



## **EU-Japan Industry and Political Leaders Discuss the Future of International Collaboration in Defence and Security**

Tokyo, 20 October 2011 – Industry and political leaders from Europe and Japan today came together to discuss the future of international collaboration in defence and security, exploring the needs of interoperability between EU countries and Japan and the mechanisms for acquiring the necessary capabilities.

At a conference held at the Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo hosted by the European Business Council (EBC), in association with the International Geopolitics Institute Japan, discussion focused on areas in which EU countries and Japan can work together in enhancing their capabilities and contribute to international stability.

Speakers at the event included Ambassador of the EU to Japan, Mr. Hans Dietmar Schweisgut; former Minister of Economy Trade and Industry Mr. Banri Kaieda; VADM Makoto Yamazaki (Ret. JMSDF), Itochu Corp.; Air Vice Marshall Nigel Maddox, Royal Air Force; and former UK Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon. More than 100 participants from industry, government, armed services and academia were in attendance.

In recent years, Japan and many EU countries cooperated ever more closely, bilaterally and through international frameworks such as the United Nations, seeking to maintain stability in the modern world.

Future challenges, however, remain significant with continuing instability in regions such as the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa demanding continued international contributions. Natural disasters have also seen our countries working together to provide relief, including the Great East Japan Earthquake when many EU countries contributed to relief efforts.

Commenting on the importance of interoperability, Ambassador Schweisgut said, “When Japan and EU countries find themselves operating together to address these challenges, they recognise the need for both civilian and military capabilities that allow them to operate together efficiently and effectively. Many EU countries have been doing this for many years, within the framework of NATO and the EU, and they welcome the increased participation of Japan.”

“Provision of the full range of military capabilities is increasingly becoming beyond the reach of individual nations so EU countries have increasingly developed collaborative relationships that have helped pool resources in developing military capability. This has helped share the burden and ensure that countries have advanced capabilities that they might otherwise be unable to afford,” added Mr. Schweisgut.

EBC Defence and Security Committee Chairman, Mr. Anthony R. Ennis, said, “European countries have been collaborating on defence and security issues for over 60 years. This experience has allowed us to benefit from best practice technological expertise to develop industry leading capabilities, and consequently to strengthen our contribution to international security mechanisms. The depth of integration and collaboration has also allowed us to overcome the challenges, such as ensuring an efficient regulatory framework and approval process.”

In the spirit of the agreement reached by leaders at the EU-Japan Summit in Brussels in May 2011 to build upon the solid foundations of their relationship, the EBC in Japan continues to seek opportunities to support enhanced cooperation and contribute to international stability.

---

### **About the EBC:**

The European Business Council in Japan (EBC) is the trade policy arm of the 17 European national chambers of commerce and business associations in Japan. Established in 1972, the EBC works to improve the trade and investment environment for European companies in Japan. The EBC currently represents more than 3,000 local European companies and individuals who are members of their national chambers of commerce. Approximately 400 of these companies participate directly in the EBC's 30 sector-based committees. The EBC is registered with the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry as the European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Bjorn Kongstad, EBC Policy Director | Tel: +81-3-3263-6222 | E-mail: [ebc@gol.com](mailto:ebc@gol.com)