thank you: ありがとう