

## EU-Japan Relations-Not Much or More than Meets the Eye?

- ◆ Back in 2001: Tokyo and Brussels had big and very ambitious (on paper) plans as regards international economic, political and security co-operation when adopting the so-called 'EU-Japan Action Plan for Co-operation' back in 2001
- ◆ Action Plan running out shortly- a lot of plans and declarations but fairly little implementation
- ◆ The 2001 'EU-Japan Action Plan' lists more than 100 areas of bilateral co-operation-lack of focus

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## What's the problem?

- ◆ Lack of Political Will in Brussels and Japan to 'do more'?
- ◆ Absence of urgency to 'do more' in areas of international politics and security
- ◆ A lot of signatures under protocols and declarations but little joint policies
- ◆ Focus in Brussels on China over last years
- ◆ 'Diversification' of Japanese Foreign and Security Policies has not taken place

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## What's the Problem?

- ◆ 2001 EU-Japan Action Plan: typical EU Commission 'product': a 'shopping list' listing for too many areas and issues to be tackled by Brussels and Tokyo
- ◆ EU Commission versus EU Member States policies towards Japan
- ◆ Focus on 'ceremony' (annual EU-Japan Summits) and joint declarations as opposed to joint action
- ◆ Information deficit on EU side-EU Commission vulnerable to criticism that nothing is 'going on' (when reality is different)
- ◆ But: More than meets the eye...

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## What has been done and Achieved?

### Security

- ◆ Brussels and Tokyo have over the last ten years established a framework for regular consultations and meetings on issues of common interest, including regular consultations ahead of the annual session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva
- ◆ EU and Japan are jointly supporting international initiatives to achieve global nuclear disarmament and efforts to limit the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)

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## Security/Non-Proliferation

- ◆ Adopting of Declaration on Disarmament and Non-proliferation in 2004 supporting (on paper) acceleration of the UN Action Plan on small arms and light weapons
- ◆ Implementation of co-ordinated parallel projects on small arms and light weapons in Cambodia.
- ◆ Conducting close consultations on Disarmament and Non-proliferation issues in the Japan-EU Troika Working Group.
- ◆ Co-operating on preparing and following up the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 2003, 2005, 2007

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- ◆ Cooperation the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC)
- ◆ Established biannual meetings of the Japan-EU Troika Working Group on Human Rights (2003).
- ◆ Co-sponsorship of North Korea human rights resolutions

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- ◆ Conducted a joint seminar on "The EU-Japan Meeting on Human Security" in the Western Balkans, May 2008
- ◆ Co-chaired the Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the West Balkans in Tokyo (April 2004)
- ◆ Co-operated on reconstruction and rehabilitation in Southeast Europe by supporting ten projects through the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund
- ◆ Launched the Strategic Dialogue on Central Asia with 5 meetings from 2006 to 2008

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## Security

- ◆ Since September 2005: EU-Japan Strategic Dialogue on East Asian Security
- ◆ Held Japan-EU Meetings on Counter-Terrorism (October 2004 in Brussels and October 2005 in Tokyo).
- ◆ · Had a close cooperation through G8 Roma/Lyon Group meetings where experts discuss counter-terrorism and organized crime



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## Economics

- ◆ Launched High-Level Trade Dialogue (2007) and pursued the Japan-EU Industrial Policy Dialogue
- ◆ EU-Japan Dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights (2006, 2007 and 2008)
- ◆ Japan-EU Policy Dialogue on the International Patent Agenda (November 2005)
- ◆ Adopted the Japan-EU Action Plan on IPR Protection and Enforcement in June 2007
- ◆ 2007: Launched regular Energy Policy Dialogue to discuss issues of common concern and respective energy strategies as well as to exchange best practice and cooperate on attaining common objectives

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## NEW ACTION PLAN

- ◆ New EU-Japan Action Plan : Report on what you do to make itself less vulnerable to accusations that very little is being done
- ◆ Areas for EU-Japan cooperation: Climate change (Hatoyama announcement), development aid, humanitarian aid and other soft power policies in Asia and beyond (North Korea e.g.)
- ◆ New Action Plan: far fewer areas and issues jointly to be tackled: development aid policies, anti-poverty policies, climate change and environmental policies

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## What Could/Should be Done

- ◆ Security: 'Soft Security' and are areas where Japan and the EU could actually made a difference (as opposed to discussing North Korea's nuclear program)
- ◆ 'Soft Security'/'Alternative Security': Development aid, technical assistance, economic and financial aid
- ◆ Developing 'truly' European-Japanese initiatives with an exclusive focus on soft security